



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior Kelsey Shields took a shot just inside the free throw line during the second half of the Lady Eagles' game against Norton on Tuesday at the Community Building.

# Colby loses at home despite hot first half

By Andy Heintz

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The Eagles' varsity basketball team lost to Norton 66-58 Tuesday night on Senior Night, despite holding a narrow lead most of the game.

The Colby High boys had one of their best offensive games of the year, making 51 percent of their field goals on 25 of 49 shooting. The Eagles had four players, appropriately all seniors, in double figures. Clint Goosen and Kale Arnberger had 15 points each, Corbin Stephens added 14 and Spencer Tubbs chipped in 10.

Goosen was on fire at the start of the game, scoring 8 of the Eagles' first 10 points and drilling two three pointers. He went 6 for 9 from the field and 3 of 4 from beyond the arc. Arnberger connected on 6 of 12 shots, including three three-pointers. Stephens went 6 for 14 and Tubbs made 5 of 10.

Much like the Lady Eagles in the preceding game, the boys shot lights out in the first half, hitting 14 of 22 shots for 64 percent. Colby led 33-31 at the half.

The boys led 54-50 with less than five minutes to go. Tubbs found Goosen down low for a layup, upping the lead to 56-50. Then Norton's Dillon McConney knocked down a triple, cutting the Eagles' lead to 56-53. Stephens drove to the bucket and scored while drawing contact from a defender, but his free throw was no good.

Tubbs had monster block on the Blue Jays' Jacob Brooks on the other end of the court. Tubbs made his presence felt throughout the night on the defensive end, finishing with 6 blocks.

Later in the quarter, Norton's Terrell Lane, who led all scorers with 27 points, stole a pass and found Brooks for a transition layup, narrowing the gap to 58-57.

The Blue Jays scored the next five points to put them in front 62-58 with less than a minute to go. They went on to win 66-58.

Goosen knocked down two three pointers early on, giving Colby an 8-2 lead. The Blue Jays cut the lead to 12-11 before Tubbs made a hook shot off the backboard. Later in the quarter Arnberger drilled

a three-pointer to make it 19-13. Tubbs got two blocks on defense and Colby led 20-15 at the end of the first.

The Blue Jays scored five unanswered points to start the second quarter. Arnberger scored on a backdoor cut to regain the lead. Later, Lane buried a three from the right side, giving the Blue Jays a 25-22 edge.

Stephens drove to the hoop and connected on a short jumper while being fouled. He missed his free throw, but the Eagles got the rebound, which eventually led to Stephens driving in for a layup. Later in the half, freshman Luke Cox fired a pass underneath to Goosen for a layup, giving the Eagles a 30-27 lead with 2:25.

Cox and sophomore Todd Kane both finished with 2 points. The Eagles outrebounded Norton 29-28. Norton scored 27 points off Eagles' turnovers.

With the loss, Colby dropped to 2-17. They play their final game of the season at 8 p.m. Thursday at Scott City High School. This game was originally scheduled to take place on Feb. 1, but it was rescheduled due to the weather.

# Trojans bring home 3 medals

The Colby men's indoor track and field team took home several honors from the Region VI Championships in Manhattan this weekend.

The Trojans finished seventh as a team, bringing home three first-place medals, and coach James Ortiz was named the Region VI men's indoor track and field Coach of the Year.

Sophomore Alfredo Arellano defended his title by winning the 1,000 meters for the second year

in a row with a time of 2 minutes, 32.04 seconds. Freshman Edward Limo was named the Region VI Indoor Male Athlete of the Meet after winning the 5,000 meters in 15:03 and finishing second in the 3,000 in 9 minutes.

The distance medley relay team of freshmen James Leonard, Chance Moore and Ross Freeman and Arellano won first with 10:36.84.

The Trojans have six individuals and two relay teams qualified

for the National Junior College Athletic Association Indoor Track and Field Championships set for Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, in Lubbock, Texas.

The qualifiers are freshman James Carey, 400 and 600 meters; Freeman, 800 meters; Arellano and Leonard, 1,000 meters; freshmen Raymond Velasquez, 100 meters; and Limo, 3,000 and 5,000 meters; the 4 x 400 meter relay; and the distance medley relay with 10:36.84.

# Girls start strong, coast to easy victory

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It became crystal clear early on while playing the Norton Blue Jays Tuesday night at the Community Building that the Lady Eagles were determined to not repeat their lethargic performance in last Friday's game.

Friday night at Ulysses, the girls played well enough to win, but they didn't play at the level Lady Eagles fans have grown accustomed to. Tuesday was a different story.

The Colby High girls had their offense clicking on all cylinders from the opening tip to the end of the first half. The Lady Eagles shot 64 percent on 14 of 22 shooting in the half and took a 31-13 lead into the locker room. Although they cooled off quite a bit in the second half, the Lady Blue Jays were unable mount a sustained comeback, and Colby picked up a 46-30 win on Senior Night.

"The bench provided the spark that got us going," coach Parker McKee said.

The coach didn't go with his traditional starting five, opting to start his five seniors instead. This year's class includes regular starters Kelsey Shields, twins Katrina and Katherine Kaus and Kayla Hockersmith, plus Caitlyn Wark, who usually comes in off the bench. This left junior Morgan Bell, the team's leading scorer, and her younger sister Lauren, an occasional starter who has blossomed into one of the Lady Eagles' most effective scorers this year, on the bench. The sisters were just another addition to a Colby bench that was already deep and full of talent.

On this night, Lauren Bell and sophomore Kenzie Curry provided the Lady Eagles with added firepower, combining to score 21 points on 8-of-11 shooting off the bench. Bell finished with a team-high 12 on 4-of-5 shooting and Curry added 9 with 4 of 6. The coach said Curry let the game come to her, and she is a good ball player when she does that.

Katrina Kaus picked off a pass by the Lady Blue Jays' Tawni Griffey and took it down court for a

layup, giving Colby a 6-2 lead. Griffey quickly made up for her mistake by tying the game with a pair of jumpers. Then Norton's Kaylen Rossi made a high, arching three pointer that put Norton up 9-6. The Lady Blue Jays' lead was short-lived, however.

Lauren Bell tied game with a three. Bell had missed a three several seconds earlier, but she got her own rebound by following her shot. Moments later, Hockersmith got a bucket inside off a Norton turnover in the backcourt. The senior point guard missed her first layup attempt, but she got her own rebound and scored on her second try.

The girls led 14-9 at the end of the quarter. In the second, Katrina Kaus got a step on her defender and finished the play with a layup that crawled over the front of the rim to make it 16-9. Later, Curry found Morgan Bell with a beautiful cross-court pass for a layup, extending the Lady Eagles' lead to 20-9.

Moments later, Curry drilled a three from the right side, giving Colby a 23-11 lead. She penetrated down the lane and hit a pair of short jumpers near the end of the half and the Lady Eagles went into the break with a 31-13 advantage.

Curry intercepted an inbound pass near her team's basket and scored in the third. Morgan Bell scored on a strong drive to the basket near the end of the quarter and the girls led 40-18 going into the fourth.

Hockersmith picked off a pass near half court and took it downcourt for a layup in the fourth. Later, she scored on a drive to the bucket. The girls went on to win 46-30.

The Lady Eagles' bench outscored the Lady Blue Jays bench 27-4. Colby scored 21 points off Norton's 16 turnovers. The girls also won the battle on the glass, outrebounding the Lady Blue Jays 24-17.

Katrina Kaus finished with 7 points, Morgan Bell added 4 and Katrina Kaus and sophomore Karly Kriss 2 each.

The girls shot just 6 for 21, or 29 percent, in the second half. They averaged 47 percent in the game, connecting on 20 of 43.

With the win, the Lady Eagles improved to 17-2. They play their final game of the season at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Scott City High School.

# Women's team falls to powerhouse

The Colby College Lady Trojans basketball team fell to No. 9 ranked Hutchinson 60-44 on the road Saturday.

The Lady Blue Dragons went into the game on top of the Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division with a record of 25-2 and 12-1 in league games.

Freshman Kelli Crittenden let Colby with 11 points and sophomore Hannah Thornton added 10 at 4 of 8. Sophomore Taylor Puttergill finished with 9 on 3-of-8 shooting.

Freshman Morgan Rickwartz

and Thornton both finished with 6 rebounds.

The Colby women had trouble taking care of the ball, with 31 turnovers to Hutchinson's 18. They were outrebounded 41-35.

The Lady Blue Dragons hit 24 of 70 shots, about 34 percent, while Colby hit 15 of 42, about 36 percent.

With the loss, the Lady Trojans dropped to 10-19. Colby will play Barton County Community College from Great Bend at 6 p.m. tonight at the Community Building.

Coach Brady Jasper said the

or seventh in the Western Division, depending on the results of tonight's game and how Garden City Community College does in its next two games. The Lady Bronbusters are in sixth with a 5-9 record in the division and Colby is seventh with a 5-10 record.

If Garden City wins its last two games it will be the sixth seed and Colby will be the seventh seed, but if the Lady Bronbusters lose one game and Colby wins tonight or if the Garden loses its last two games, the Lady Trojans will be the sixth seed.

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