



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High freshman Andrew Taylor, pictured here during a dual against Ulysses in December, and the rest of the Eagles' wrestling team will take on rival Goodland in a dual at 6 p.m. Thursday in the high school gym.

Eighth graders take third place

The Colby eighth-grade girls took third place in the Great West Activities Conference Middle School tournament by beating Grant Junior High 24-14 on Dec. 18 in Holcomb, but they lost to the hometown Lady Longhorns 31-21 in the semifinals earlier that day.

Hailey Schindler led the team with 10 points against Holcomb.

"The girls played really well, but Holcomb is a good team," said coach Shirley Amberger. "They are really quick, and we got beat down the court a few times."

Darby Sager had 3 points for the junior Lady Eagles, while Kelly Sloan, Hannah Strange and Cheyenne Ortner all had 2. Shailla Giebler and Sager both had 4 rebounds and Sloan pulled down 2.

Ortner and Schindler both had 3 steals, Giebler, 2, and Sager, Phoebe Pfeifer and Strange, 1 each.

The coach named Giebler and Schindler co-players of the game.

Schindler led the Lady Eagles with 6 points against Grant from Goodland and Sloan led the team in rebounds with 7.

"The girls did a wonderful job on defense," Amberger said. "They fought tough the entire game. It was an exciting win for us."

"It was good way to end the season."

Ortner and Strange each had 4 points and Courtney Reiley and Giebler both had 3. Sager and Sloan had 2 each.

Schindler and Giebler had 5 rebounds each, Sager, 4; Reiley and Strange, 3 each; and Brooklyn Bange, Ortner and Jennilee Gray, 1 each.

Sager had 3 steals, Ortner and Giebler each had 2 and Bange 1.

Amberger named Sloan and Ortner the co-players of the game.

The Lady Eagles finished their season with a 4-4 record.

Kansas City Chiefs lose to league rival

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — If this turns out to be Tom Cable's last year as Oakland's head coach, at least he'll know he made history.

After beating Kansas City 31-10 Sunday in their regular-season finale, the 2010 Raiders became the only team since the 1970 merger to go unbeaten in their division and still not make the playoffs.

The short-handed Raiders (8-8) wrapped up a division record of 6-0, while the Chiefs (10-6) went 2-4 in the division but will host the Baltimore Ravens at 2 p.m. next Sunday as AFC West champions.

The Chiefs are the No. 4 seed in the playoffs; the Raiders are through for the year.

"We are disappointed because we are not going to the playoffs, but at the same time we stuck to the goal and stuck to the plan as we have done every week, and we got our eighth win," said Cable, whose job status with the Raiders has been the subject of speculation. "I'm very happy about that."

Michael Bush rushed for 137 yards and Jason Campbell threw a TD pass for the Raiders, who beat the Chiefs in Arrowhead Stadium for the fourth year in a row and ruined a perfect home record.

Running back Darren McFadden and Pro Bowl defensive tackle Richard Seymour were out because of injuries, but the Raiders dominated from start to finish, intercepting two of Matt Cassel's passes and sacking him seven times.

The interceptions led directly to Oakland's last two scores. Jacoby Ford scored on a 10-yard reverse after Michael Huff's interception, and Stanford Routt returned a pick 22 yards for the Raiders' final TD when Cassel was hurried while throwing from his end zone.

The Chiefs were still digesting their lopsided loss several hours later when Indianapolis beat Tennessee 23-20 and determined their seed and first-round opponent.

The Chiefs' worst home game of the season came on the heels of news that offensive coordinator Charlie Weis is returning to college coaching to become Florida's offensive coordinator. Weis, in one year with the Chiefs, has been given much credit for developing Cassel into a topflight quarterback

and turning Jamaal Charles into a Pro Bowl running back.

"Charlie Weis is moving on. He's going to go to the University of Florida as a coordinator," said Chiefs coach Todd Haley. "This is a bittersweet thing for me as the head coach. Charlie was obviously someone I was excited about having in here. That being said, Charlie is a family guy and he's got a family situation, where he can go to Florida and be with his son, who is going to get into coaching. This is a great situation for Charlie and I respect it 100 percent."

Weis was not available to reporters.

The Raiders posted their best record since 2002 amid talk that Cable may be out; the team went to 17-27 since he became head coach four games into the 2008 season. It was the first time since '02, when Oakland went to the Super Bowl, that the team didn't lose at least 11 games.

The Raiders had 344 total yards to Kansas City's 201 and held the top-rated rushing offense to 115 yards on the ground.

Asked if he thinks he's coming back, Cable did answer directly.

"We're not losers anymore. We're 8 and 8," he said. "That's not what we wanted. We wanted to be a playoff team. We came here to get the sixth win, which means we went 6-0 in the division and most importantly, we are done with that losing."

We are not losers anymore."

Charles, who came in trailing Houston's Arian Foster by 56 yards for the NFL rushing lead, had 87 yards on 14 carries and held the advantage for a few hours. But Foster, who played in a later game, rolled up 180 yards in the Texans' 34-17 victory over Jacksonville, giving him 1,616 for the year.

Charles finished the regular season with 1,467 yards.

Wrestlers achieve early success

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkans.com

Coming into the second half of the season, the Eagles wrestling team has seen its share of successes, although not the kind the squad achieved in the previous two years.

The Colby High team will kick off the second half of the season with a home dual against Goodland in a home dual at 6 p.m. Thursday at the high school.

The Eagles began their season with a 44-24 win over Burlington in a dual and took third at the Gabel/Jenkins tournament (named for the current Colby High principal) in St. Francis with 137 points. The Eagles went on to crush St. Francis 55-21 and Oakley 56-15 in a triangular before placing sixth out of 18 teams at the home Eagle Invitational.

Colby defeated Ulysses 40-31 in a dual at the high school on Dec. 17, before the Christmas break. The boys' victory was partly due to the Tigers not having anyone available to wrestle at several

weights, giving Colby free points. Dominating performances by senior Andrew Flanagin and junior Konnor Kriss also played a role.

Flanagin won a 14-2 major decision over Ulysses' Armandon Sandoval in the 171-pound class and Kriss pinned the Tigers' Alec Rodriguez in the second round at 130. Junior George Smollock and sophomore Zell Bieberle won their matches at 189 and 285.

This year's Colby team has been led by its three-year veterans, while also getting big contributions from some of its two-year wrestlers.

Sophomore Dustin Reed is the Eagles' only undefeated wrestler at this point. Reed, who moved up from 103 to 112 pounds this season, took second at 103 in the Class 4A state tournament last season. He did not wrestle against Ulysses because the Tigers didn't have anyone for to face him at 112.

Flanagin has dominated most of his opponents at 171. He has won every match he has been involved in except when he took second at the St. Francis tournament. The

senior missed most of last season because of an injury.

Kriss, who placed third at state last season, is also having a solid season at 130 — 27 pounds above his freshman weight. Kriss' only two losses occurred during the Eagle Invitational; both were competitive matches that could have gone either way.

Assistant coach Rick Williams said Kriss, Reed and Flanagin are the wrestlers who get the team going.

Senior Dryden Baumfalk and Bieberle both returned after being sidelined for much of last season due to injuries. Baumfalk finished first at 125 at Gabel/Jenkins and Bieberle was also first.

Baumfalk again is sidelined with an injury, Williams said, adding that he didn't think he would wrestle again this season.

Senior George Smollock, wrestling at 189 or 215, and sophomore Quade Woofter, 140, both saw a lot of varsity action last season. Smollock missed the first three events due to knee surgery, but he returned to action at the Eagle Invitational. The senior got a big 6-3

win over Valley Center's Garrett Foster that helped Colby beat the Hornets 29-27.

Williams said Woofter will not be wrestling this week due to an illness.

"George and Zell are wrestling better," Williams said.

The coach said the more aggressive Bieberle is, the better he is going to be.

Junior Brandon Leth, wrestling with the varsity for a second year, is having a solid season at 145.

This year's team includes several wrestlers who are competing with the varsity for the first time, including freshman David Mainus at 103, junior Devon Schlageck, 119; sophomore Ryan Moore, 135; sophomore Kurtis Sloan, 215; junior Andrew Elling, 152; and freshman Andrew Taylor, 160. Sophomore Macen Shull, junior Clayton Appelhans and senior Josh Middleton also have seen varsity action, though Middleton is sidelined with an injury.

"This is one of the youngest teams we've ever had," Williams said.

Kansas Jayhawks pick up dunk-filled win

LAWRENCE (AP) — It's a pretty sure sign of a successful game when the most pressing question afterward is: Which dunk was the best?

After No. 3 Kansas cruised past Miami of Ohio 83-56 on Sunday, there were plenty of slams for the Jayhawks to choose from: Elijah Johnson's dunk after Travis Releford's alley-oop pass off the backboard, Josh Selby's swooping baseline throwdown or Marcus Morris' elevating flush over a RedHawks defender.

So? "It has to be the one off the backboard," Marcus Morris said. "That was unselfish."

The Jayhawks (13-0) could afford to show off a little while extending the nation's longest home-court winning streak to 67 games.

They led by 26 points at halftime and were able to bring huge scoring — Markieff Morris had 20 points and twin brother Marcus had 18 — off the bench. Selby, the freshman guard, scored 18 points.

Orlando Williams had 11 points and Allen Roberts added 10 for Miami (5-9), which really had no answer after a 14-0 run put the Jayhawks ahead 33-13 and on track to a 47-21 halftime lead. Kansas remains one of the seven unbeaten teams in Division I.

"I think the first half was probably the best we've looked this year," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

That effort was spurred by the Morris twins, whose uneven play has led to spots in Self's doghouse. They had 29 points — eight more than Miami — by halftime, and

Markieff's 10 rebounds helped lead to a 46-17 rebounding advantage. The Morris twins were a combined 16 of 22 from the field.

"The Morris brothers just had us beat," Williams said. "They were, tonight, just more athletic and more physical. Our big men just didn't really compete tonight."

Self used practices over the holiday to stress more energy on defense, and Marcus Morris said all the dunks were a result of the Jayhawks taking that to heart and applying pressure.

Miami coach Charlie Coles agreed.

"If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes," Coles said, "and we did a lot of looking at Kansas' behinds today because they were going the other way with the ball."

PART INFO GETTING PLUS PART IDEA SHARING
Equals total government connecting.

Get info. Find answers. Share ideas. Your connection begins at USA.gov — the official source for federal, state and local government information.

USA.gov
1 (800) FED-INFO

We want your local news!
Call Vera at 462-3963

BE A PLAYER
Get up and Play an Hour a Day!

Ad Council Play60

www.smallstep.gov

WHAT CAN TRIGGER AN ASTHMA ATTACK MAY SURPRISE YOU

ATTACK ASTHMA. ACT NOW.
1-866-NO-ATTACKS
WWW.NOATTACKS.ORG
DON'T LET YOUR CHILD FEEL LIKE A FISH WITHOUT WATER.