

Wrestling team takes sixth

Eagles win four, lose three

The Colby High wrestling team took sixth place out of 18 teams at the Eagle Invitational this weekend.

Colby went 4-3 in the dual tournament, where teams wrestle seven full dual matches in two days, including a big win over Class 5A Valley Center and a close loss to Hutchinson, a larger Class 5A school.

Pine Creek from Colorado Springs finished first and Garden City took second. Hutchinson and Concordia came in fourth and fifth.

The tournament was divided into three pools made up of six teams. Teams faced everyone in their pool once. The squads with the top two records in each pool wrestled in placing round duals Saturday at the Community Building for first through sixth places.

The three pools wrestled in three places: the Community Building, the high school gymnasium and the grade school gym. Colby's pool duals all took place at the high school.

The boys went 3-1 in pool play Friday.

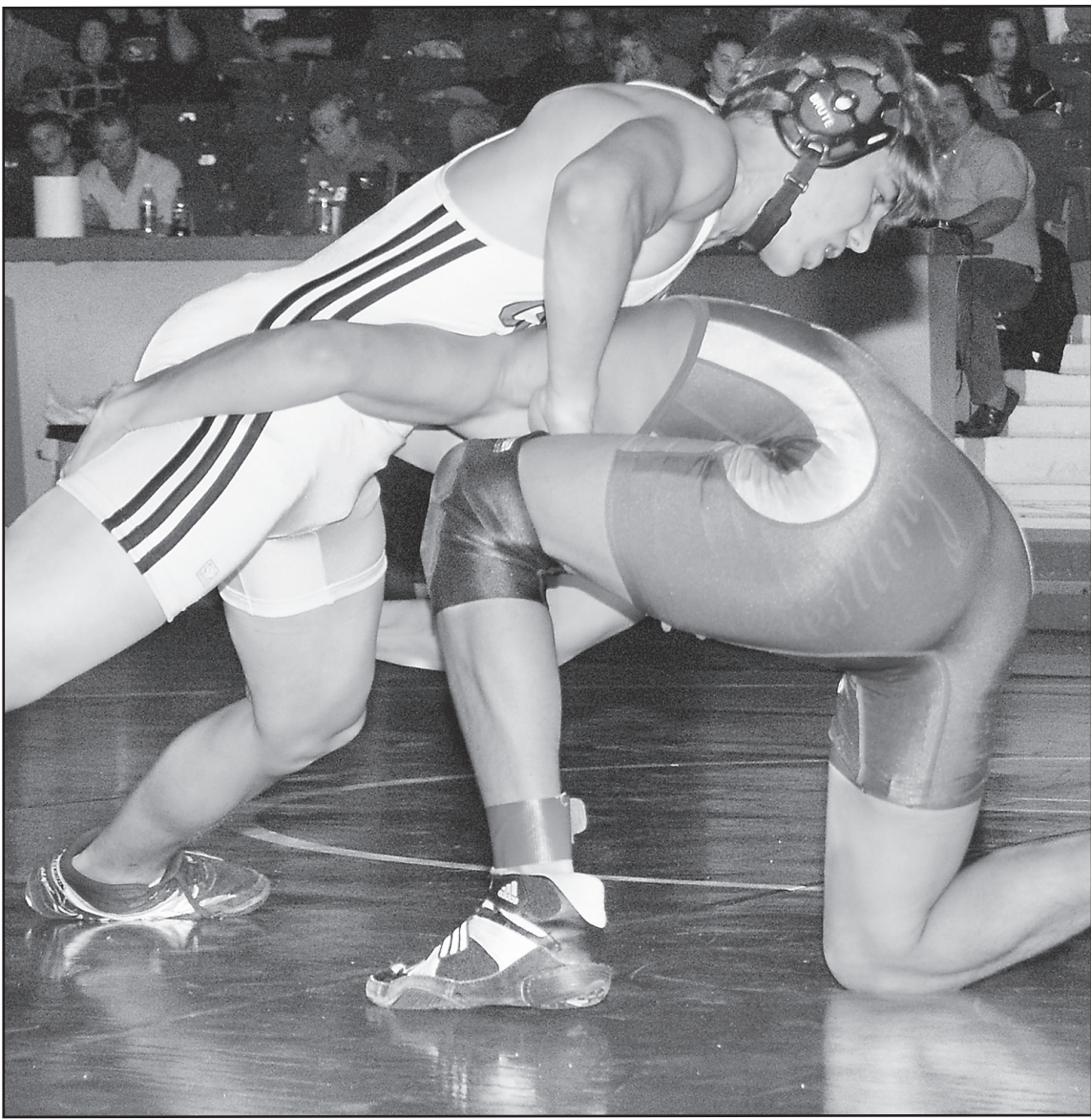
They pounded Wray from Colorado 54-13 in their first dual. Senior Andrew Flanagin and juniors Brandon Leth and Konnor Kriss, sophomore Dustin Reed and freshman Andrew Taylor all won by pins.

The Eagles crushed Oberlin in their second dual 55-21. Freshman David Mainus, Reed, sophomore Zell Bieberle, junior Andrew Elling and Leth all pinned their opponents.

Colby lost to eventual champion, Pine Creek, 46-17. Reed won by pin, Flanagin won a major decision and Elling won 4-1. Kriss lost a competitive 3-2 match in the 130-pound class.

The Eagles bounced back to score an easy 60-12 win over Liberal in their final matches on Friday, winning 12 of their 14 matches.

Colby got by Valley Center 29-27 in the final pool event at the high school Saturday morning



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High sophomore wrestler Quade Woofter tangled with Miguel Davila of Hutchinson in a 140-pound match during the Eagle Invitational on Saturday at the Community Building. Woofter won a decision with a reverse in the final second.

to take second place in the pool. That got the Eagles into the top group in placing matches.

Colby picked up an early lead with its first four wrestlers - Mainus at 103; junior Devon Schlageck, 112; Reed, 118; and senior Dryden Baumfalk, 125; - winning. Reed won an 18-6 major decision, giving the team five points.

The Hornets tried to turn the tide by winning the next three matches. Leth stymied Valley Center's momentum by pinning the Hornets' John McCune at 145. The Hornets won the next two matches, one by a pin. The two wins gave Valley Center a 21-20 lead. Flanagin regained the lead for the Eagles by pinning Valley Center's Luke Weldon at 171. The pin gave Colby six points and a 26-21 lead.

The Hornets' Garret Foster beat

junior Clayton Appelhans 5-2 at 189, cutting the Eagles' lead to 26-24. Appelhans was slammed down hard on his shoulder, and the match had to be stopped for a couple of minutes to make sure he was OK. Appelhans gamely decided to finish the match after the brief break.

Senior George Smollock led the Hornets' Garret Foster 4-2 going into the third period in the 215 pound class match. Foster got a point off an escape to make it 4-3. Smollock got a takedown late in the third period and won the match 6-3. The win gave Colby a 29-24 lead going into the final match. Jacob Weldon of Valley Center beat Bieberle 5-1 at 285, but the Eagles won 29-27.

Concordia soundly defeated Colby 48-27 in the first placing round match at the Community Building. Flanagin and Kriss both

pinned their opponents. The Eagles' other two wins came from Baumfalk, a 9-0 decision, and Reed, a 7-1 victory.

Colby lost to Hutchinson 36-33 in a dual that could have gone either way. Bieberle and Kriss both won by falls. Sophomore Quade Woofter won his match 5-4 at 140 after getting a reverse in the final seconds of the third period. Reed and Flanagin both won by forfeit because the Salt Hawks didn't have anyone wrestling in their weights.

Reed said the team was pretty tired by the last dual because it is still early in the season and not everyone was in shape.

The Eagles will face league opponent Ulysses in a dual at 6 p.m. Friday at the high school gymnasium.

Colby junior varsity team dominates opponent

The Colby girls junior varsity basketball squad improved to 2-0 by crushing Thomas More Prep-Marian 48-22 in Hays on Thursday.

"After a slow start, we picked up the defensive pressure and turned the game around," coach Jack Elliot said. "Overall, another

good job by everyone."

Sophomore Kenzie Curry led the young Lady Eagles with 12 points and junior Brenna McKee added 10. Others scorers include sophomore Karly Kriss, 6; freshmen Haileigh Shull and Abby Friesen, 4 each; and junior Emilea Finley, freshman Morgan Mengel,

sophomore Lauren Bell and senior Caitlyn Wark, all 2.

Colby made all eight of its free throws as Curry, McKee, Mengel and Wark all went 2-for-2 from the line.

The coach said the girls took good care of the basketball after the first quarter. He said the team

still needs to work on its "help" defense, where a teammate will leave their defensive assignments to help stop an opposing player who has gotten past her defender, but it's coming along.

Colby was to play Garden City in a junior varsity tournament game at Goodland today.

Baseball players sign with teams

Colby College sophomores Jon Cotter and Matt Balogh will be playing baseball after they finish their spring season with the Trojans this year.

Cotter, a second baseman from Canada, has signed to play in the fall with the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, and Balogh with Quachita Baptist Missouri University in Arkansas.

Cotter batted .410 as a freshman for the Trojans in 34 games. He had 11 doubles, 2 home runs, 30 runs batted in and 21 stolen bases in 23 attempts. He's expected to lead the Trojans at the plate and in the field this spring.

"There's no way to express how excited we are to have Jon join our program next fall," said Central Missouri coach Tom Myers.

Colby coach Ryan Carter said he was pleased Cotter's career would continue.

"Our coaching staff is extremely happy for Jon to commit to such an outstanding school," Carter said. "We are proud of what Jon has accomplished and know that he will continue his success as he moves on to Cen-

tral Missouri State."

Myers said some things about his program are similar to the one in Colby. "I know Coach Carter and his staff do a fantastic job preparing their players for the next level," he said, "and they run a very similar aggressive offensive style as us. I feel Jon will be a key component to our success and have a solid understanding of our philosophy."

Carter said he thought Balogh will be successful in Arkansas. "We are proud to be sending one of our players to a great program," he said. "We have tremendous respect for Coach Modellmog at Quachita, and we know Matt will have a lot of success there."

As a freshman, Balogh batted .284 with 23 runs batted in. He played in 37 games and stole 25 bases in 30 attempts. Balogh saw time as a catcher, first baseman and designated hitter.

"Matt will bring a lot to the table every day," coach Chris Modellmog said. "He is a guy who can play all over the field, can really run and handle the bat."

Young Lady Eagles split home games

The Colby eighth-grade girls B team slipped past Goodland 22-20 in its last game of the season, but the A team suffered a 26-24 loss at the Colby Grade School gymnasium.

Aly O'Neal scored a team-high 8 points for the B team in a game on Dec. 2. Coach Shirley Arnerberger singled out Phoebe Pfeifer, O'Neal and Jennilee Gray as players of the game.

Pfeifer added 7 points, Morgan Sanguinetti had 4 and Bailey Ellegood chipped in 3.

Ellegood led the team with 6 rebounds and Sanguinetti and Olivia Wetter grabbed 5 each. Bridget Bickner had 3, O'Neal, Gray and Pfeifer all had 2 and Helena Romero 1.

"This is the best the girls have played," the coach said. "The girls did a great job on defense and hustling."

"The girls have improved so much this season. They are starting to gain some confidence, and it really shows on the court. I'm very proud of the girls."

Brooklyn Bange led the Lady Eagles with 7 in the A team loss

that day. The coach named Bange and Shaila Giebler as players of the game.

Bange, Hailey Schindler and Geibler all scored 4 points, Courtney Reilly 3 and Cheyenne Ortner, Kelly Sloan and Darby Sager 2 each.

Bange had a team-high 3 rebounds. Ortner, Sager and Strange all had 2 and Schindler, Cayla Carter and Kelly Sloan one each.

The coach said she was proud of her team in spite of the loss.

"They played a wonderful game," Arnerberger said. "It was very physical game, and the girls had to get tough and fight 'til the end."

"We were ahead most of the game, but they are a good team, and they just kept coming back. This is the best game we have played so far. We will continue to work hard and improve our skills."

The A team was to play in the Great West Activities Conference tournament today against Scott City at the Colby Grade School gymnasium.

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