

Swooping in for a layup



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby eighth grader Connor Mountford went for a layup while shooting hoops by himself on a sunny Friday afternoon at Fike Park. He will be playing with Colby's eighth grade team in January.

Golden Plains seniors make all-league first team

Golden Plains seniors Rilee Spresser, Tate Preston and Devinn Ritter have been named to the Western Kansas Liberty All-League Football first team.

Spresser was voted to the first team as a kicker/punter; Preston, tight end; and Ritter, nose guard. Spresser was named to the all-league second team as a quarterback and defensive back and junior Kalyn Weber made second team as a running back. Bulldogs' junior Cole Christensen and Preston received honorable mention at tight end and defensive back.

Golden Plains coach Travis Smith said Spresser could be the kicker or punter for a college team. He said Spresser was good at pinning opposing team's back towards their own end zone with his punts and kickoffs.

Spresser led the league in passing yards with 1,194. Smith said he was his first player to throw for over 1,000 yards since he began coaching the Bulldogs in 2000. "He has a strong and accurate arm," the coach said.

Spresser completed about 63 percent of his passes and threw 18 touchdowns.

Smith said Spresser was one of Golden Plains best cover guys on defense.

"He could really read quarterbacks," Smith said. "He had a knack for breaking up plays."

Spresser had four interceptions.

Preston led the 8-man league in receiving yards with 724. He caught 14 touchdowns and averaged almost 17 yards per catch.

"He ran really good routes and he has really good hands," Smith said.

The coach said Preston had more receiving yards than any receiver he has coached at Golden Plains.

Smith said Ritter was one of the best defensive linemen in eight man football in the state of Kansas. Ritter had a total of 117 tackles, averaging 13 tackles per game. The coach said this is normal for a linebacker, but unheard of for a

lineman. The coach said Ritter's job was to get in into the opposing team's backfield and create chaos. The coach said Ritter lived in the weight room for four years working on getting stronger.

Weber led his team in touchdowns with 20 and came in third in the league in rushing with 1,350 yards. He was also third in the league in scoring with 146 points.

The cooperative team from Brewster and Cheylin High School had two players – senior Kalib Hinkle and freshman Seth Smith – receive honorable mention, at quarterback and defensive back.

Golden Plains' senior Melissa Ritter and sophomore Stephanie Busse and senior Whitney Churchell of the Cheylin-Brewster team were all selected for the Western Kansas Liberty League All-League Volleyball team.

Cheylin-Brewster freshman Brittany Plummer and Lady Bulldogs' freshman Kylie Jones received honorable mention.

Trojans basketball squad wins two straight on road

The Trojans men's basketball team won both its games this past weekend at the Garden City Thanksgiving Classic.

The Colby Community College team defeated Frank Phillips College from Borger, Texas, 75-69 on Friday and whipped North Platte Community College from Nebraska 78-60 on Saturday.

Coach Dustin Pfeifer said his team was successful because the men played good team basketball.

"We shared the ball," the coach said. "We took care of the ball. It was a really solid weekend for our basketball team."

Pfeifer added that he hoped this weekend would serve as a confidence booster for the team.

The Trojans trailed Phillips 37-35 at halftime, but outscored the Plainsmen by eight in the second half. The coach said the game went back and forth, with neither team ever leading by more than six.

He said the difference in the game was that Phillips turned the ball over 16 times, while the Trojans only had eight turnovers. The Trojans made 14 of 18 free throws, while Phillips only made seven of 13.

Colby shot 44 percent from the field and was out-rebounded 40-34. Pfeifer said the Plainsmen were a big and talented team. Phillips holds victories over Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference teams Neosho County Community College from Chanute, Butler County from El Dorado and Pratt this season.

Freshman Hurley Johnson had a team-high 19 points on eight-of-16 shooting from the field. Freshman Carson Konrade added 13 points, including three three-pointers, and freshman A.J Barber chipped in 11. Freshman Corey Billingslea had nine points and eight rebounds and sophomore Terrell Bruce added eight points and six rebounds.

Colby led North Platte 41-31 at halftime and continued to stretch its lead in the second half. Johnson helped the Trojans early, hitting two three-pointers. Colby only trailed once – for less than a minute – in the entire contest.

Johnson paced the Trojans with 16 points and Bruce and Konrade added 13. Sophomore Michael Morris, returning from an ankle injury that had sidelined him for several games, had seven points, grabbed a team-high five rebounds and blocked three shots. Barber led the team with four assists.

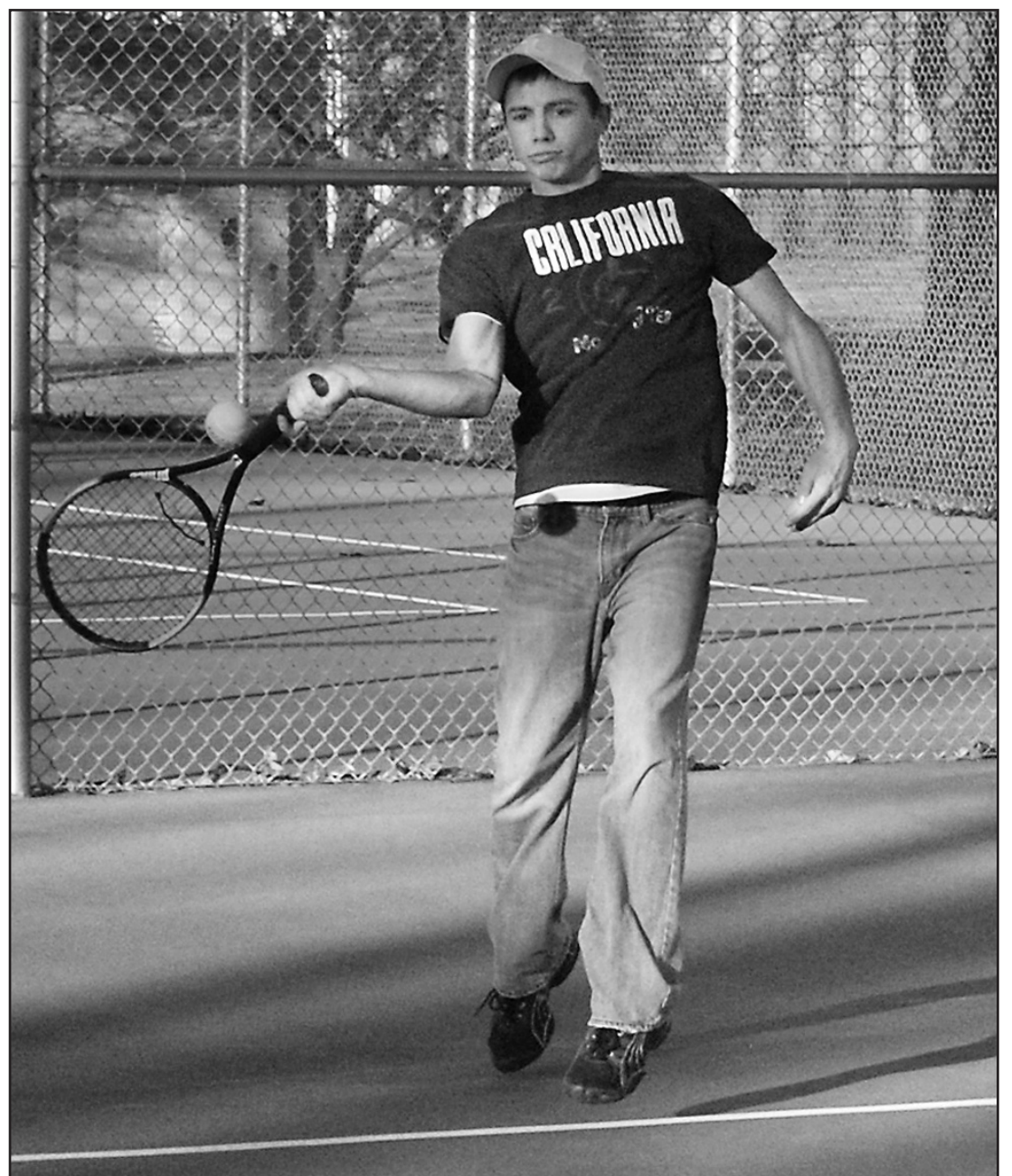
The Trojans made 26 of 52 field goals and connected on nine of 20 three pointers. They made 17 of their 21 free-throw shots. Colby got 26 points off the bench, Pfeifer said. Colby committed 12 turnovers, while forcing the Knights to turn the ball over 21 times.

"We pressed them really hard," Pfeifer said, noting that his team had 12 steals.

The Trojans' record now stands at 8-3. They will play a Kansas State University, Salina, club team at 7 p.m. Thursday in Salina. Colby hammered this team 101-38 in a Trojans' Ambassador Classic game on Nov. 11 at the Community Building.

The men return home to play Trinidad State Community College from Colorado at 7 p.m. Monday at the Community Building. The Trojans will be looking to avenge a season-opening 73-67 loss to Trinidad State in Colorado on Nov. 2.

Seconds before impact



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby Community College student Jordan Hockersmith prepared to smack the tennis ball on Friday afternoon at Fike Park. Hockersmith and fellow student Chris Williams were facing former Colby High tennis player Barbara Bickner, now a freshman at Baker University in Baldwin City, in a 2-on-1 match.

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