



KATRINA GRIGGS

Junior Camron Spreser went up for a rebound against Tribune in the junior varsity's first game of the season on Dec. 2. The Golden Plains Bulldogs defeated the Greeley County Jackrabbits by 20 points in this two-quarter contest.

Bulldog junior varsity wins season opener by two

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School junior varsity boys basketball team won its first game of the season at home against the Greeley County Jackrabbits on Dec. 2. This match-up lasted for two quarters due to a shortage of players from Tribune.

During the first quarter, the Jackrabbits from Greeley County came out to a quick lead with a three-point shot. The Bulldogs answered with 3 free throw shots from freshman Joseph Koerperich to tie up the score. However, the Jackrabbits continued to put in field goals and extended their lead to 3-9 before the Bulldogs put in another free throw from sophomore Chance Hoeting, giving the Bulldogs a quarter ending score of 4-12.

During the second quarter, the Bulldogs started off with a couple of missed free throws, but junior Jose

Bermudez was able to make one on a technical shot to get on the board.

The field goals started falling after the free throw with buckets from Koerperich and Bermudez. Another basket from sophomore Zach Spreser gave the Bulldogs a 15-12 lead. Once they gained the lead, the boys were able to maintain the lead to win with a final score of 19-17 by the end of play.

"This was a pretty fun game," junior Camron Spreser said. "We played with excitement and intensity and won by 2 points."

Koerperich led the Bulldog scoring with 11 points. Also contributing to the win were Bermudez with 3, Zach Spreser with 2, Jacob Griffith with 2, and Hoeting with 1. The junior varsity team will be off for a week for the Castle Rock tournament in Quinter, but will play again in Healy on Tuesday and at home against Sharon Springs on Thursday.

Lady Bulldogs win in overtime

By Taylor Todd
Golden Plains High School

On Dec. 2, the Golden Plains junior varsity girls had their first basketball game of the season against the Greeley County Lady Jackrabbits in Rexford, in what was scheduled as a three-quarter game.

The Lady Rabbits pulled ahead 0-7 within the first minutes of the game before Taylor Todd made the first basket for the Lady 'Dogs, making the score 2-7. The girls kept fighting and by the end of the first quarter, additional points were made by Macayla Easton, Todd and MiKayla Lobato as the Bulldog defense stopped the Jackrabbits to bring the score to 8-9 at the buzzer.

Wark made an early bucket to start the second and gain a 10-9 Bulldog lead. After two more points from Easton, the Lady Rabbits went on a run to gain and extend their lead to 12-17 by the end of the second quarter of play.

After a short break, the Lady Bulldogs only allowed three more

points from the Lady Jackrabbits as Brooke Wark, Lea Juenemann and Todd tied things up at 20. Two free throws from Easton put the Lady Bulldogs back in the lead with just two minutes left to play. With another bucket from Wark, the Bulldogs pulled ahead only to have the Tribune girls tie it back up at 26, sending the game into overtime.

During the extra four minutes of play, a basket from Easton put the Lady Bulldogs in the lead 28-26. With Tribune on the line, the player missed her first shot, but

made the second to bring the score to 28-27. Despite an exciting last few seconds of play, neither team added points and the Lady Bulldogs' junior varsity won its first game of the season.

"It was a great and intense first game," said Rebecca Bange. "We sure put on our game faces. We really played like a team and kept fighting and pushing through to do our best in the game."

The scoring ended up with Easton grabbing 10 points, Wark scoring 8, Todd with 6, Juenemann had 2, and Lobato had 2.

Eagle wrestling team takes first at tourney

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High School varsity wrestling team took first place at the Holiday Classic Dual tournament in Goodland this past weekend.

Colby wrestled Goodland in the finals of the tournament and edged them out with a score of 40-33 to take the top spot and put Goodland in second place.

Baca County of Springfield, Colo., came in third place, Norton finished in fourth, Cherokee Trail of Aurora, Colo., took fifth place and Burlington (Colo.) grabbed sixth. Hugoton followed in seventh place, Ulysses landed in eighth, Scott City came in ninth place and Wichita County of Leoti ended up in last place.

The Eagles wrestled in four matches in pool play before facing Goodland. Colby's first match was against Burlington and the Eagles won the dual 51-21. Four wrestlers won by fall or technical fall, one

of which was Dustin Reed at 120 pounds who pinned his opponent in 44 seconds. Also, Andrew Taylor at 160 pounds won his match 13-3 by decision.

The Eagles then faced Baca County and took them down 44-21. At 106 pounds, David Mainus pinned his opponent in 40 seconds, and Reed won by fall again, this time in 52 seconds. Taylor won his match 22-9 by major decision as did Troy Quenzer at 182 pounds with a score of 13-4.

Colby met Scott City on the mat next and dominated the dual 52-12. Scott City didn't have wrestlers for four weight classes, giving the Colby wrestlers forfeit wins. This accounted for 24 of the Eagles' team points.

Colby's final match was against Ulysses and the Eagles finished strong with a 52-27 win. Taylor O'Leary, 113 pounds, won by fall in 1 minute, 7 seconds and Quade Woofter, 145 pounds, pinned his opponent in 1 minute, 11 seconds.

The Eagles return to Goodland for their next dual, which is at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5.

Rockies sign free agent

DENVER (AP) - Rockies general manager Dan O'Dowd thinks outfielder Michael Cuddyer is a perfect fit in Colorado.

With hitter-friendly Coors Field as the backdrop, Cuddyer donned a Rockies jersey and cap for the first time at his introductory news conference Tuesday after finalizing a \$31.5 million, three-year contract.

The 32-year-old Cuddyer spent 11 seasons in Minnesota before agreeing to a free-agent deal with the Rockies late last week. He batted .284 with 20 home runs and 70 RBIs last season and went to his first All-Star game as the Twins' lone representative.

A career .272 hitter, Cuddyer will wear No. 3 with the Rockies - a tribute to late Twins slugger Harmon Killebrew. Cuddyer described the Hall of Famer as "one of the greatest human beings I've ever met."

O'Dowd also announced the acquisition of free-agent third baseman Casey Blake, pending the completion of a physical. Blake has agreed to a one-year, non-guaranteed deal worth \$2 million, with another \$1 million in available performance bonuses.

The addition of Cuddyer was the Rockies' first major free-agent

signing since 2000, when they brought in pitchers Mike Hampton and Denny Neagle for a combined \$172 million. It was the culmination of a long process that began in mid-summer, when O'Dowd said the organization began doing its homework on Cuddyer in anticipation of making a run at him on the open market.

Convinced by their research that Cuddyer fit the bill in terms of character, leadership and baseball skills, the Rockies went all out in the last two weeks to wrap up a deal, O'Dowd said. Manager Jim Tracy and star shortstop Troy Tulowitzki also made frequent phone appeals to Cuddyer during the negotiations, urging him to join the Rockies so they could work together toward an NL West crown and World Series championship.

"For us, quite honestly, we thought it was a perfect fit," O'Dowd said. "He's a difference-maker for our club. We think his best years are still in front of him and he's an off-gap hitter. He's going to wear out our alleys here in Coors Field."

Just as importantly, the Rockies said, were Cuddyer's strong character traits, clubhouse leadership and willingness to help younger players.

"He gets it," O'Dowd said. "He gets that this is a business about making a difference in others. He plays for a bigger purpose and he gets 'team.' We're going to need that here and it's a natural to him. He's going to make our team better and he's going to make our organization better."

The Twins made a pitch to keep Cuddyer, but he decided to go in a new direction.

"The Minnesota Twins are always going to be deep in my heart, but I was excited about the prospect of being a Colorado Rockie," Cuddyer said. "I'm excited about the future. The past is the past and it's a great past with Minnesota, but we were excited about the situation here and the situation here is to go out and try to win a National League West title together."

A versatile player in the field - Cuddyer has played every position other than catcher and shortstop - he'll be counted on primarily to hold down right field for the Rockies, though there could be days when he moves to other positions. He'll also give Colorado another big bat in the lineup, along with Tulowitzki, Carlos Gonzalez and Todd Helton.

Our office will be closing
Monday, Dec. 26th for Christmas
& Monday, January 2nd for New Years.

Season's Greetings

Wishing you & your family
a wonderful holiday season!

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