#### Looking for an opening



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press Katrina Kaus looked for a way around the Pratt/Stafford defender in the Class 4A substate finals game Saturday at the Community Building.

# Colby bests Smoky Valley in 4A substate semifinals

A star performance from sophomore Lauren Bell helped the Lady Eagles handily defeat Smoky Valley High School in the Class 4A semifinals on Friday at the Colby Community Building.

Bell scored 21 points for Colby and pulled down 4 rebounds in 22 minutes and 33 seconds of play-

As the No. 1 seed in the substate tournament, Colby got a bye in the first round. When the action moved to the Community Building for the Friday semi-finals, the Lady Eagles faced the Lady Vikings from Lindsborg.

Senior Kelsey Shields took the opening tip-off against the Lady Vikings, but the Lady Eagles couldn't put one in. On their next possession, Senior Kayla Hockersmith missed a shot but drew a foul. She made both her free throws to put Colby on the board

Junior Morgan Bell stole the ball from Smoky Valley, took it down the left side and put it in for another 2 points. The Lady Vikings answered with their first 2 points, but the Bell sisters wouldn't let them catch up. Lauren Bell put in 2 points of her own to make the score 6-2. Smoky Valley put in 3 points of the second quarter, another two, but Morgan got her third steal of the night and gave

Lindsborg beats Pratt to win boys tournament

for 2 with 3:17 left in the quarter. the basket and put the ball in to

The Lady Eagles ended the cutting Colby's lead in half, but

ketball tournament came to a close Saturday when the Smoky Valley Vikings from Lindsborg beat the Ulysses Tigers 54-40. The boys had the late game, taking the court at 7:30 after the Lady Eagles' victory over Pratt/ Stafford.

Ulysses beat Colby on 58-48 on their home court last Monday, knocking the Eagles out of the tournament. Smoky Valley pounded St. John's Military Academy 82-6. Pratt beat Hugoton 70-50 and Nickerson beat Russell 48-44.

In Thursday's semi-finals at the Colby Community Building, Smoky Valley beat Pratt,

Lauren already had 9 points in the

Morgan Bell put in the first

but Smoky Valley kept up with a

2-point shot. Senior Katrina Kaus

first quarter.

quarter ahead 17-10.

The Class 4A substate bas- this time by a considerably smaller margin, 48-41, and Ulysses bested Nickerson 46-38.

> In the finals, the Vikings outshot the Tigers in every category, sinking 55.9 percent of their field goals to Ulysses' 37 percent. The Tigers made 55.6 percent of their three-point attempts and 61.1 percent of their free throws. Ulysses got far more points off rebounds than Smoky Valley, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Vikings, who won 54-40.

> The Vikings will go on to play Ottawa High School in the first round of the Class 4A state tournament on Wednesday.

make it 22-12. The Lady Vikings

put another 5 points on the board,

Lauren Bell racked up 4 more

Katrina Kaus stole the ball, lost

back up with it and score. Hocker-

smith laid one in for 2.

points to pull ahead again 28-17.

The Lady Eagles made exactly half of their field goal attempts in the first half. They only managed to make one three-pointer, but hit eight of 10 free throws. Colby lead the game 35-22 at halftime.

Katrina Kaus made two free throws to open the second half. Smoky Valley scored a threepointer and Katherine Kaus put another two in to make the score 39-25. Good free throws and twopoint shots from both teams put the score at 41-27. At the end of the third quarter.

Katherine Kaus put in another 2 with a reverse lay-in. Smoky Valley made two free throws to make it 49-31. Coach Parker McKee had his starters out and was playing many players from the bench. Senior Caitlyn Wark put in one free throw but missed her second. Sophomore Karly Kriss came into the game only to foul out.

The Lady Eagles kept the Lady Vikings under control and won 55-41, advancing to the finals.

Katrina Kaus had the second highest point total in the game with 12. Hockersmith had 8 points; Katherine Kaus, 6; Morgan Bell, 5; and Shields, Wark and junior Brenna McKee each had 1.

The girls went on to win against Pratt/Stafford on Saturday to win her grip on it but managed to come the tournament.

ITalkto you!

#### Changing offense saves season for K-State

State is the hottest team going into basketball." the Big 12 tournament because coach Frank Martin took the biggest gamble of his coaching career Wildcats (22-9) are barreling into and won.

In January, with the team adrift of six in a row and eight of nine. and a once-promising season teetering, Martin decided to throw team everyone expected when out his offense and switch to something entirely different.

risk. Since their first practice back No. 3. in the fall, his players had been lots of ball screens and post plays. players deserting his program, he trust in what we do.' changed to more of a spread at-

There was no way to know how quickly, or how well, the team would adapt.

"It's a hard (decision), espebefore," Martin said. "Because if that doesn't work and we flounder, (the media) would be writing I don't know what I'm doing,

MANHATTAN (AP) - Kansas I need to go back to high school

But work it did. Not only is Martin staying at the college level, his the Big 12 tournament as winners

Finally, they're playing like the coaches installed them as preseason Big 12 favorites and The He knew he was taking a huge Associated Press poll ranked them

"I'm so proud of those guys in running an offense that featured that locker room." Martin said "They trust in what we're doing. At 0-2 in the Big 12 and with post They fight for each other and they

> The new approach has unleashed the full talents of senior guard Jacob Pullen.

"As long as we continue to move and cut and understand the shots we're supposed to get out cially when you've never done it of it, I think that offense is pretty good to us as a team," Pullen said. "We're doing a good job of just being patient and getting what we need out of that offense.



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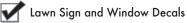
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