



Colby Middle School football players dove for a fumble last Monday during a game against St. Francis at Dennen Field. The

Eagles were undefeated this season with a 7-0 record and they had only one loss last season to go 6-1.

Eagles grab perfect record

The Colby Middle School eighth grade football team finished its season on Oct. 3 with a perfect 7-0 record. In the past two seasons, this group of Eagles has only lost one game.

"Obviously, with this group of young men being 13-1 the past two years, there is a great deal of talent here," said Head Coach Todd Murdock. "But along with the talent, they have developed a toughness, a discipline and the football smarts that made a good team into an outstanding team."

The boys began their season by beating Oberlin at St. Francis. Then they traveled to Oakley and beat Oakley. The next week Goodland came to town and Colby beat them to improve to 3-0. The following week, the Eagles traveled to Holcomb and came away with a big win after some initial adversity. Colby then had home games against Burlington and Scott City and came away with two big wins to improve to 6-0. For the final game, the boys went to Norton and fell behind early, but came alive and pulled away to finish their season with a 7-0 record.

Murdock said that all of these games were big, but the Scott City game was special because they were the only team who beat this group last year as seventh graders.

"Scott City is always well-coached, tough and physical but we came out with great intensity and focus and got off to an early lead," he said. "From there it just turned into an old-fashioned slugfest and we were the better team on this day."

Murdock also said that he believes these boys can be successful at the high school level as well, but it depends on their focus.

"This group has a good mix of size and speed that will serve them well as they move to the next level," he said. "They have great potential, but potential doesn't mean much unless you do something with it. If, as a team, they can stay focused on their goals, avoid the distractions and temptations that come with high school, work hard in the weight room, and listen to Coach Gardner and his staff, this class will be fun to watch the next four years."

KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Two-time Indy 500 winner killed in race wreck

By John Marshall
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS – Every race car driver heads onto the track understanding this race could be the last and hoping it won't be.

On Sunday, IndyCar drivers got a harsh reminder when the worst happened to one of their own.

Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon died when his car got caught up in a 15-car pileup, sailed over another vehicle and smashed into a catch fence at IndyCar's season-ending race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

"Things happen in this kind of racing," said Wade Cunningham, also caught up in the wreck. "It's so close. Not much room for error. I was near the front of what caused all this, so I'm not thrilled about it. At this point, whose fault it was is kind of immaterial."

The green flag had barely stopped waving when disaster struck.

Wheldon, driving from the back of the field for a chance at \$5 million, was moving through the pack when he drove into a tangle of cars careening off each other in every direction.

Unable to avoid the massive wreck unfolding before him, Wheldon clipped another car and went hurtling through the air, his car bursting into flames as it flew into a fence.

After just 11 laps, the race was over. Two hours later, track officials announced that Wheldon was dead. The Englishman was 33.

"One minute you're joking around at driver intros and the next, Dan's gone," said Dario Franchitti, whose wife, actress Ashley Judd, had to bring him a box of tissues. "I lost, we lost, a good friend. Everybody in the IndyCar series considered him a friend. He was such a good guy. He was a charmer."

With the speed – close to 225 mph during practice – and a crowded 34-car field, a big worry was aggressive driving early in the 200-lap race.

Chaos started when two cars touched tires coming around turn 2 and almost no one had time to react.

Within seconds, several cars burst into flames and debris covered the track nearly halfway up the straightaway. Some points of impact were so devastating workers had to patch holes in the asphalt.

Video replays showed Wheldon's car turning over as it went airborne and sailed into what's called the catch fence, which sits over a barrier designed to give a bit when cars make contact. Rescue workers were at Wheldon's car quickly, some furiously waving for more help to get to the scene.

"It's unfortunate that early on in the race they've got to be racing so close ...," Team Penske owner

Roger Penske said. "You always worry about those at these mile-and-a-halfs at the speed and with this many cars."

Three other drivers, including championship contender Will Power, were hurt in the pileup.

Wheldon was airlifted from the track to University Medical Center; news of his death came from IndyCar CEO Randy Bernard:

"IndyCar is very sad to announce that Dan Wheldon has passed away from unsurvivable injuries," he said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family today. IndyCar, its drivers and owners, have decided to end the race."

In his honor, drivers, many sobbing openly, took part in a five-lap salute around the 1.5-mile oval as thousands of fans stood and cheered from the grandstand.

Also injured in the crash were JR Hildebrand and Pippa Mann. Both remained in the hospital overnight. IndyCar said Mann was being treated for a burn to her right pinkie finger and was released Monday morning; Hildebrand was awake and alert but will be held overnight for further evaluation. Power was evaluated and released.

An autopsy is planned today for Wheldon.

"I'll tell you, I've never seen anything like it," Ryan Briscoe said. "The debris we all had to drive through the lap later, it looked like a war scene from Terminator or something. I mean, there were just pieces of metal and car on fire in the middle of the track with no car attached to it and just debris everywhere. So it was scary, and your first thoughts are hoping that no one is hurt because there's just stuff everywhere. Crazy."

IndyCar has not had a fatality since Paul Dana was killed at

Homestead in 2006 during a crash in a morning warmup. Wheldon won the race later that day.

The accident appeared to start when Cunningham's car swerved on the track and Hildebrand drove over the left rear of Cunningham's car. Hildebrand appeared to go airborne, and Cunningham's car shot up into the wall, setting off a chain reaction among the cars behind him.

Some of those cars slowed, others didn't, and others spun in front of Wheldon and Power. There was so much confusion on the track it was hard to tell who was driving what car.

Power appeared to fly over Alex Lloyd's car, his ride rolling into the catch fence and landing on its right side. His in-car camera showed one of the front tires coming toward him in the cockpit.

Wheldon then appeared to drive over a car driven by Paul Tracy, who seemed to be slowing down. Wheldon, however, went airborne and spun into the fence.

"It was like a movie scene which they try to make as gnarly as possible," said Danica Patrick, making her final IndyCar start. "It was debris everywhere across the whole track. You could smell the smoke. You could see the billowing smoke on the back straight from the car. There was a chunk of fire that we were driving around. You could see cars scattered."

Wheldon, who came to the United States from England in 1999, won 16 times in his IndyCar career and was the series champion in 2005.

Despite winning this year's Indy 500, Wheldon couldn't put together a full-time ride this season but had a deal in the works for 2012.

Andretti Autosport, the team with which Wheldon won the

2005 Indy 500, had agreed to a contract early Sunday for Wheldon to replace Patrick next season. The deal was supposed to be signed after the race.

"Back when he was with the team in '05, we referred to the team as The Beatles because it was such perfect harmony (with his teammates) – and with Dan coming back, there was talk of putting The Beatles back together," said John Lopes, chief marketing officer and VP of marketing for Andretti Autosport. "So today is devastating. We not only lost a future teammate, but a longtime teammate. It's so sad. He's going to be sorely missed and fondly remembered."

When drivers returned to the track for the tribute laps, Wheldon's No. 77 was the only one on the towering scoreboard. Franchitti

sobbed uncontrollably as he got back into his car for the memorial ride. The sound of "Danny Boy" echoed around the track, followed by "Amazing Grace." Hundreds of crew workers and representatives from each team stood at attention in honor of Wheldon.

"What can you say? We're going to miss him," Ganassi said. "Everybody in IndyCar died a little today."

Colby High football team loses to the Concordia Panthers

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High School football team endured another loss Friday, losing at Concordia with a score of 66-19.

The Eagles (1-6) had to dig themselves out of a hole by the end of the first quarter as the Panthers had scored 31 points. Junior Zane Winger gave Colby its first points with a kickoff return for a touchdown in the second quarter. Junior running back and linebacker Beau Brown also ran in a touchdown in

the second, and junior kicker Todd Kane made an extra point to give the Eagles 13 points.

Concordia (6-1) did not slow down, however, and it scored 21 more points in the second quarter.

Colby was able to score one more touchdown in the game, which was another rushing touchdown by Brown in the third quarter. Sophomore quarterback Luke Cox had trouble passing in the game and finished with 7 completions on 14 attempts for 65 yards. Brown led the running game with 21 carries for 126 yards.

The Eagles also had some turn-

over problems against the Panthers. Concordia's Shane Zimmer intercepted Cox twice, and the Eagles had two fumbles that were recovered by Concordia defenders.

The Panthers scored nine touchdowns, five extra point kicks and three two-point conversions. They did all of their damage on the ground, finishing with 486 rushing yards.

Colby's next game is at 7 p.m. Friday at Clay Center against the Tigers, who are 3-4 on the season.

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