Eagles win blowout

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Lady Eagles basketball team devastated an overmatched Scott City High School team 56-15 on the road on Thursday.

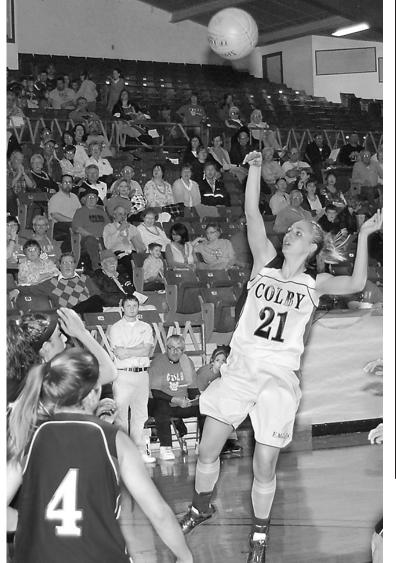
The girls' were a picture of efficiency on offense, knocking down shot after shot after shot. The Lady Eagles knocked down four three pointers on consecutive possessions in the second quarter. The game was as good as over by halftime, with Colby leading 34-9. The girls had a huge second quarter, especially senior Katherine Kaus, who led all scorers with 14 points. Kaus scored all 10 of her first half points in the quarter and the Lady Eagles outscored Scott City 21-4.

Things didn't get any better for the Lady Beavers in the third quarter. Colby applied stifling defense, holding Scott City to only 1 point. Junior Morgan Bell made 1 of 2 free throws toward the end of the quarter, giving her 9 points in the contest which at the time equaled the amount scored by the entire Lady Beavers' team.

Colby jumped out to a 9-3 lead after scoring 6 points in a little over a minute with 3:26 remaining in the first quarter. Then Katherine Kaus stole the ball and passed it ahead to sophomore Kenzie Curry for a layup. Curry had 6 points in the quarter. The girls led 13-4 at the end of the first.

Kaus hit a 15 footer from the right baseline to start the second. She got into the act on defense as well, taking the ball away for Scott City's Audrey Baker. Then Kaus drilled a three pointer, giving the girls a 22-4 lead with 4:08 left in the half. The senior's three triggered a chain reaction as the Lady Eagles put on a shooting clinic from beyond the arc.

Senior Kayla Hockersmith knocked down a three on the next possession, followed by another triple by Kaus. Moments later,



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior Morgan Bell, pictured here taking a one-hand floater against Holcomb, and the Lady Eagles crushed Scott 56-15 in a road game on Thursday.

straight shot from beyond the arc. a record of 18-2 and became the Colby led 34-9 at the half.

The Lady Eagles went on a 8-0 run to start the third. Then Hockersmith got a steal and layup to make it 44-8. Later in the fourth, junior Emilea Finley drilled a three-pointer, widening Colby's lead to 50-9. The Lady Eagles went on to win 56-15.

Hockersmith finished with 10 points and Bell added 9.

With the win, the Lady Eagles junior Morgan Bell hit the fourth finished the regular season with

first champions of the Great West Activities Conference with a record of 9-1.

As the top seed in the seventeam substate, they get a firstround bye while the other teams have to play Tuesday. They will play the winner of a game between No. 4 Nickerson and No. 5 Smoky Valley in the semifinals of substate at 6 or 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Building.

Crusaders win tourney games

Colby's Lady Crusaders bas- down 8 rebounds. morning in the Kansas Christian Christian School at 10 a.m. Satur- ment.

day at Arkansas City in the third ketball team crushed Chanute The Lady Crusaders record round of the state tournament. If Christian Academy 51-28 this stood at 4-8. They will play Tyro they win, they will win the tourna-

Boys basketball team falls to league champs

The Colby High boys basket- end of the first quarter. ball team lost its last regular-West Activities Conference the bucket to make it 16-7 early powerhouse Scott City 65-34 on the road.

Free Press

early on, but the Beavers, the No. 1 team in the state in Class 3A and the Great West Activities league champions, extended their lead to 33-17 by halftime and ran away with the game in the third quarter.

Seniors Spencer Tubbs and Corbin Stephens led the Eagles with 8 points each and senior Clint Goosen added 6.

Stephens scored on a nice drive to the hole to put Colby up 2-0 early on. The Beavers ticked off eight unanswered points before senior Kale Arnberger knocked down a three. Goosen and Tubbs teamed up to block Scott's Drew Kite on defense, but Scott City widened its lead to 14-7 by the

The Beavers' leading scorer, 41-25. Scott went on a 12-4 run season game Thursday to Great Ron Baker, scored on a drive to and led 53-29 at the end of the in the second quarter. The Eagles did a pretty good job on Baker The Eagles kept things close defensively, holding him to 15 points, about 5 below his average. Goosen narrowed the gap to 6 with a three pointer. The senior got in the act on defense as well by getting a steal. The Eagles only trailed 20-14 before Scott They will play in the first round went on a run at the end of the

> half. buckets off Colby turnovers, 2 seed in the eight-team tournagiving them a double-digit lead. They went on to score 9 of the last 12 points and led by 16 at the half.

the third, cutting the Beavers' lead to 36-20. The Beavers' Kaleb Roemer answered with a munity Building. three of his own. Then freshman Luke Cox hit a three and Tubbs

hit a floater in the lane to make it third. The Beavers went on to win 65-34.

Cox and Arnberger had 3 points each while junior Braden Sager and sophomores Todd Kane and Zane Winger had 2 each.

With the loss, the boys ended the season with 2-18 record. of their Class 4A substate tournament at 7 p.m. Monday in The Beavers got two quick Ulysses. The Tigers are the No. ment and Colby is No. 7. Ulysses has beaten the Eagles twice already this year.

If the Eagles win on Monday, Stephens hit a three early in they will play the winner of the Nickerson-Russell game at 6 or 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Com-

Colby High School officials expect tourney to draw 1,000

By Andy Heintz

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Colby High School officials expect as many as 1,000 people here next week for the Class 4A substate boys and girls basketball tournaments, with the Lady Eagles the favored team in the girls' bracket.

First-round games Monday and Tuesday will be played on the top seeds' home courts. The final three rounds will be played at the Community Building on Thursday, next Friday and Saturday, March 5.

Colby High Principal and Activities Director Larry Gabel estimates that each of the 15 teams will bring in between 50 and 75 people to town.

The Lady Eagles are the top seed in their bracket, while the boys have the No. 7 seed. The girls tourney consists of seven teams and the boys eight since one school, St. John's Military Academy of Salina, has no girls team.

Since the Lady Eagles, 18-2 and Great West Activities Conference champions, are the top team in their substate, they get a bye in the first round. The girls will play the winner of a game between No. 4 Nickerson and No. 5 Smoky Valley in the semifinals 5 Hugoton. at 6 or 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Building

If they win, they will be in the championships at 6 p.m. Saturdav.

The other teams in the girls substate are No. 2 seed Pratt/Stafford, 7 Ulysses, 3 Russell and 6 Hugoton. The Lady Eagles have swept both Hugoton and Ulysses this season, but they haven't played Pratt or Russell.

The Lady Eagles are loaded with talent and should win if they play the way they are capable of. Coach Parker McKee's starting five have all started over the past two years.

The boys, 2-18, would have to pull off an upset in the first-round game at 7 p.m. Monday in Ulysses if they want to play here again this season. The Eagles have shown they can play with good teams when they are on their games, which will need to be the case if they want to pick up a win against the Tigers.

If the boys win their first-round game, they would play the winner of No. 3 seed Nickerson versus 6 seed Russell at 6 or 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building. The winner Thursday will compete for the championship at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

The other teams in the boys' substate are No. 1 seed Smoky Valley, 8 St. Johns, 4 Pratt/Stafford and

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Athletic Association round-robin tournament and pounded Arkansas City Christian Academy 51-29 on Thursday night in a tourney game.

The Lady Crusaders lost a close game to Healy 50-46 on Feb. 15 and suffered a 47-38 loss to Logan on senior night Tuesday at home.

Senior Rachel Myers finished with 14 points against Healy, sophomore Alexi Regier added 11 and junior Rebekah Grace chipped in 10.

Junior Jade Kruse grabbed a team-high 17 rebounds.

Coach Reneé Schmeiser said the teams stayed pretty even the whole game. She said she was proud of her team in spite of the loss.

"They work hard and never give up," the coach said.

Grace scored a team-high 10 points against Logan and Regier added 8.

Freshman Amy Myers pulled



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