



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Senior Braden Sager prepared to pass the ball in the Colby High School boys basketball game Thursday against Thomas More Prep at the Community Building. The Eagles lost the game 60-44.

Eagles drop to 0-5 after loss at home

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
Colby.sports@nwkansas.com

The Colby High School varsity boys basketball team lost a tough game to the Thomas More Prep Monarchs on Thursday at the Community Building with a score of 60-44.

Despite the loss, the Eagles (0-5) battled hard and came within 4 points of the Monarchs in the second half. Colby hit a 9-0 run that began early in the third quarter after having trailed by 13 points at the beginning of the quarter.

Colby couldn't hang on, though, and the boys were down by 10 as the fourth quarter began. The Eagles didn't lead once throughout the game.

Head Coach Jerad Johnson said on 88.1 FM that his team played hard, but they haven't been con-

sistent enough and need to grow up some.

Thomas More (3-2) had one player who scored 4 three-point field goals while Colby didn't make one out of the seven attempted.

Johnson said the Monarchs most likely had a higher scoring percentage (47 percent) because they took more shots and were given a lot of second chances.

The Eagles had 20 turnovers, which cost them greatly; the Monarchs scored 21 points off of those miscues.

Sophomore Luke Cox led the scoring efforts with a team-high 11 points. Junior Todd Kane followed with 10 points, seniors Braden Sager and Dalaan Organ scored 9 apiece and junior Zane Winger finished the game with 5 points.

Johnson also said the Monarchs

didn't do anything that surprised Colby, such as getting the "big guys" on the team in foul trouble. Sager fouled out and Cox, Winger, Kane and Organ all had 4 personal fouls.

As a team, the Eagles hit 15 of 42 field goals (35 percent) and 14 out of 25 free throws (56 percent). They also had 31 total rebounds, with 10 of those coming from Organ.

Johnson said this game was a learning experience and has helped prepare the boys for Hugoton on Friday. The Colby teams play at 4:30, 6:30 and 8 p.m. at Hugoton.

He also said it's going to be a mental game from this point on and he thinks once the Eagles get their first win, they will relax and be able to play the way they do in practice.

Jayhawks beat No. 2 Ohio State

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE — Tyshawn Taylor played through the pain. Jared Sullinger did not.

That may have been the difference for No. 13 Kansas in its victory over second-ranked Ohio State.

The Jayhawks' starting point guard had a career-high 13 assists despite a torn meniscus and sprained MCL in his right knee, helping Kansas to a 78-67 victory over the Buckeyes, who were missing Sullinger for the second consecutive game due to back spasms.

Thomas Robinson took advantage of Sullinger's absence inside to score 21 points, and newcomer Kevin Young came off the bench to add a career-high 14 for the Jayhawks (6-2), who extended their winning streak to 47 games over non-conference opponents at Allen Fieldhouse.

William Buford had 17 of his 21 points in the second half for Ohio State (8-1), which was playing on

the road for the first time this season. Deshaun Thomas added 19.

Taylor hurt his knee in practice earlier in the week and could have opted for surgery, but the Jayhawks' medical staff decided he wouldn't harm it any more by playing. They left it up to the senior to decide whether he could manage the pain, and Self didn't ask how much he was experiencing.

"If you ask them if they're hurting, then you give them an opportunity to give you an answer," Self said, adding that Taylor hadn't practiced all week until Friday.

He had surgery Sunday and will miss about three weeks.

It was more publicly known that Sullinger was a question mark, but he wasn't ruled out until just before the game, when his balky back simply wouldn't loosen up.

The Jayhawks were desperate for a high-profile victory after losses to top-ranked Kentucky and No. 7 Duke, and they got on against a Buckeyes team that had led the nation in scoring margin.

Buoyed by a frenzied crowd

that jammed Allen Fieldhouse to the rafters, the Jayhawks raced to a 23-13 lead just over midway through the first half, the decibel level at one point registering 114 on the scoreboard — roughly equal to that of a rock concert.

Robinson did most of the work inside, capitalizing on the absence of Sullinger to score around the rim. He had all seven of his first-half points during the opening flurry, and Connor Teahan and Johnson each hit 3-pointers as noise seemed ready to lift the roof from the building.

The Buckeyes finally hit their stride, and it was Thomas who jump-started them.

The sophomore forward hit consecutive 3-pointers from well beyond the arc, and Amir Williams added his only basket of the first half to slice into the lead. Thomas' third 3-pointer of the half and free throws by Lenelle Smith Jr. and Evan Ravenel trimmed it to 33-29 with a minute left.

Young's basket moments later off a feed from Robinson gave Kansas a six-point lead at the

break.

The school announced new football coach Charlie Weis during the intermission, and he concluded a brief statement by saying, "Let's go whup Ohio State. Rock chalk, Jayhawk!"

The Jayhawks gladly obliged. Johnson hit two more 3-pointers early in the second half, and the lead swelled to 47-37 when Releford hit a 3-pointer off a feed from Johnson and Jeff Withey scored on a putback.

Ohio State coach Thad Matta called timeout to calm his team down, and Buford proved his veteran poise by scoring the first basket when play resumed. It was the start of four-minute run in which he scored all five of the Buckeyes' field goals, getting them back within single digits.

The closest it ever got was 62-58, though.

Robinson and the Jayhawks took care of things from the foul line down the stretch, allowing the reigning Big 12 champions to beat the defending Big Ten champs for the fourth straight time.

Trojan coach signs runner

With one week since the start of the signing period, Colby Community College has added their first signee for the 2012-13 seasons. The Trojans signed Gunnar Hays of Northern Valley (Almena), who recently won his second straight Kansas State High School Activities Association 1A Cross Country State Championship in November.

"I'm very excited about Gunnar choosing to run for Colby next year. This is a great way to start off our recruiting class for next season," said Head Coach James Ortiz.

Gunnar has excelled on the track as well as in cross country. As a junior, he became the first cross country state champion in Northern Valley High School history and went on to place third in the 1600 meter

and 3200 run at the State Track and Field Championships.

Hays will join a Trojan squad that is coming off a historic cross country season. The Trojans finished the season ninth at the National Junior College Athletic Association Cross Country Championships led by Edward Limo, who was the individual national runner-up.

During the season, the Trojans earned a No. 1 national ranking for the first time in school history after winning three of four cross country meets.

"Our program is on the rise and I think recruits are starting to realize that. Three years ago I don't think we could have signed an athlete like Gunnar, but times have changed here at Colby," Ortiz said.

Broncos pull off another last-minute comeback in 13-10 win

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER — Just when it looked like the Chicago Bears weren't going to give Tim Tebow the chance to beat them in overtime, they couldn't play keep away.

Chicago won the toss and Caleb Hanie completed three quick passes to put the Bears in field goal range. Then, Marion Barber, filling in for Matt Forte, burst through the line for a first down.

Just then, linebacker Wesley Woodyard reached out and tugged on his right arm. The ball popped loose and Elvis Dumervil smothered it at the Broncos 34.

"He gashed us on that play, and somehow I just had to make

a play," Woodyard said. "That's what it's all about, making plays at the end of the game."

That's something the Broncos (8-5) have perfected.

Tebow drove the Broncos downfield and Matt Prater, whose 59-yard field goal with 3 seconds left in regulation tied it, booted a 51-yarder with 8:34 left in overtime to give Denver an improbable 13-10 win.

"If you believe," Tebow said, "then unbelievable things can sometimes be possible."

Prater's third straight walk-off field goal gave the Broncos their sixth consecutive win and moved them into sole possession of first

place in the AFC West at 8-5, a game ahead of Oakland.

Tebow improved to 7-1 since taking over as the starter in Denver, and six of those wins have involved second-half comebacks, five of them necessitating fourth-quarter rallies, three of which went to overtime.

No other quarterback in NFL history has produced six fourth-quarter comebacks in his first 11 NFL starts.

Broncos coach John Fox said Tebow has "competitive greatness. He wants the ball in clutch time."

After failing to score on their first dozen possessions, the Bron-

cos faced the possibility of their first home shutout in the team's 52-year history. Instead, they erased a 10-0 deficit in the final 2:08 of regulation.

Tebow threw a 10-yard touchdown strike to Demaryius Thomas, who had three drops, and then got the ball back with 53 seconds left after Barber saved the Broncos precious time by going out of bounds when the Bears were trying to run out the clock.

Denver was out of timeouts after Thomas' touchdown and had to try an onside kick, which it couldn't recover. But on second down after the two-minute warning, Barber cut outside and was

pushed out, stopping the clock.

"That's usually something that never happens with a veteran running back," Woodyard said. "It's just like things go our way."

Barber wasn't around after the game to talk about his blunders.

The Bears would have to punt, and Tebow got the ball back at his 20 and went to work, not needing to go far with Prater's strong leg in the thin air. He drove the Broncos 39 yards for Prater's kick, which he rocketed through the uprights to tie it at 10.

The Bears (7-6) won the toss in

overtime and quickly got into field goal range before Barber, who rushed for 108 yards but will be remembered for his two late mistakes, coughed up the football.

Tebow, who also led Denver to wins in OT at Miami and San Diego, took the Broncos from their 34 to the Chicago 33, and Prater sent the stadium into delirium.

"Those last five minutes, if it's within reach for us to get it, we feel like we're going to win," Woodyard said. "For all the Tebow haters: You'd better start believing."

REMEMBER

WHEN THE KIDS FIRST GOT ME?

I'd fly through the air, they'd bounce me all the way from the house to the school, I would hear their shouts of joy as they played with the other kids. Sometimes we would all play together at the courts!! I miss that... Heck, Dad, all I need is a little air for 60 minutes of play each day. Please ?? I heard 'basketball' is BIG in Indian Country.

P.S. Get ideas. Get involved. Get going at letsmove.gov/indiancountry.

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