

# Veteran wrestlers return

By Andy Heintz

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Colby High wrestling coach Matt Sims has several boys with experience in state competition returning to lead this year's Eagles wrestling team.

Sophomore Dustin Reed returns after taking second at state in the 103 pound class last season. Reed is the younger brother of Nathan Reed, who now wrestles for Colby Community College. He finished first at Class 4A regionals last season. Assistant coach Ed Schmitt said Reed will probably wrestle at 112 this season.

Junior Konner Kriss, younger brother of Tanner Kriss, a former Colby state champion who now wrestles at the University of Indiana, took third at state during his freshman and sophomore year. Kriss wrestled in the 103-pound class as a freshman and at 119 as a sophomore. Kriss also finished third at regionals last season. Schmitt said Kriss will probably move up to 130. He said Kriss had a great year in the weight room.

"There aren't too many guys who can outwork him," Schmitt said.

The Eagles finished fifth out of 72 teams at state despite some injuries

Senior Andrew Flanagan had his season cut short after suffering a concussion. He qualified for state at 160 his sophomore year. Flanagan wrestled at 171 last season. Senior Dryden Baumfalk, who qualified for state as a sophomore at 119, also had an injury end his season. He moved up to wrestle at 125 last season.

Sophomore Zell Bieberle broke his leg last year. He wrestled some varsity matches at 285 pounds before the injury. While injuries may have hurt Colby's chances of recapturing the state title the team won two years ago, it did give several junior varsity wrestlers an opportunity to gain some experience. These included seniors Kaid Wark and George Smollock, junior Clayton Appelhans, senior Nathan Quagliano and sophomores Quade Woofter, Macen Shell and Bieberle.

Junior Michael Tubbs qualified for state last season at 130 and Dalton Snyder qualified at 135. Both wrestlers went 1-2 at state.

The Eagles will be without state qualifiers Torey Taylor, Adam



Colby High coach Matt Sims (left) and assistant coach Ed Schmitt provided an example for the Eagles' wrestling team during practice last week in the mezzanine room at the high school.

Weber, Nathan Reed and Ethan Stickle, all of whom graduated last spring.

Highlights from last year's season include winning the Northwest Kansas League tournament, outscoring the second-place finisher by 64 points, and taking first at the Gable/Jenkins tournament in St. Francis. The Eagles also placed first out of 22 teams in a tournament in Liberal.

Schmitt said his wrestlers have seemed pretty motivated at practice.

"They came into practice in shape," Schmitt added.

The coach said he thought Colby's switch to the Great West Activities Conference will allow the Eagles' wrestlers to get more mat time. He said the teams in the conference will have fuller rosters, with less empty spots on their roster. Many schools in the Northwest Kansas League didn't have anyone to wrestle in certain weight classes.

The coach said the Eagles will face stiffer competition this sea-

son because they are in a tougher league. He said Scott City always has a good wrestling team and Ulysses has a few tough guys on their squad.

"I think we can compete," Schmitt said. "We just need to bring it to the mat everyday."

The boys will kick off their season against Burlington High School from Colorado in a dual at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at the high school gymnasium.

# Balanced offense leads to Chiefs victory

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - If it's balanced offense you admire, check out the Kansas City Chiefs.

In a 31-13 whipping of the fading Arizona Cardinals on Sunday, KC had eight first downs running and eight passing. They threw the ball 24 times for 193 yards and two touchdowns and ran it 29 times for 159 yards and two touchdowns.

"We weren't perfect. But we had a decent day for our offense," guard Brian Waters said with a big grin.

The decent day included 352 yards of total offense, zero turnovers and two more touchdown catches by Dwayne Bowe, who appears to be emerging as a top-flight wide receiver. The Chiefs (6-4) also took advantage of Pittsburgh's defeat of Oakland to go

ahead by one game in the AFC West.

"That's the way we like it," Waters said. "Balance keeps (the defense) off balance. That's the type of football we want to play and today we got it done."

The defense held the Cardinals without a touchdown until the game clock read 00:00 and Larry Fitzgerald gathered in a 3-yard scoring pass from Derek Anderson on the final play of Arizona's fifth straight loss.

The Cardinals (3-7) are not just in danger of losing their grip on the NFC West they've won the last two years. They'll be hard-pressed to avoid their first losing season under Ken Whisenhunt.

"We are not really a confident team right now," said Whisenhunt.

"One of the things we have always been able to feed on is certain individuals, but I'm not specifying individuals, players making plays. We had our chances to do that."

Bowe caught scoring passes from Cassel of 1 and 38 yards and Jones scored on runs of 1 and 3 yards, marking the team-record sixth straight game he had at least one touchdown catch.

Once considered a loudmouth and a bust, Bowe in the last six games has amassed 563 yards receiving and caught 10 touchdown throws from Matt Cassel.

"I don't think I'm any different," Bowe said.

"I feel like every day I'm the same guy striving for one goal and that's to win it all. Until I do that, I'm going to feel like the

same person. Now when I win it, I might change. But right now, I'm just Dwayne."

Bowe caught touchdown throws of 1 and 38 yards while Thomas Jones scored on two short runs, keeping the Chiefs unbeaten in five home games.

The Cardinals have lost close ones and been blown out in their five-game skid.

# Basketball team sets new record

The Colby College Trojans men split two games at the Northeastern Junior College Classic in Sterling, Colo., over the weekend, losing 82-78 in overtime to a tough Casper Community College team Friday and crushing Buckley Air Force Base 110-26 on Saturday.

The 84-point victory over the team from Buckley, home of the 460th Air Base Wing and the Colorado Air National Guard in Aurora, was the largest margin in Colby men's basketball history, coach Dustin Pfeifer said. The previous record was 62 points, set by the 1968-1969 team. The Trojans also set a team record for steals with 44. Freshman Marty Wendell led the team with 22 rebounds.

The Colby men trailed Casper from Wyoming, 12-2 early in the first half. The coach said the Thunderbirds' built up a 14-point lead before his team mounted a comeback. Pfeifer said the Trojans were able to tie the game at 28, but Casper went on a run and led by nine at the half.

The coach said Casper scored the first bucket of the second half, then his guys went on an 8-0 run. He said Colby took the lead eight minutes into the half, and the rest of the game, it went back and forth.

The Trojans trailed by 2 with just under a minute remaining in regulation, but freshman A.J. Barber connected on a jump shot with 30 seconds left to tie the score at 75. A defensive stand sent the game into overtime.

Freshman Hurley Johnson hit one of two free throws to open the overtime, but the Trojans went scoreless for the next three minutes and Casper pulled out a four-point win. The coach said a couple of offensive foul calls and a turnover hurt his team in overtime. Despite the loss, Pfeifer said in a post-game press conference that he thought his team showed improvement.

"To respond the way we did in the second half is an encouraging sign," the coach said.

He noted that his team had played Casper without its leading rebounder, sophomore Michael Morris. Morris has been sidelined since spraining his ankle against Raleigh's Finest Preparatory Academy from Oklahoma City in an Ambassador Classic game at the Community Building on Nov. 11. Pfeifer said he didn't know when Morris would be returning to action.

Johnson led the Trojans in scoring with 20 points and Barber and Konrade both added 15.

Colby's record now stands at 5-3. The Trojans will play McCook Community College from Nebraska directly after the Colby women's 6 p.m. game Tuesday at the Community Building.

The men will play in the Garden City Thanksgiving Classic on Friday and Saturday. The Trojans play Frank Phillips College from Borger, Texas, on Friday and North Platte Community College from Nebraska on Saturday. Both games start at 3:30 p.m.

# Lady Trojans' team loses two on the road

The Colby College women's basketball team lost two games at the Casper Community College Pizza Hut Classic in Wyoming this weekend.

The Lady Trojans lost to the College of Eastern Utah from Price 73-51 on Friday and they fell to North Idaho College from Coeur d'Alene, ranked No. 14 in the National Junior College Athletic Association, 69-52 on Saturday.

Freshman Taylor Puttergill led the women with a career-high 23 points against the College of Eastern Utah and freshman Kelli Crittenden added eight points.

Puttergill made nine of 14 field goals and connected on three of five three pointers. Crittenden went four-for-seven from the field.

Freshman Liga Vente had a team-high 15 points and eight re-

bounds against North Idaho while Crittenden added 11. Crittenden went four-for-six from the field and was two-for-three from beyond the arc.

The coach said his team knew they would be facing some good teams and he wanted them to learn from the experience. The Lady Trojans were plagued by turnovers. Colby had 27 against Eastern Utah and 22 against North Idaho. The women forced the Lady Golden Eagles from Utah to commit 24 turnovers and the Lady Cardinals to turn the ball over 15 times.

Colby was out-rebounded by the Golden Eagles 41-29 and by North Idaho 42-31.

With the losses, Colby dropped to 2-6 for the year. They will play McCook Community College from Nebraska at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Building.

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