

Colby High sophomore Macen Shull got a takedown against Goodland's Corey Davis during the first ever Great West Activities Conference league meet on Saturday at the high school gymnasium.

Colby boys beat Hugoton

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Eagles were able to overcome a fired-up Hugoton crowd and stave off a couple of runs on their way to picking up their second win of the year in a road game on Friday.

Colby High senior Corbin Stephens paced his team with 21 points to help lead the Eagles to a 58-52 victory.

"We're shooting with a lot more confidence," senior Kale Arnberger said.

The Eagles got off to a fast start, showing no signs of rust in their first game in nearly two weeks. Stephens was all over the place in the first quarter. He grabbed a rebound on defense and knocked down a turnaround jumper on the under end of the floor several seconds later to put Colby out in front 6-3. Later in the quarter, senior Spencer Tubbs, who shredded Hugoton's defense for 23 points the last time the two teams met, connected on a hook shot to make it 10-7.

Arnberger knocked down a three-pointer with 25 seconds left in the quarter, giving Colby a 17-7 lead. They led 19-7 at the end of the quarter.

Tubbs picked up two quick fouls at the start of the second quarter, forcing coach Jerad Johnson to take him out of the game. Sophomore Todd Kane got fouled on the floor after getting a backside rebound off a missed three pointer by Arnberger. Moments later, Kane drilled a three-pointer off an inbound pass, extending the Eagles' lead to 22-7.

Hugoton went on an 11-0 run. A bucket by Hugoton's Cody Frederick, who led his team with 18 points, cut Colby's lead to 22-16. Arnberger was whistled for his third foul while going for a block during the rally.

Tubbs returned to the game and immediately helped the Eagles' cause by blocking a shot on defense and getting a layup on the other end of the floor. Colby led 26-22 at the half.

The Eagles started strong in the third. Stephens scored the first points of the half with a floater in the lane and senior Andrew Ketchum knocked down a 3 to make it 31-22. The boys grew their lead to 37-26 with 4:32 left in the third.

Hugoton went on 7-0 run before Ketchum ended the Eagles' scoring drought by knocking down a huge three that gave Colby a 40-33 lead. Stephens got a put back off a backside rebound to make it 42-33. This remained the score for the rest of the third.

Matt Alexander hit a three-pointer to start the fourth, narrowing the gap to 42-36. Stephens made a jumper in the lane and hit a tough shot while being double-teamed and the Eagles led 46-38. Frederick fouled out of the game after fouling Arnberger at halfcourt. Colby led 49-44 with one minute left. Hugoton's James Persinger made a turnaround that brought Colby within 3. Hugoton committed an off the ball foul on Stephens.

Stephens hit the front end of the one-and-one. He knocked down his second free throw and Colby led 51-46. Colby went on to win it 58-52.

Arnberger said his team was able to play more relaxed after getting their first victory at the Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Classic on Jan. 21, when they beat Hugoton 59-43.

"We don't have to worry about getting that first win anymore," Arnberger said.

Tubbs and Ketchum both finished with 8 points, Arnberger chipped in 7 and Kane added 6.

With the win, the Eagles improved to 2-12 and 1-5 in the Great West Activities Conference. They will play at 8 p.m. Thursday at Dodge City.

Eagles take fourth in tourney

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Goodland may have won the first ever Great West Athletic Conference league title, but Colby got the last laugh.

While the Eagles' varsity wrestlers probably aren't thrilled about finishing fourth in the meet Saturday, they have to be pleased with their 36-28 victory over league champion and arch-rival Goodland in the final dual of the evening.

"Their making big strides," coach Matt Sims said about his squad.

Sophomore Zell Bieberle and senior George Smollock played vital roles in the Eagles' win. Smollock beat the Cowboys' Laine Herl 3-1 in sudden death in the 189-pound weight class, giving Colby a 30-22 lead going into the final two matches. Sophomore Troy Quenzer was pinned by Riley Oharah at 215 in the next match, narrowing the gap to 30-28.

A fired-up Bieberle pinned Tyler Fischer in the second round at 285. Neither wrestler was able to get a point in the first round, but Bieberle got two points on a reverse in the second and pinned Fischer later in the round.

"Zell had a good weekend," Sims said.

The league meet was in a dual format, meaning every team wrestled every other team once.

Goodland took first with a 4-1 record; Hugoton, second 4-1; Scott City, third 3-2; Colby, fourth 3-2; Hugoton, third 3-2; Ulysses, fifth 1-4; and Holcomb, sixth 0-5. Scott City finished third because they beat Colby 37-31 in the team's dual.

Senior Andrew Flanagin and George Smollock and junior Konnor Kriss all took first by going 5-0 in their respective weight classes.

Kriss, the No. 3 ranked wrestler at 130 in Class 4 A, beat Seth Miller, ranked No. 3 in 3-2-1 A, 5-1 and he dominated Hugoton's Tyler McBride, ranked No. 3 in Class 4A, 8-0. The junior pinned Holcomb's Michael Banders and he won his matches against Ulysses and Scott City by forfeit because neither team had anyone to wrestle him.

Flanagin, ranked No. 1 at 171 in Class 4A, ran roughshod over his competition, pinning his opponents from Hugoton and Holcomb,

beating his Goodland opponent by technical fall in the third round, defeating Ulysses' Armando Sandoval 6-1 and winning his match against Scott City by forfeit.

Other than his big win against Goodland, Smollock soundly defeated Hugoton's Ty Haller in a 6-1 decision and won his other three matches by forfeit because the opposing teams had no one for him to wrestle.

Colby's other two victory's included a 45-27 win over Ulysses and a 69-7 thrashing of Holcomb. The Eagles lost to Hugoton 36-31.

In other action, sophomore Dustin Reed, ranked No. 1 at 112 in 4A, took second with a 4-1 record. Reeds only loss was a 3-2 decision to Scott City's Clay Mulligan, who is ranked first in 3-2-1A. Bieberle finished second with a 4-1 record; freshman David Mainus, third at 103; and sophomore Ryan Moore, second at 135. Mainus and Moore both went 3-2.

"All the younger guys are improving," Flanagin said. "We're starting to make up for our injuries."

The Eagles will face Garden City in a dual at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the high school gymnasium on senior recognition night.

Lady Eagles capitalize on opponents' mistakes

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Lady Eagles were able to capitalize on Hugoton's 29 turnovers in their 38-21 win on the road on Friday.

The Colby High varsity girls team scored 24 points off Hugoton's turnovers. Twenty-one of Hugoton's turnovers occurred in the first half. The girls held their opponents to only 19 shots, 20

less than Colby. Hugoton committed a lot of turnovers early in the game — some unforced and others due to the Lady Eagles' stifling defense — allowing Colby to jump out to an 8-0 lead.

Senior Kayla Hockersmith grabbed an offensive board and buried a three later in the possession in the first quarter. Hugoton's first points came with 8 seconds left in the first quarter and Colby up 15-0.

Senior Katherine Kaus scored inside while drawing contact from a defender in the second quarter. She made her free throw completing the old fashioned three-point play to make it 20-4. Katherine was the only Lady Eagle shooting well from the line that night, making all 5 of her free throws. Colby made 9 of 20 shots from the charity stripe.

The Lady Eagles led 26-10 at the half. Sophomore Kenzie Curry fed sophomore Lauren Bell for

an easy bucket inside in the third. Colby was able to get steals and create other turnovers off its full-court press in the quarter. The Lady Eagles led 32-13 at the end of the third.

They went on to pick up a 38-21 victory.

With the win, the girls improved to 13-1 and 6-0 in the league.

Jayhawks face Missouri

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas coach Bill Self was not planning on freshman guard Josh Selby being ready Monday night when the second-ranked Jayhawks host No. 14 Missouri.

The 6-foot-2 Selby, Kansas' best 3-point shooter, has what is described as a stress reaction in his right foot.

After warming up, he decided not to play at Nebraska on Saturday.


But in a vivid demonstration of the depth of the Jayhawks (21-1, 7-1 Big 12), senior Brady Morningstar had 19 points and six assists.

Self is not worried about Selby's problem becoming a long-term issue so long as he doesn't come back too soon.

"I would rather lose him for two games now rather than lose him for 4 or 5 weeks."

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