

Lady Trojans lose close game

The Colby Community College women's basketball team lost in a close game Wednesday by a score of 56-53 against Lamar Community College at the Community Building.

The Lady Trojans were held to just 25 percent shooting field goals and 33 percent shooting three-pointers, but made 73 percent of their free throws.

Sophomore Morgan Rickwartz, Claude, Texas, led the scoring efforts with 12 points and also had 7 rebounds, 2 assists and 3 steals.

Sophomore Liga Vente, Valmiera, Latvia, finished the game with 9 total points and 5 rebounds.

Sophomore Brooke Bursiek, Cape Coral, Fla., scored 7 points, had 1 assist and grabbed 4 steals and freshman Shantya Arnold, Colbert, Ga., had 6 points and 1 block.

Freshmen Cheyenne Eisenhour, Stafford, and Mallorie Salmans, Jetmore, had 5 points each, with Eisenhour getting 1 steal and Salmans getting 1 assist.

Freshman Emily Torson, Dighton, had a team-high 8 rebounds.

The Lady Trojans' next game is at home at 6 p.m. on Monday against McCook Community College at the Community Building.

Colby boys working hard to make team improvements

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High School boys basketball team is preparing for a new season where it hopes to improve greatly after a 2-19 record last year.

The Eagles lost six seniors: Corbin Stephens, Spencer Tubbs, Andrew Ketchum, Kale Arberger, Christian Wilson and Clint Goosen.

Head Coach Jerad Johnson said losing these players is hard, but his team will bounce back.

"Last year was my first year of coaching, so I think losing the seniors is tough because we're losing a lot of great players, but we have a lot of leaders returning," Johnson said. "I don't think it will hurt us a lot, but it will affect the role upper classmen play."

Colby has five boys returning to the team this year, two of which are returning starters. Altogether, there are two seniors, four juniors, six sophomores and 12 freshmen.

Johnson said the boys looked good in the offseason and said he thinks it will make a difference during the season.

"I feel like the boys put in a good offseason this year," he said. "I didn't have that opportunity last year since it was my first year. But as a group, we really worked hard and we're gonna make a lot of improvements."

Johnson also said the Eagles



ANDY HEINTZ

Colby High School boys basketball player Luke Cox looked for an open man during a game last season against Norton at the Community Building. The Eagles ended last season with a record of 2-19.

have several team goals in mind for the upcoming season.

"Compete at every level in every game," Johnson said. "And we want to put ourselves in a position

to make it to state and we would like to win league."

The Eagles started their season Thursday at the Hays City Shootout tournament and will play

through Saturday. Their first home game will be at 8 p.m. on Thursday against Thomas More Prep High School at the Community Building.

Royals add reliever to 40-man roster

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Right-handed reliever Jonathan Broxton has been added to the Kansas City Royals' roster after passing a physical, and infielder Jeff Bianchi has been designated for assignment.

Broxton signed a deal that guarantees the former Los Angeles Dodgers closer \$4 million to pitch for Kansas City next season. The deal was contingent on him passing a physical Wednesday, no sure

thing after he was shut down early last season with elbow trouble.

Broxton had surgery in Sept. to remove bone spurs and should be ready by spring training.

The hard-throwing right-hander is expected to pitch the eighth inning in front of Royals closer Joaquin Soria and solidify a young but talented bullpen that returns largely intact.

Bianchi hit .259 for Double-A Northwest Arkansas last season.

Kansas State Wildcats slide past George Washington 69-56

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

MANHATTAN — Thomas Gipson played nothing like a freshman for Kansas State on Thursday night, at least on offense. It was on defense that the bruising forward still needs some work.

The rest of the Wildcats had the opposite problem: They played lousy on offense and well on defense, except for a stretch in the second half in which Kansas State put together a big run. That spurt wound up being enough to

carry them to a 69-56 victory over George Washington.

"When we decided to run offense and we played like a team and made more than one pass, and cut, we got Thomas open a couple times," Wildcats coach Frank Martin said. "He has to get a lot better defensively — he just stands. Like all young players, he just stands, and you can't do that."

Gipson had 17 points and 13 rebounds for his first career double-double, and Will Spradling scored 14 points. Jamar Samuels added 10 points and 10 rebounds in his

second game since serving a suspension for violating team rules, teaming with Gipson and Jordan Henriquez to give the Wildcats (4-0) an imposing front line. That contributed to 25 second-chance points against their smaller Atlantic 10 opponent.

George Washington (4-2), picked to finish fourth in the A-10, hung around until midway through the second half, when Spradling and company put together a 15-1 run that covered about six minutes.

"We got into a good rhythm,"

Spradling said. "We ran offense, and that opened up a lot of shots."

After beating up on four weak opponents at home, Kansas State now hits the road to face Virginia Tech on Sunday, then plays West Virginia and former coach Bob Huggins on a neutral floor next week.

"I probably would have liked to play one more to try to get a little more rhythm as far as playing, but we're so young," Martin said. "You saw how bad we are on offense. We're so young, we need the practice time to get guys to learn."

Tony Taylor scored 14 points to lead the Colonials, who came into the game as the nation's top 3-point shooting team at better than 48 percent. They only managed to hit 5 of 19 from beyond the arc, though, and finished 20 of 64 (31 percent) from the field.

"It was a disappointing performance by us overall," first-year coach Mike Lonergan said.

The Wildcats, who were coming off an eight-day layoff, led most of the way in the first half, though they never could get much separation.

The Colonials' Nemanja Mikic

led the game 17-all when he hit his third 3-pointer of the first half with 10:31 left, and Taylor's basket briefly gave George Washington the lead.

Henriquez scored inside moments later to tie it, then hit a mid-range jumper — not exactly the 7-footer's forte — to push Kansas State in front. That was the start of an 8-0 run during which Gipson hit a jumper and added two free throws to make it 25-19 with 6:48 left in the half.

That was the biggest lead for either team over the first 20 minutes.

George Washington climbed back behind a 3-pointer from Lason Kromah and a steal and basket by Taylor that forced Martin to call a timeout in frustration. He yelled at his team to stop turning the ball over, eliciting chuckles from an otherwise quiet Bramlage Coliseum.

The Wildcats scored seven of the last 10 points to take a 32-29 lead into halftime.

George Washington was still within 39-37 early in the second half when the Wildcats started hitting from outside. Shane Southwell and Samuels knocked down

back-to-back 3s, and after Kromah was called for charging, Lonergan was whistled for a technical foul.

Spradling hit both free throws, then added a jumper from in front of the Kansas State bench, turning it into a four-point possession. Spradling hit another jump shot moments later, and his second 3-pointer with 12:06 left in the game capped a 15-1 run and made it 54-38.

"We were really begging guys to run back on defense because we did not want K-State to get easy baskets in transition," Lonergan said. "We just have inconsistent players right now."

The Wildcats cruised from there, the lead swelling to 19 with seven minutes remaining. It allowed Kansas State to avenge a loss to George Washington in their last meeting — on Dec. 28, 1940 — and build some momentum heading into a tough stretch of games.

"We got to learn now to play offense the way we're playing defense, which is unselfish. We played pretty well defensively," Martin said. "We defended it fairly well."

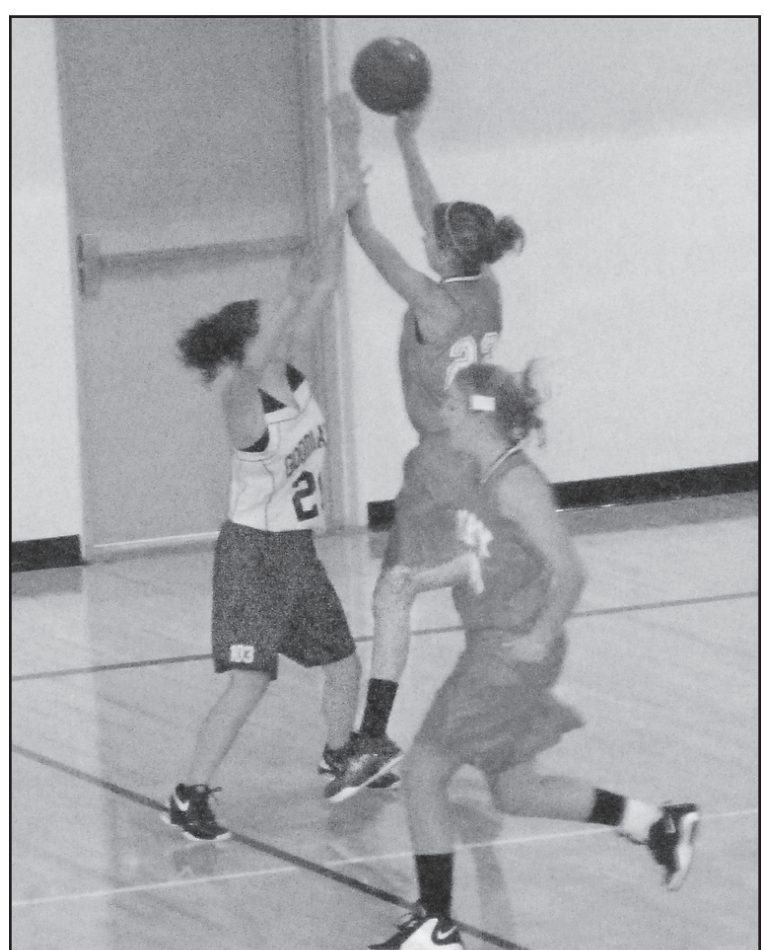
Lady Eagles come back, get the win

The Colby Middle School eighth grade girls basketball team came from behind in the last four minutes to get a win over the Goodland Middle School Lady Mustangs at the Max Jones Fieldhouse on Thursday.

The Lady Eagles were behind for most of the game. The score was 11-10 at the end of the first quarter and 18-14 at halftime. The Lady Mustangs continued to lead until Sydney Stephens tied the game at 20-20 in the third. Goodland took the lead again by the end of the third.

In the fourth quarter, the Lady Eagles took the lead for the first time with 3:46 left to play. They went on an 8-point run while holding Goodland scoreless to win the game 34-25.

The Colby seventh grade girls basketball team played on Thursday as well against Goodland at the Colby Grade School gymnasium.



TOM BETZ/Goodland Star-News

Colby eighth grade girls basketball player Sydney Stephens made the basket that tied the game in the third quarter Thursday against Goodland at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

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