

Girls team wins league

By Jon McKee
Colby Middle School

The Colby Middle School eighth grade girls basketball team defeated Goodland 28-13 to win the Great West Activities Conference league tournament Dec. 17 in Hugoton.

The Colby girls used their superior athletic ability to apply a stifling pressure man-to-man defense that limited their opponent's scoring opportunities. Our defense was extremely good in both games of the league tournament, making it nearly impossible for our opponents to execute their offense.

Lara Stephens led the team in scoring with 14 points, Brenly Terrell added 4 points, Brielle McKee and Desi Schippers each scored 3 points and Gabrielle Wilson and Allie Friesen each scored 2 points.

Earlier that day, the Colby girls defeated Ulysses 24-13 to advance to the championship game. Once again, Stephens led in scoring with 13 points, followed by Terrell's 7 points and Wilson's 4 points. Taylor Thummel and Sydney Stephens did not score in the tournament, but both played vital roles in the team's defensive scheme.

For the season, the eighth grade varsity team posted a 7-2 record and the junior varsity had an 8-1 record. Lara Stephens and Terrell provided most of the scoring punch for the varsity with 9.1 and 8.4 points per game, respectively. McKee scored 2.6 points per game followed by Wilson and Schippers with 1.4 points per game

and Sydney Stephens with 1.2 points per game. The team averaged 27 points per game while only allowing their opponents to score 16 points per game. Andrea and Rachel Browne, MaKayla Hoffman and Thummel were also key players for the varsity team.

Julie Schroeder and Allie Friesen provided most of the scoring for the junior varsity while Elissa Zerr, Kalea Robert, Jenna Crampton, Amber McDonald and Kylee Martin played vital roles in the team's success.

The varsity played five teams throughout the season. The Lady Eagles went 3-0 against Goodland this year, winning one game 32-20, another 34-25 and the last 28-13. Colby played Scott City twice, beating them 33-7 in one and 31-6 in the other. The Lady Eagles also met Ulysses twice this season and split the games. Colby lost the first game 23-30 and won the second 24-13. The girls also played Hugoton, whom they lost to 13-18, and Holcomb, whom they beat 24-13.

The junior varsity also played five teams this season. The girls played Goodland four times, going 3-1 in the series. Colby won the first game 28-16, won the second 19-8, lost the third 18-22 and won the final game 16-13. The Lady Eagles played Scott City twice, beating them in one game 25-16 and 22-6 in the other. Colby faced Hugoton, Ulysses and Holcomb once each and beat all three teams. The girls won 20-14 against Hugoton, 16-2 against Ulysses and 12-8 against Holcomb.



Golden Plains sophomore Zach Spresser went up to attempt a block during the junior varsity basketball game in Grainfield on Dec. 17 as his teammates Benny Martinez, Jacob Griffith and Joseph Koerperich prepared for the rebound.

Junior varsity boys suffer loss

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School junior varsity boys basketball team played its second game of the season at Grainfield on Dec. 17 as they took on the Wheatland-Grinnell Thunderhawks.

The boys started off in the first half trying to find the basket. They put in 5 points in the first, but only got 2 to fall early in the second. Down 7-27 at halftime, they had to step up in

the second half.

They played much more aggressively in the third quarter as they hustled. Chance Hoeting did a good job of handling the ball and getting it down the floor, Marshall Clapp played strong defense and the boys followed their shots to outscore the Thunderhawks 14-13 in this 8 minutes of play. A bucket from Joseph Koerperich at the buzzer left the boys down 21-40 going into the last quarter of play.

"We played pretty good in the second half when we got more shots to go in," Clapp said.

The boys continued to play smart to start off the fourth, but the Thunderhawks shut them down and captured the win 25-54.

Freshman Koerperich led the scoring with 16 points, 9 of which came in the third quarter. Also scoring for the Bulldogs were Grant Spresser with 3 points, Hoeting with 2, Jacob Griffith with 2 and Benny Martinez with the first 2 points of the game.

"We really need to work on our offense and out shots in order to get more of our shots to fall," Clapp continued.

Varsity girls lose road game

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The varsity girls basketball team at Golden Plains High School suffered their fourth loss of the season on Dec. 17 to the Lady Thunderhawks of Wheatland-Grinnell.

Kylie Jones captured the tip to give the Lady Bulldogs possession to start the game. The Lady Thunderhawks recovered the ball and put in 2. Jordan Christensen then stole the ball back from the Lady 'Hawks and took it down the floor for a layup to tie up the game at 2. A free throw from Angela Ritter gave the Lady 'Dogs a lead. The Lady 'Hawks made a bucket, but the Lady Bulldogs pushed on to hold a three-point lead. With under a minute left in the quarter, the Lady 'Hawks tied the score up at 10.

Throughout the second quarter, the Lady Bulldogs only made 2 points and did not take care of the ball, allowing the Lady Thunderhawks to pull ahead 12-21 by the end of the half.

The Lady Bulldogs were unable to recover in the second half as they only put in 4 points - all from Hailee Spresser - in the third to go into the fourth trailing 16-35. The girls did manage 5 more points in the fourth, but the Lady Thunder-



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Kylie Jones worked hard as she boxed out a Dighton player during the second round of the Castle Rock Classic on Dec. 9. Kylie is one of the main rebounders for the Bulldogs.

hawks rolled on to a 21-49 win over the Lady Bulldogs.

Scoring for Golden Plains were Jordan Christensen with 6 points, Angela Ritter with 6, Hailee Spresser with 4, MiKayla Lobato with 2, Macayla Easter with 2 and

Caitlin Spresser with 1.

The Lady Bulldogs will play two games on the road following the holiday break as they travel to St. Francis on Tuesday, Jan. 3 and to Logan on Thursday, Jan. 6.

Nuggets rout Jazz 117-100

DENVER (AP) - The Denver Nuggets' fast-paced style is making everything look easy.

Nene scored 25 points, reserve Al Harrington had 18 points and seven rebounds, and the Nuggets rolled to a 117-100 victory over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night.

Ty Lawson had 15 points and Danilo Gallinari had 11 points and five rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won their first two games by double digits.

"Can't complain about much tonight," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "There are very few selfish basketball plays out there. There's a sound commitment to playing the way the team plays best and that's just attack, attack, attack."

After some prodding by his teammates, Nene did just that in an efficient 24 minutes. He hit 10 of 13 shots, made all five of his foul shots and pulled down seven rebounds. He also sparked a decisive run in the first half that gave Denver control of the game.

"He's so unselfish sometimes we have to say, 'Nene, go the basket, get a bucket,'" Lawson said. "When he does that we know if he gets in trouble he can also find the open man. Sometimes we have to push him to get more aggressive."

Al Jefferson had 19 points and rookie Alec Burks added 15 points for Utah, which was blown out for the second consecutive night.

Paul Millsap and C.J. Miles scored 13 apiece for the Jazz.

The Nuggets led 42-40 with 5:39 left in the second quarter when Nene took over on offense. The Brazilian scored 11 points the rest of the half and bounced a pass to Andre Miller in the lane to help Denver take a 63-46 lead into the locker room.

"Every night is a mismatch with him, as long as he's aggressive," Miller said. "We got the ball to him, made some cuts and played from there. Once he got some easy buckets it opened it up for everyone."

Lawson, coming off a 27-point performance against Dallas on Monday, had five points in the run and fed Gallinari for a 3-pointer that made it 52-42 with 3:31 left in the second.

The Jazz, who lost by 25 at the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday, tried to get back into the game early in the third. They got within

13 on Jefferson's three-point play, but a basket by Gallinari, a layup by Arron Afflalo and a dunk by Nene made it 75-56.

Nene scored his final points on a jumper to give Denver a 77-58 lead with 6:10 left in the third quarter. He left the game a minute later and watched with his warm-ups on while his team led by as many as 27 in finishing the rout.

"One pass and a shot. You miss those, they're going out and running," Utah coach Tyrone Corbin. "We talked about them wanting to create an up-tempo game and that's to their favor. They're great at it, that's how they play. We wanted to control the tempo a little more."

The Jazz improved their shooting against Denver but gave up easy baskets all night. Denver had 27 fast-break points and shot 53 percent despite missing 12 of its first 14 shots from behind the 3-point line.

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