

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Sophomore quarterback Luke Cox ran the ball in the first quarter of the Colby High School varsity football game Friday at Dennen Field. The Eagles beat St. Francis 26-2 in the season opener. Cox was in the game for Colby until the last minutes of the fourth quarter.

Football team wins first game of the season

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby High School football team began its season Friday, pounding the St. Francis Indians 26-2 at Dennen Field.

Colby was led by sophomore Luke Cox at the quarterback position, and he was versatile throughout the game. Cox rushed for 72 yards, with 58 of those yards coming from 4 runs. He also completed 4 out of 11 passes for 61 yards.

Head Coach Chris Gardner mused about Cox only being a

nice job really getting after it and becoming a leader with this team. yards. He played very well.'

Sophomore running back and linebacker Andrew Taylor scored the first touchdown of the game off a 15-yard run in the first quarter with 8 minutes, 20 seconds left. Junior kicker Todd Kane attempted the extra point, but it was short, so the Eagles led with a score of 6-0. Taylor finished with 20 rushing yards and at least 5 tackles. Taylor also punted for the Eagles.

Another stand-out against the Indians was junior running back and linebacker Beau Brown. He made an impact on both sides of the ball, but his running makes him a player to pay attention to.

Brown rushed for 128 yards and 2 touchdowns. He ran 26 yards to score his first touchdown in the third quarter with 11:20 left, and Colby then completed a successful two-point conversion, bringing the score to 14-2. His second touchdown came off of a 39-yard run with 1:37 left in the third. The Eagles once again attempted a two-point conversion, but the attempt failed, putting Colby up 20-2.

On this play, St. Francis player Kaleb Zwick was badly injured and was carried off the field on a stretcher. He was treated for a head injury at the hospital, but his mother said he is OK. Zwick will need to undergo tests before he can resume playing.

Brown would have had a third touchdown, which would have been in the first quarter, but the Eagles were called for a penalty on the play and had to restart the down. Then on defense, Brown helped with at least 7 tackles.

Gardner said he is impressed by what Brown has done so far this year.

"Listen, Beau is a runner now," Gardner said. "Beau's done a great job at just getting his body in shape. He's an extremely good athlete. We want to get him in a groove, and with the conditions, he cramps a little bit. He just

did a nice job at running. He ran sive linemen all camp and the linethrough some tackles tonight, he backers stood very well tonight, did a great job with that. So I'm and tackling was pretty good for real happy with Beau."

Junior running back and linetable performance as well, scoring He ran 4 yards into the end zone a word, as a coach, you almost rushed for a total of 51 yards.

tremely hard against St. Francis; it allowed just 7 first downs and didn't allow any points. The only points the Indians scored were from a safety in the second quarter. Senior offensive and defensive "He doesn't look like a sopho- lineman Braden Sager picked up a prepare the team for the rest of the more," Gardner said. "And that's sack and 3 of his tackles resulted season. only good for us because he's only in a loss of 9 yards for the Indians. gonna get better. Luke has done a Likewise, junior offensive and great job. But he's really done a defensive lineman Austin Rogers grabbed a sack for a loss of 6

> In addition, the defense picked up a fumble thanks to junior offensive lineman and linebacker Troy Quenzer with 11:25 left in the third quarter. Then junior running back and cornerback Macen Shull intercepted a pass with 3:16 left in the game.

> Gardner said his defense played well and complimented his players for their effort.

> "I'm very, very proud of the way the defense played tonight," he said. "I thought up front we were very physical. Coach Schmitt has done a great job with those defen-

a first game.

"Those guys have really done backer Quade Woofter had a no- a nice job in camp at just getting the technique down. These guys the final touchdown of the game. are very coachable, and that's late in the fourth quarter. Woofter want. You can have all the talent in the world, but if your kids Colby's defense worked ex- aren't coachable and tough, then things aren't going to work out. These kids are very talented, but they're very coachable and tough. I'm extremely pleased with our

He also said this game will help

"What the first game is about is getting confidence in yourself," Gardner said. "It just proves that what we've done these last few weeks works. And that just gives the kids confidence that ... if we do things right, we can be successful. So these first games are just about getting that confidence up and I thought they did a great

However for right now, Gardner said the Eagles are looking toward their next game, which is at 7 p.m. Friday at Hugoton High School.

"We get to work on Monday. We feel good about this game tonight, but we get to work on Monday and just start preparing for Hugoton," Gardner said.



Runner takes first at Goodland meet

country team traveled to the Goodland meet Thursday for its first competition of the year. The girls team finished in third place with the help of senior Emilea Finley receiving the gold medal in the junior/senior group. The Ogallala, Neb., team took first place. The boys team finished in sixth place with Ulysses taking the top spot.

In the boys freshman/sophomore group, Reed Stephens took 14th place with a time of 21 minutes, 49 seconds, Aaron Faber took 16th place with 22:02, and Marc Bremenkamp finished in 29th place with 25:06.

John Faber took 10th place with top ten of the group. Shelby Cas-

The Colby High School cross 19:56, and he received a medal saw took 11th place with 20:08. for finishing in the top ten of the group. Brad Schroeder took 22nd place with 22:31, and Wiatt Binder finished in 23rd place with 22:34, only 3 seconds behind Schroeder. meyer took 14th place with 22:22, Jordan Rasmussen followed in and Julia Hutfles took 18th place 27th place with 23:13, Black Mc-Ninch took 28th place with 23:16 (3 seconds behind Rasmussen), and Matt Dickman finished in 30th Coach Bob Mannebach. "The place with 23:45. Brady Rose took 31st place with 24:52 and Dalaan Organ rounded out the Colby team in 33rd place with 25:18.

In the girls freshman/sophomore group, Taylor Lemman finished in eighth place with 19:22 and re- make the improvement necessary In the boys junior/senior group, ceived a medal for finishing in the to succeed in future meets."

In the girls junior/senior group, Emilea Finley finished in first place with 15:47, giving her a gold medal for the event. Christina Ostwith 23:58.

"Overall, I was pleased with our first meet of the year,"said Head athletes had to endure triple-digit temperatures and a very challenging course. Emilea Finley had an outstanding performance finishing with a very good time of 15:47. We will continue to work hard to

Colby women compete in 4K meet in Augusta

The Colby Community College women's cross country team had a good start to its season at the J.K. Gold Classic in Augusta on Saturday. The team, coached by Crystal Berndt, finished in 8th place in

'Oslyn Melissa Collins ran a good race on Saturday," said Coach Berndt. "It was her first time running a cross country event, finishing in 34th with a time of 16:09.40. She went out a little too fast and nerves got the best of her. We will change a few things and I expect her time for our home meet on Sept. 9 to be faster."

Sophomore Mikarla Swann finished the race close to her fastest 4K race from last season with a time of

"Mikarla is looking strong and we should see even more improvement in the weeks to come," said Berndt. "Prisca Roys-Dossu (19:25.76), Vanessa Loya (22:14.41) and Brittni Sumpter (23:20.79) also competed in Augusta. With very little experience among these three ladies, we have some work to do in the coming weeks."

Former Colby Community College stand-out Tonya Nero competed unattached in the meet. She finished in 3rd place with a time of 14:16.64. Nero was an All-American at the college.

The women's team will hold its only home meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday on the college campus. For information, contact Coach Berndt or Coach James Ortiz at the college.



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