



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High freshman Haileigh Shull pushed the ball down court during the junior varsity girls' first round home tournament game against St. Francis on Thursday at the high school gym.

Junior varsity squad wins big after fast start

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Eagles' junior varsity boys' team jumped out to a big lead early and coasted to a victory in their 56-29 rout of Oberlin on Thursday in the first round of a home tournament at Colby High School.

The Red Devils' first point came with 5 minutes and 11 seconds left in the second quarter. The Eagles' swarming defense was led by freshman Luke Cox who tormented Oberlin's offense throughout the night. The boys shut out the Red Devils 17-0 in the first quarter.

Cox drilled a three pointer from the top of the key to start the game. Then junior Tayte Query got a friendly roll on a short jump shot to make it 5-0 Colby.

Later in the quarter, Cox hit a wide open Marc Bremenkamp (freshman) with an inbounds pass for a layup, giving Colby a 13-0 lead with 4:07 left in the quarter. Sophomore Wiatt Binder buried a jumper in the lane that extended the Eagles' lead to 17-0 before the end of the quarter.

The boys led 21-0 before an Oberlin player scored a point off a free throw. Cox picked the pocket of the Red Devils' Kyle Breth at halfcourt and took it down court for an unguarded layup. Moments later, Cox flashed into the passing lane and picked off another pass and pushed it downcourt for another easy bucket to make it 25-3. Freshman Spencer Barnes scored off a rebound, extending the boys' lead to 31-3 before halftime.

Junior Dalaan Organ knocked down a jumper early in the third. Bremenkamp and Cox both got fast break layups off steals and the Eagles led 44-16 at the end of the quarter.

Cox found Barnes on the right block with a long pass that Barnes dished off to Binder for a layup. Binder was fouled on the shot, but he missed the free throw. Later in the fourth, freshman Michael Schiferl hit a short jumper after receiving a no look pass from Cox. The Eagles went on to win 56-29.

The boys will play at 6:30 p.m. tonight at Hugoton High School in the east gym and they will play Oakley in the tournament championship at 7 p.m. Monday at the high school.

Junior varsity girls win with intense defense

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Pressure defense produced favorable results for the Lady Eagles' junior varsity team in its 50-12 blowout of St. Francis in the first round of a home tournament on Thursday at the Colby High School gymnasium.

Coach Jack Elliot said his team did a better job of getting the ball inside.

"We used pressure defense to jump on top," the coach said.

Junior Brenna McKee got a layup off a St. Francis turnover, giving the girls a 15-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. McKee was active on defense during the quarter as well, getting a couple of

steals off the press.

Later in the second, McKee found sophomore McKenna Ortnor cutting down the middle of the lane with an inbounds pass for a layup to make it 19-7. A few possessions later, Ortnor found freshman Morgan Mengel inside for a layup.

The Lady Eagles' defense was stifling as the Lady Indians struggled to get off any good shots. St. Francis' first points in the quarter came with 2:30 left. Freshman Abby Friesen made a short jumper from the baseline, giving the Lady Eagles a 29-9 lead.

Sophomore Karly Kriss, who led the girls with 14 points, missed a layup, but she got her own rebound and scored on her second try, extending Colby's lead to 31-9

before halftime.

Kriss hit a jumper early in the third. The girls applied a press that forced St. Francis to commit a number of turnovers.

"We have an aggressive team, so when we press it's powerful," Kriss said.

The Lady Eagles went on to pick up an easy 50-12 win.

Ortnor and Mengel both had 10 points, McKee and freshman Haileigh Shull added 6 each and Friesen and Katie Elias both scored 2.

With the win, the girls improved to 9-1. They were to play at 4:45 p.m. today at Hugoton and they will play Oakley in the tournament championship at 6 p.m. Monday at the high school.

Trojans fall to Pratt on the road

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Trojan men's basketball team couldn't overcome a slow start and early deficit in its 73-65 loss at Pratt on Wednesday.

"We started slow, dug ourselves a deep hole," coach Dustin Pfeifer said. "We didn't rebound well and we couldn't dig ourselves out of the hole."

The Beavers took advantage of the Trojans' early struggles and led 43-27 at half.

Sophomore Michael Morris and freshman Hurley Johnson both had a team-high 15 points and freshman A.J. Barber added 11. Morris went 7 for 11 from the field. Freshman Kevin Jefferson

had 10 points and led the team with three steals.

Free throw shooting played a vital role in the game's outcome. Colby only shot 11 free throws, while the Beavers got to the line 32 times. Colby made six free throws and Pratt 17.

The Trojans were outrebounded by a substantial 54-35 margin. Colby shot about 39 percent, on 26 of 66 shooting and the Beavers shot about 38 percent on 23 of 61 shooting. Pratt made about 47 percent of its shots in the first half, but the Trojans held them to 29 percent from the field in the second.

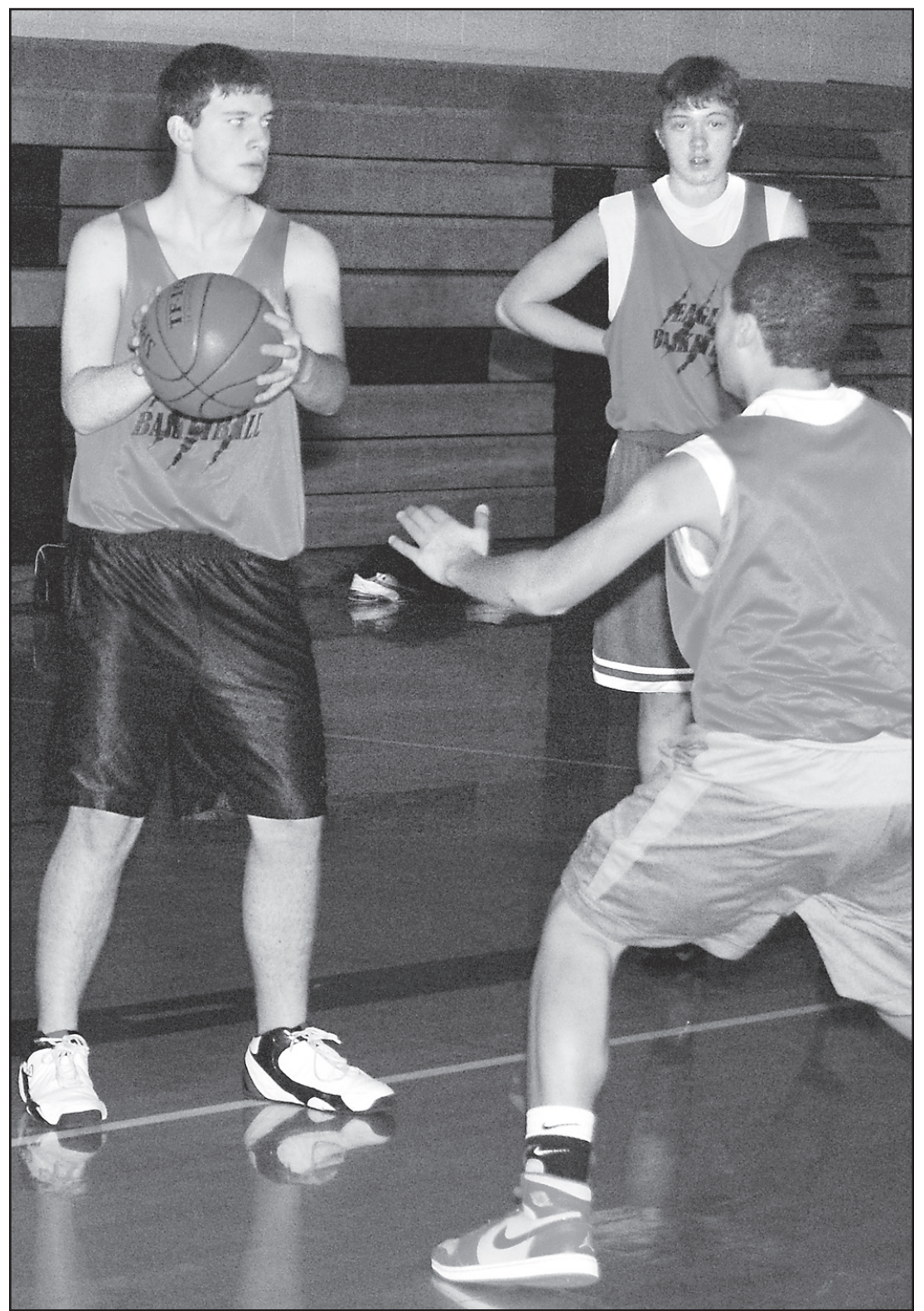
Colby only turned the ball over five times compared to Pratt's 16. Colby shot about 39 percent (7 for 18) from the three-point line

and the Beavers hit about 46 percent (10 of 22) from beyond the arc. Pratt's bench outscored the Trojans 20-10 on second chance points. Colby had 10 steals and the Beavers only had one.

With the loss, the Trojans dropped to 10-14 and 1-9 in the Jayhawk Western Division.

They start a three-game home stretch against Cloud County Community College from Concordia at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building.

Looking for the open man



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior Tayte Query looked to make a pass during an offensive drill at the Eagles' basketball practice on Wednesday at the high school gymnasium.

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