

## Driving for success



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior Caitlyn Wark pushed the ball up court during the Lady Eagles' basketball practice on Tuesday at the Community Building.

# Eagles' boys team ends season on road

The Colby High Eagles basketball team may have lost their first-round substate game on Monday, but they have nothing to hang their heads about.

The Eagles, especially the team's seniors, turned in a gritty effort, but it wasn't enough to get a win as the boys lost 58-48 at Ulysses. The previous time the two teams had met, Colby was blown out 49-22. The time before that the Eagles lost by 21.

Coach Jerad Johnson said although he wished the team would have gotten off to a better start, he thought it was one of the better team efforts the boys have had this season.

Senior Clint Goosen had the hot hand all game, finishing with 20 points and drilling 5-of-7 three pointers. Senior Spencer Tubbs added 13 points, senior Corbin Stephens scored 9 and senior Kale Arnberger chipped in 6.

Freshman Luke Cox found Tubbs on the right block for the layup, giving the Eagles a 2-0 lead. Unfortunately Tubbs was forced to the bench after picking up two fouls in the first minute and a half.

Later in the quarter, Stephens made a shot off the glass, tying the game at 4. Then Tigers scored 4 unanswered points. Braden Langston of Ulysses hit a three, upping his team's lead to 7 with 1:45 left in the quarter. The Eagles trailed 15-6 at the end of the first.

Goosen drilled his first three of the game early in the second, cutting the Tigers' lead to 15-9. Moments later, Tubbs missed a

turnaround, but he got his own rebound and scored to make it 15-11. But then Ulysses went on a 9-0 run, stretching its lead to 24-11. Stephens stopped the bleeding for Colby by converting on a shot while being fouled. His free throw was good, completing the old fashioned three-point play. The Tigers scored the last 5 points of the half and went into the locker room with a 29-14 lead.

The Eagles had trouble taking care of the ball in the first half and Ulysses took advantage of Colby's mistakes, scoring 15 points off the boys' 12 turnovers. Turnovers and the Tigers 18-11 rebounding advantage led to Ulysses taking 32 shots compared to Colby's 17 in the half.

The momentum of the game completely reversed direction in the third as the Eagles mounted a ferocious comeback. Arnberger jump-started Colby's offense by knocking down a three-pointer to start the half. Stephens followed with a reverse layup, cutting the lead to 29-19. Then Goosen drilled his second three-pointer of night, bringing the game within single digits.

"We came out and played well defensively and took away transition buckets," Johnson said when asked how the Eagles were able to battle their way back into the game in the third.

The coach added that taking better care of the ball had also played a role in the Eagles' comeback.

Later in the quarter, Stephens drove down the lane for a basket, cutting the lead to 31-26. A few

possessions later, Goosen, remaining perfect from the beyond the arc up to this point, knocked down another three, narrowing the gap to 33-29. But the Tigers' Kyle Zerr answered the three with a long triple of his own, bringing Ulysses' lead back up to 7. Colby trailed 40-32 at the end of the third.

Tubbs scored the first four points of the final quarter for the Eagles, including a turnaround hook shot, but the Tigers continued to make shots and led 47-36 with 4:26 left. Later, Goosen buried his fourth three pointer of the night, cutting Ulysses' lead to 53-44. The Tigers got a bucket, reclaiming a double-digit lead before Goosen drilled a long three from the top right side with a hand in his face, eight or nine feet behind the arc near the out-of-bounds line to make it 55-47. But Colby was unable to get any closer and Ulysses prevailed 58-48.

Johnson said he thought his team made some serious headway throughout the season.

"They worked very hard. They were very coachable," he said. "I couldn't have asked for better kids."

The coach said the seniors had established the foundation for Colby's basketball program, not just for seniors but for seventh graders on up. He said they never gave up and they fought until the end of the game no matter what the score was.

With the loss, the boys ended their season with a 2-19 record.

## Heartland wins tourney

The Heartland Christian School Lady Crusaders' basketball team captured the Kansas Christian Athletic Association championship by defeating the Tyro Christian High School Eagles 38-36 on Saturday at Arkansas City.

The team trailed 34-25 after three quarters, but they outscored the Eagles 13-2 in the final quarter.

Sophomore Abby Russ had team-high 9 points and junior Rebekah Grace and sophomore Alexi Regier added 7 each. Junior Jade Kruse led the team with 10 rebounds.

"They worked really, really hard all weekend,"

coach Renee Schmeiser said.

The coach said she had also received positive remarks about the team's character.

The tournament was done in a round robin format and all the games were played in Arkansas City. The Lady Crusaders crushed Chanute Christian Academy on Friday and pounded Arkansas City Christian Academy 51-29 on Thursday.

Regier was named most valuable player of the tournament and Russ and Regier both made first team all-tournament. Grace and senior Rachel Myers were named to the all-tournament second team.

## Lady Trojans lose to top team, despite players' terrific effort

The Lady Trojans put up a valiant effort, but in the end it just wasn't enough to get them a victory, as the Colby College basketball team suffered a 74-64 loss at Independence Community College on Tuesday night in post-season play.

Colby fought tooth and nail with the heavily favored Lady Pirates, the No. 2 team in the Jayhawk Community College Conference Eastern Division, who held a 29-2 record going into the game. Colby led 49-48 with a little under 9 minutes left in the game, but Independence went on a 17-0 run later in the half that proved to be too much for the Lady Trojans to overcome.

The game was knotted at 7 early. The Lady Trojans scored 4 unanswered points, including freshman Liga Vente making a basket inside, giving her team an 11-7 lead. Vente got into the act on the other end as well by blocking a shot. Later in half, the freshman forward got a rebound and put back to make it 13-10 Colby with 11:12 left in the half. Independence pulled ahead over the next several minutes and led 17-15 with 7:38 left. The Lady Pirates' Elaine Tastove drilled a

three, stretching Independence's lead to 22-17, its biggest lead of the night at that point.

Freshman Christina Anderson knocked down a three in the last minute of the half, narrowing the gap to 28-24, but the Lady Pirates got a bucket in the final seconds and led 30-24 at halftime.

The Lady Trojans got off to a strong start offensively at the beginning of the second half, going on a 5-0 run. Sophomore Taylor Puttergill got a steal and passed it to freshman Kelli Crittenden who scored while drawing a foul. She sank her free throw, narrowing the gap to 30-29. Independence stretched its lead back to 39-34. Then sophomore Hannah Thornton scored inside while being fouled. She knocked down her free throw, bringing her team within two. Another bucket by the sophomore forward tied the game at 39.

Tastove hit a three from the right corner, reclaiming the lead for the Lady Pirates. Independence stretched its lead to 36-29. Vente hit a pair of free throws and freshman Morgan Rickwartz banked in a three from the top of the key, cutting the Lady Pirates'

lead to 46-44. Vente gave the Lady Trojans their first lead of the half when she rebounded a missed free throw by Puttergill and put it in while drawing contact from a defender. Her free throw was good, giving Colby a one-point lead.

"She (Vente) had a good game. She was great on the boards," assistant coach Chris Lehecka said. "She played smart."

Crittenden stole a pass and found Rickwartz for a layup to make it 49-46 Colby. The steal was caused by the defensive pressure applied by the Lady Trojans' full-court press, which was being used for the first time in the half. Tastove buried a three, giving the Lady Pirates a 51-49 lead later in the half. Two free throws by Vente tied the game back up, but then the Lady Pirates went on a 17-0 run that left them with a 68-51 lead. They held a 68-53 lead with 2:45 left. Independence went on to win 74-64.

Lehecka said it was one of Colby's better efforts this season.

The Lady Trojans ended their season with a record of 10-22 overall and 5-11 in the Jayhawk Western Community College Division.

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