



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby High senior Spencer Tubbs got ready to go up for a layup off an inbounds play during the Eagles' practice on Thursday at the high school.

Colby boys' team looking for a win

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The Colby High boys basketball team will try to pick up its first victory when it takes on league opponent Hugoton at 8 p.m. Friday in the friendly confines of the Community Building.

The Eagles' record sits at 0-5. Colby has faced its share of problems this season, including turnovers and poor field-goal and free-throw shooting. One of these has reared its ugly head in each of the team's losses.

Even though the boys have been unable to get a victory, they have given a valiant effort every time they have stepped onto the court.

Coach Jerad Johnson said he likes the fact that his team always gives a great effort. He said one thing the team hasn't succeeded at doing is playing consistently. He said the team's poor field-goal shooting in some games could be attributed to hurrying shots and not finishing shots.

The coach said the key to cutting down on turnovers involves the boys keeping their composure while being pressed. The coach said the boys need to stick to their

own style of play instead of letting their opponents control the pace of the game.

The Eagles' offense has come from many different sources, including seniors Corbin Stephens, Kale Aramberger, Clint Goosen, Spencer Tubbs, junior Braden Sager and sophomore Zane Winger.

Aramberger led the team with 9 points in a 68-46 loss to Great Bend in the season opener at the Hays City Shootout on Dec. 2. He scored 12 points, including the first 10 of the game, in a 52-45 loss to Thomas More Prep-Marian at the same tournament.

Stephens scored a season-high 20 in the Eagles' 69-46 loss to Hays on Dec. 7 and he led the team with 11 in a 61-46 loss to Thomas More Prep-Marian on Dec. 9.

Sager and Tubbs combined for 17 points against Thomas More on Dec. 9.

"We need those guys on a daily basis," Johnson said.

Goosen and Winger were the catalysts for a strong offensive effort in the fourth quarter against Hays. The game was already out of reach, but Colby still outscored the Indians 16-4 in the final period.

Lady Eagles start season strong

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The Lady Eagles' basketball team has gotten off to a solid start this season.

After five games, the Colby High girls' record sits at 4-1. The team's trademark tough defense has played a vital role in the girls' success this season.

The Lady Eagles held Great Bend to only 21 points in their season opener and they shut out Garden City during the second quarter of their third game. The girls went on a 26-0 run against the Lady Buffaloes which started with three-plus minutes remaining in the first quarter and ended in the third.

Coach Parker McKee said one of his team's strong points is their

ability to press in the backcourt. He said each team has to take advantage of its strengths, and one of the girls' is their endurance. He said Lady Eagles' defensive style doesn't involve going for too many steals.

"We make other teams make mistakes," the coach said.

The coach said the girls went away from this strategy during the Hays City Shootout and that's one of the reasons they lost to Newton 40-35 on Dec. 3.

The Lady Eagles have had trouble scoring in a few games this season. McKee said Colby's offensive troubles may stem from lack of focus and confidence.

The Lady Eagles really spread the ball around on offense, and they don't seem to care who scores the most points on any given night.

"That's why they are so successful," McKee said.

Senior Katherine Kaus has been the team's most consistent scorer most nights. She led the team with 15 points, including 6 of 6 free throws, at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays on Dec. 9. She shot for a team-high 12 in the girls' loss to Newton.

Senior point guard Kayla Hockersmith goes into tonight's contest coming off a big game that night. She led the team in four categories against Marian. She was the high-point scorer with 13 and dished out a team-high 6 assists, stole 6 passes and grabbed 6 rebounds. Katherine Kaus also had 6 boards.

McKee said Hockersmith and senior Katrina Kaus, Katherine's twin, are the team's top two defenders, so they get the hardest

defensive assignments. Kaus held Thomas More Prep-Marian star Rachel Jacobs to 6 points on 2-of-8 shooting while forcing her to commit 5 turnovers. McKee said Jacobs is one of the best players in the area. Katrina also had 8 points on 3-of-5 shooting in the game.

Sophomore Lauren Bell had a breakout game on Dec. 9 against Marian, scoring 10 points on 5-of-7 shooting.

McKee said Bell and her older sister Morgan need to be a little more consistent on offense. Morgan made 7 points against Marian, including hitting 2 of 2 three pointers. Senior Kelsey Shields has had a solid season for Colby, including being chosen, along with Katherine Kaus, to the all-tournament team at the Hays tournament. Shields had 6 against Marian and 6 against Garden City on Dec. 4.

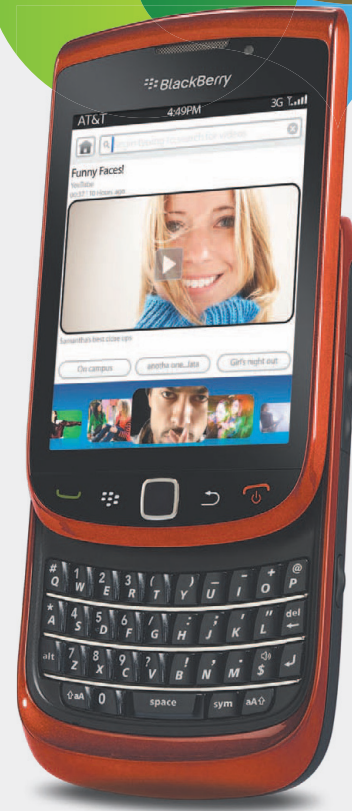


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