

Lady Eagles defeat No. 10 Dodge City

By Kevin Bottrell
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The Colby High girls basketball team had some tense moments in their away game Thursday against No. 10 ranked Dodge City, but ran away with it in the fourth quarter to win by 15.

Senior Katrina Kaus put in the opening points with a two-point jump-shot. Dodge put their first point on the board with a free throw on a foul by Kaus, making the score 2-1.

The Lady Red Demons were double-teaming anyone who had the ball, causing some difficulty for Colby, but senior Katherine Kaus – Katrina’s twin sister – rebounded her own shot and got the put

back for 2 more points.

Dodge City put 6 more points on the board to take the lead, but the Lady Eagles caught up and passed them by with a two jumpers in a row by Katrina Kaus, making the score 8-7 with 42 seconds left in the first quarter. The Eagles couldn’t get another shot off and ended the quarter ahead.

Junior Morgan Bell landed a jumper and a 3-pointer to start the second quarter. Sophomore Kenzie Curry went up for a three that was no good, but Bell got the put back for two, extending the Lady Eagles’ lead to 8.

The Lady Eagles gave Dodge City several chances to catch up with free throws, but the shots weren’t falling for the Lady Demons. They made seven attempts be-

fore sinking three free throws late in the third quarter, which turned out to be their only points in the quarter. The score stood at 17-10 at halftime.

Dodge City opened the third quarter with another free throw, this one good to make the score 17-11. The Lady Red Demons put on another 5 unanswered points. Colby looked to be having trouble, but finally came back to life when senior Kayla Hockersmith caught Curry’s pass and put one in, making the score 19-16.

Not long after, a steal by the Lady Eagles led to two points by Curry. The Lady Red Demons closed the gap with 4 points, making the score 21-20 at the end of the third quarter. But the close score wouldn’t stay there for long.

The Lady Eagles got their first trip to

the free throw line early in the fourth quarter. Kelsey Shields had a jumper blocked and missed the put back and was fouled. Her first free throw was no good, but the second landed. Bell got the rebound and got the ball to Katherine Kaus, who sunk a 3-pointer.

Hockersmith landed another 3-pointer, making the score 28-20 with 6 minutes left in the game.

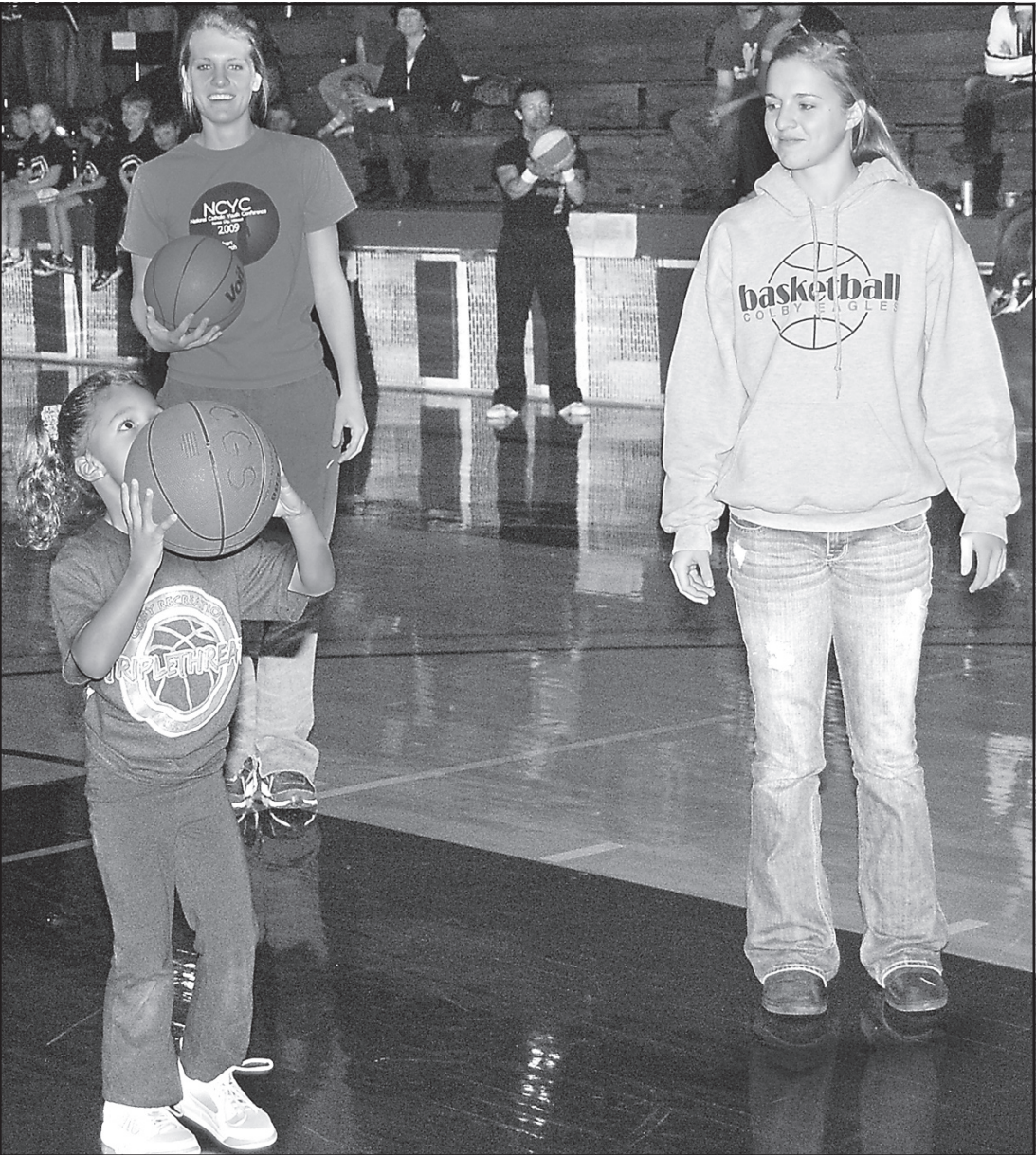
Dodge City came back with a 3 points that were quickly answered by Hockersmith who put in a jumper for 2. Hockersmith was later fouled and a lane violation invalidated her free throw. She and Bell put in another 2 each, making the score 35-23. Hockersmith was fouled again and this time her shot counted. Then it was sophomore Lauren Bell’s turn at the

free throw line. She put in two for her first points of the game and the last of the game for either team. The game ended with a 38-23 win for the Lady Eagles.

Hockersmith led the team in scoring with 10 points, followed by Morgan Bell with 9 and Katrina Kaus with 7. Curry and Katherine Kaus put in 4 each while Shields and Lauren Bell put in 2 each.

The almost-undefeated girls improve to 14-1 overall and 6-0 in the Great West Activities Conference. They are scheduled to play tonight against rival Goodland. The C-team is scheduled for 4:45 p.m. and varsity for 6:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. The junior varsity is scheduled for 8 p.m. in the high school gym.

Going for the basket



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby High basketball players Katherine Kaus and Kayla Hockersmith helped one of the Triple Threat players show off her skills during a Colby Community College game this week.

Colby boys fail to keep winning streak alive

By Kevin Bottrell
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The Colby High boys’ basketball team lost its winning streak Thursday when it fell to the Red Demons 55-31 in Dodge City.

The highlight of the game turned out to be Spencer Tubbs. The 6-foot 7-inch senior put in 10 points for Eagles, grabbed 10 rebounds and opened the game with a block. Dodge City stole the ball back to put in the first 2 points of the game. Tubbs answered with 2 to tie the game.

The two teams kept jockeying for the lead throughout the first quarter. Dodge put in 2 but senior Corbin Stephens hit a jumper to keep the game close. Colby scored another two to take the lead, but the Red Demons hit a 3-pointer to take the lead back. The score was 7-6 in favor of Dodge City with 3:25 left to play when sophomore Todd Kane hit a 3-pointer to put the Eagles up 9-7. Stephens tried a half-court shot in the final seconds,

but it didn’t have the distance.

The remaining quarters were not so kind to the Eagles. They garnered a technical foul when they put in Luke Cox, who was not in the official scorebook.

The Red Demons put in a 13-point run that put them up 20-9 until Cox sunk a 3-pointer, the Eagle’s only points of the quarter. Stephens missed several free-throw attempts that could have helped close the gap. The boys ended the half at 25-12 in favor of Dodge City.

The second half started with a series of turnovers and a Dodge City 3-pointer. Tubbs sunk a 2-pointer and was fouled, but missed his free throws. The Red Demons pulled ahead to 35-14 before the Eagles got back on the board with two good free throws from Tubbs.

Dodge City put 6 more on the board while Colby answered with another 2. A reverse layup by Clint Goossen put another 2 in for the Eagles to end the quarter at 41-20.

The Red Demons pulled further ahead in the beginning of the fourth quarter, scoring 11 unanswered points. Colby’s first point of the quarter came from a free throw. A few seconds later, Tubbs rebounded his own shot but it was knocked away before he could get the put back. He scored on the next play. The Eagles were able to put in 8 more points to the Red Demons’ 3, but it was not enough to overcome the deficit. The boys lost 55-31.

Tubbs led the team in scoring, with Goossen putting in 5 points; Cox and Stephens, 4 each; Kane and Daalan Organ, 3; and Zane Winger, 2.

With the loss, the boys fall to 2-13 overall and 1-5 in the Great West Activities Conference. They are scheduled to play tonight against Goodland. The C-team is scheduled to play at 4:45 p.m. and the junior varsity at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym. The varsity team is scheduled to play at 8 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

Lady Bulldogs lose at Dighton

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs suffered a 46-29 loss at Dighton.

The girls had lost to the Lady Hornets in the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament earlier in the month and hoped play a closer game this time around. However, the Dighton girls quickly jumped ahead 12-0 in the first quarter of the game on Jan. 28.

The Lady Bulldogs finally found the basket in the second, scoring 10 points. The Lady Hornets also posted 10 in the second and the ‘Dogs trailed 22-10 at the half.

The girls continued to play hard in the second half. They put in another 10 points in the third and 9 in the fourth to finish the game with 29. The Hornets added 15 and 9 and 46-29.

“We can take away from this game the importance of teamwork,” freshman Hailee Spresser said, “and we are working to improve on that.”

Senior Melissa Ritter was the Lady Bulldogs high scorer with 11 points, Hailee Spresser added 6 and freshman Jordan Christensen chipped in 5. Sophomore Angela Ritter and seniors Avery Spresser and Jacy Moss all had 2 and freshman Kylie Jones scored 1 on a free throw.

The girls had 13 rebounds, 11 assists and 3 steals. Despite their 4-11 record, they are 2-3 in the league.

Two Bulldogs sign to play college ball

By Judy Rogers
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Golden Plains High seniors Rilee Spresser and Devinn Ritter have both signed to play football for Garden City Community College, a school that is no stranger to Bulldogs’ football players.

They each signed letters of intent on National Signing Day last Wednesday, Feb. 2. Spresser threw for 1,194 yards as quarterback for the Bulldogs this season. He also rushed for 768 yards and had 86 tackles.

Ritter had 117 tackles this season. Spresser was recruited to punt for the Broncbusters and Ritter, offensive lineman. Spresser is the son of Daniel and Annette Spresser of Gem and Devinn is the son of Robert and Laura Ritter of Selden.

Both boys received numerous football honors this past fall. Spresser was named to the Western Kansas Liberty League All-League First team as punter and kicker and second team quarterback. He was also named by the *Wichita Eagle* and *Topeka Capital Journal* as All-State Honorable Mention quarterback and the *Hays Daily News* chose him for its All-Area First Team. K-Preps.com named Spresser an All-District quarterback/defensive back and All-State defensive back. He has

been selected to play in the Eight Man All-Star game in Beloit this summer.

Ritter was named to the Western Kansas Liberty League All-League first team at center and defensive line. He was named to the *Wichita Eagle* All-State offensive line, the *Topeka Capital Journal* Honorable Mention offensive line; and the *Hays Daily News* All-Area Second Team. KPreps.com named Ritter to their All-District Team offensive Line and All-District Team defensive line, District Defensive Most Valuable Player, and All-State Team offensive line. Ritter will also be playing in the Eight Man All-Star Game in Beloit this summer.

Both boys have been athletes throughout high school and have participated in football, basketball and track all four years. Spresser qualified for the state track meet in Wichita in three events her sophomore year. He became state champion in the triple jump with a leap of 41 feet, 3 inches. He placed seventh in high jump and seventh in long jump, setting a new school record with a leap of 20’ 10”. They were named to the Liberty All-League Academic team in January.

Ritter and Spresser continued a strong tradition of Bulldog football players in their athletic pursuits. Rilee’s brother, Brett Spresser, played two seasons

(2007-2008) for Garden City as a defensive lineman, where he was named an academic all-American. Ritter’s brother, Brandon Offut, played one season (2002) for the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons.

Other Bulldogs who signed with the Broncbusters in recent years include Alan Bruggeman (2007) and Dan Rogers, who played two seasons (2008-2009) as a receiver and was named an Academic All-American. Lee Albers signed to play with Butler County Community College in 2002.

“I am very proud of Devinn and Rilee,” coach Travis Smith said. “Both have worked very hard in the weight room to become better athletes. They have been great leaders and are going to be missed.”

“I wish Devinn and Rilee the best as they venture off to a new journey with more obstacles and challenges.”

Bass fishing pro to teach class here

Three-time Colorado Bass Federal state team qualifier Brad Bennett will teach a spring fishing seminar on Saturday, March 5, at Colby Community College.

Bennett, a business instructor at the college, has two top-10 finishes in the BASS Open. He fishes the Bass Fishing League Okie division as well as other team trials. He represents Bass Pro Shops and is a member of the Nitro Boats professional staff.

The six-hour seminar will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the college. Cost is \$35, which includes

lunch. All ages are welcome, with special prices for youths. Prizes will be awarded.

Topics include fishing for bass, crappie and wipers, knots, boats and tackle. Participants will get to see his new Nitro boat.

Bennett will be a featured speaker at Bass Pro Shops in Den-

ver for the Spring Fishing Classic on March 6. Class size is limited, so please enroll by Tuesday, March 1.

For information or to enroll, call Bennett at (785) 460-5526 or (303) 981-7026, or e-mail brad.bennett@colbycc.edu.

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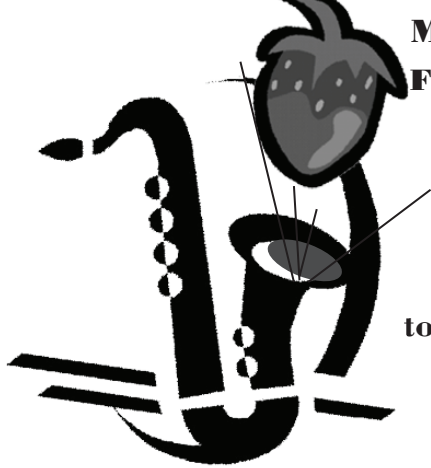
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