



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High freshman Andrew Taylor (on top) grappled with sophomore Beau Brown in a match to decide who would wrestle in the varsity 160-pound weight class on Wednesday at the high school in the mezzanine. Taylor ended up getting the win.

Two Eagles wrestlers finish first; junior varsity team comes in fourth

The Colby High wrestling team had two junior varsity wrestlers take first in the Stratton Invitational in Colorado on Saturday and the Eagles finished fourth out of 13 teams with 84.50 points.

Senior George Smollock took first in the 189-pound weight class and junior Clayton Appelhans placed first at 171.

Coach Matt Sims said it was a varsity tournament that he sends his junior varsity team to, adding that the only other teams who bring their junior varsity are Goodland and Burlington.

"It was a really good tournament," the coach said. "They all wrestled well. It was good sign for the future of our program"

Smollock won a 3-2 decision in the finals. He won a 5-3 decision in his second match and a major decision in his third. Appelhans beat sophomore Troy Quenzer 5-1 in the finals. He

won a 6-1 decision and pinned his opponent in his other two matches.

Merino Junior Senior High School in Colorado finished first with 177 and Goodland finished second with 145.50.

The other schools from Colorado who competed in the tournament were Stratton Senior High School, Ellicott Senior High School from Calhan, Clear Creek High School from Evergreen, Wray High School, Cheyenne Wells High School, Byers Junior-Senior High School, Burlington High School and Yuma High School.

Quenzer, sophomore Beau Brown and sophomore Dustin Burleigh each took second in their respective weight classes. Brown pinned his first two opponents at 160 before getting pinned in the finals. Quenzer won a match by default before losing to Appelhans at 171. Burleigh won his first match by pin, but he got

pinned in his second match at 215.

Sophomore Brandon Gaede went 2-2 at 135. He was pinned in his first match, but he bounced back and won his next match by major decision 10-2. Then the sophomore won by a 5-3 decision before losing his final match 8-4.

Freshman Garrett Kraft went 1-2 at 140. His sole win was a 6-5 decision. Sophomore Randy Colling lost both his matches at 145. Sophomore Jon Faber won one match and lost two at 119. His win was by a 15-0 technical fall. Freshman Brady Colson won one match, but lost 2. He won a 4-2 decision. Sophomore Cameron Crocker lost both his matches at 275.

The Eagles' wrestling team will hold the Great West Activities Conference at 10 a.m. Saturday at the high school.

Second half rally propels Bulldogs to win

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains High boys basketball team downed the Dighton Hornets for the second time this season with a 49-36 victory on the road.

The Bulldogs had defeated the Hornets earlier in the season to capture third place in the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament.

The Hornets jumped out early on the 'Dogs on Jan. 28 and grabbed a 14-9 lead in the first quarter before the Bulldogs defense slowed

them down in the second. Both teams scored 8 in the second and Dighton led 22-17 at the half.

With the Bulldog defense continuing to hassle the Hornets, the boys' offense was able to sink 10 points during the third to tie the game at 27 going into the last 8 minutes of play.

"We lost the first half, but went man to man in the second half and got three steals right off that went in for layups," senior Tate Preston said. "We continued to push up the count throughout the fourth."

During the fourth, the 'Dogs were unstoppable, scoring 22 points and holding the Hornets to

9 on their way to securing a 49-36 win.

"We played more as a team this time and had three players in double figures," Preston said. "We cut down on turnovers and had some nice steals."

Preston led the Bulldogs' offense with 17 points, eight assists, and five steals, and one defensive rebound. He made 75 percent of his free throws, sinking six of eight. Preston was one of three players in double figures for the Bulldogs.

Rilee Spreser finished with 13 points, and two steals, one assist and six rebounds. Cole

Christensen added 12 points. He also played tough defense, grabbing 13 rebounds, blocking three shots getting two steals.

The only other Bulldog posting points was Devinn Ritter with 7. Ritter also played strong defense with 10 rebounds and he dished out one assist. Tyler Stevenson contributed two rebounds and one steal to the 'Dogs win.

The Bulldogs hold a 9-5 record following this game and are 4-2 in the league. They will return to their home court to take on Wallace County from Sharon Springs at 8 p.m. Friday in Rexford.

Kansas State Wildcats get badly needed victory

MANHATTAN (AP) — With Bramlage Coliseum silent for Jacob Pullen's free throws, a Nebraska fan took the opportunity to scream, "Shave your beard!"

There may have been times in a frustrating season when Pullen and the Wildcats would have been willing to do anything — maybe even remove trademark facial hair — to change their fortunes. But that was not the case on Wednesday night, as Kansas State cruised past Nebraska 69-53.

"I feel bad we haven't had the success we wanted this season," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said. "It's coming."

Pullen scored 18 points and Curtis Kelly had 16 to lead Kansas State (15-8, 3-5 Big 12). Rodney McGruder added 10.

Lance Jeter had 16 points to lead Nebraska (15-6, 3-4), and Jorge Brian Diaz had 10.

The Cornhuskers, who fell to

0-4 in road games, were plagued by a season-high 22 turnovers.

Martin was happy about the number, saying, "Our attention to detail defensively was big time."

Nebraska coach Doc Sadler was not nearly as happy.

"It was the worst effort we've had," Sadler said, searching for the correct comparison, "since the Oklahoma game my first year (2006-07)."

Kansas State took control of the game late in the first half, going on a 9-0 run and holding Nebraska without a field goal for more than 5½ minutes. Pullen capped the stretch with a layup that gave Kansas State a 30-14 lead.

"We just knew they really didn't like pressure," Pullen said. "Our defense turned into offense."

Up 14 at halftime, Kansas State built the lead to 34-17 on Shane Southwell's 3-pointer to open the second half. Nebraska got no clos-

er than 11 afterward.

"I didn't have my team ready," Sadler said. "They didn't do anything that we didn't expect. When you play sideways against Kansas State, it's just a matter of time before they completely run you out of your stuff, and you're going to turn it over."

After a Diaz jumper cut the Wildcats' lead to 34-22, Martavius Irving sank a 3-pointer that started a 7-0 Wildcats run.

When Diaz hit a post basket to make it 45-34 Kansas State with 13:31 remaining, the Wildcats went on an 8-2 run. Six of the points were on free throws.

Nebraska scored seven straight points, including a 3-pointer from Brandon Richardson, to get within 61-50 with 4 minutes remaining. It was the Cornhuskers' last gasp.

Pullen and Kelly each hit two free throws to rebuild the cushion, a theme for the game.

College runner finishes ninth

Colby College freshman Gortia Ferguson took ninth out of 31 runners in the 60-meter dash preliminaries with a time of 7.878 seconds at the indoor track and field Kansas Jayhawk Classic on Saturday in Lawrence.

She was just an eyelash away from finishing eighth, but Ferguson was edged out by Lashada Sims of Barton County Community College from Great Bend, who finished the race in 7.873.

Ferguson's time would have qualified her for Nationals, but she had already qualified at the University of Nebraska-Kearney Charlie Foster Classic

on Jan. 22 when she broke the school record time of 7.90 by finishing in 7.88, coach Crystal Berndt said. She said 7.90 also happened to be the qualifying time for Nationals.

Ferguson also finished 12th out of 31 runners in the 200-meter dash with 26.42 and freshman Shauntae Miller took fifth out of 10 people in the shot put portion of the indoor pentathlon with a heave of 9.08 meters.

The Lady Trojans will compete in the Texas Tech Open on Saturday in Lubbock. The coach said freshman Erica Rappard will return to action at the open. She did not run at the Classic due to an illness.

Turnovers hurt Trojans in 14-point loss to Pratt

Turnovers haunted the Lady Trojans' basketball team in their 70-56 loss at Pratt on Wednesday.

The Colby College team turned the ball over 26 times in the game. Freshman Morgan Rickwartz had a tough night offensively, scoring only 2 points and committing 11 turnovers.

Assistant coach Chris Lehecka said she made some poor decisions and needed to be more confident with the ball.

The coach said the Lady Beavers never led by more than 14.

The Lady Trojans trailed 33-28 at the half. Lehecka said the women were down by 10 three times in the first half. He said Pratt was able to get easy baskets off low post picks and offensive rebounds.

Sophomore Brooke Bursiek led the Lady Trojans with 15 points on 6-of-8 shooting, including going two for two from three point range. Sophomore Tayler Puttergill added 12 points and 8 rebounds and sophomore Hannah Thornton chipped in 10 points and pulled down 6 boards.

Titans lose to Weskan

The Triplains-Brewster High girls basketball team suffered a 64-35 loss at Weskan.

Kasey Hoyt led the Lady Titans with 12 points on 5 of 12 shooting. Hoyt also led the team in rebounds with six and steals with five. Ashley Barrie and Mattea Huelsman added 6 points each.

Brittany Plummer had a team-high five assists. Maddie Mayer and Amber Barrie both grabbed five rebounds. The Lady Titans shot about 34 percent, making 15 of 44 shots. Triplains-Brewster had a little trouble taking care of the ball, committing 19 turnovers.

Weskan led 17-3 at the end of

the first quarter. They outscored the girls 17-10 in the second and led 34-13 at the half. The third quarter was fairly even, with the Lady Coyotes only outscoring Triplains-Brewster 15-13. Weskan scored 15 more points in the fourth to the Lady Titans' 6 and prevailed 64-35.

With the loss, the girls dropped to 2-11. They will play Wheatland/Grinnell at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Winona. The game will be followed by the boys' game at 8 p.m. The king and queen of the Sweetheart Swirl dance will be crowned during halftime of the boys' game.

Heartland wins big on road

The Heartland High School girls basketball team whipped Northern Valley 57-20 in Alma on Friday.

"We are really coming along," coach Renee Schmeiser said.

Sophomore Abby Russ led the Lady Crusaders with 19 points and sophomore Alexi Regier added 15. Junior Rebekah Grace scored 11 and grabbed 12 rebounds. Alexi Regier had nine rebounds.

The girls lost a 40-39 nail biter

to Moscow, a city in southwest Kansas, 40-39 on Jan. 21.

Alexi Regier had 10 points, Grace added 9 points and senior Rachel Myers chipped in 8. Grace pulled down 13 rebounds and junior Jade Kruse grabbed 10 boards. The Lady Crusaders lost to Deerfield 36-28 on Jan. 20.

The girls will play Logan at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the high school on senior night.

Driver reaches big milestone

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Harness driver Andy Miller has earned his 7,000th win.

Miller hit the milestone in the second race Friday night at Meadowlands Racetrack. The 42-year-old Illinois native drove Odds On Riesling to victory in 1:53.3 for

trainer Carl Porcelli.

Miller has been one of the leading drivers at the Meadowlands since moving to New Jersey in 2006.

His wife, Julie, is among the track's leading trainers.

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