

Varsity boys get first win

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High School varsity boys basketball team earned its first win Tuesday night in front of its home crowd at the Community Building. The Eagles defeated the Goodland Cowboys 64-57 in a game that was close down to the final minutes.

Colby (1-6) was in the lead most of the game and was only outscored in the second quarter 14-16. The Eagles still had the lead going into the locker room, however, with a score of 28-27.

Goodland was always one step behind Colby, mainly due to the Cowboys' three-point field goals, which accounted for 18 of their points.

The Eagles rose to the occasion with accurate shooting in the third and fourth quarters. They made 14 out of 20 field goals (70 percent), 3 out of 4 three-point baskets (75 percent) and 5 out of 8 free throws (62.5 percent).

Colby sealed the game down the stretch with several key baskets; the Cowboys would hit a shot and the Eagles were able to answer back.

Both teams finished with 32 rebounds and Colby scored 10 points off of turnovers while Goodland scored 12 off of miscues. The Eagles grabbed 8 second-chance points in the game and hit 52 percent of their field goals in the first half, making 13 out of 25 shots.

Sophomore Marc Bremenkamp led Colby in scoring with 21 points. He made 9 out of his 10 field goal attempts and 3 out of 4 free throws.

Senior Dalaan Organ and sophomore Luke Cox followed with 12 points each. Organ had 9 total rebounds and made 5 out of 8 field goals, and Cox hit 2 out of 4 three-point shots and had 2 steals.

Senior Braden Sager finished the game with 8 points, junior



Senior Dalaan Organ went up for a basket Tuesday during the Colby High School varsity boys basketball game against Goodland at the Community Building.

Todd Kane scored 6, sophomore Reed Stephens had 3 points and junior Wiatt Binder had 2. The boys' next game will be

against Holcomb on Friday at 8 p.m. at the Community Building.

High school tournament starts Monday

The Western Kansas Liberty League Basketball Tournament will be held Monday and Tuesday and Friday and Saturday, Jan. 13 and 14, in Brewster and Colby.

Games will be played at Brewster High School on Monday and Tuesday and the semi-finals and finals will be at the Community Building and Colby High School Jan. 13 and 14.

Boys and girls teams in the

tournament will be Greeley County, Weskan, Wheatland-Grinnell, Dighton, Wallace County, Triplains-Brewster, Cheylin, Golden Plains and Healy.

The first game will be at 6 p.m. Monday in Brewster, where the girls teams from Golden Plains and Healy will face off. The boys from Golden Plains and Triplains-Brewster will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Rec Department finds new employee

The Colby Recreation Board has hired Mary McLaughlin as assistant director of the Recreation Department, says board President Cris Koerperich.

"We are very excited to have Mary on staff and are looking forward to the new year," he said.

McLaughlin, a Wahoo, Neb., native, has been a seasonal employee of the department for four summers, working mostly in field maintenance.

"I'm very eager to add Mary to my staff," said Recreation Director Stacy Lee. "She has been a part of this department for several years and understands the commitment involved with the position.



McLaughlin

She has a lot of experience out at the ball fields and will be a great addition for all of our other programs through the school year."

McLaughlin also has been an umpire and helped with department 5K runs and triathlons, Lee said.

"Mary has been involved with numerous events over the years," she said. "She has always demonstrated pride in what she does for the Rec and has already established positive working relationships with the public. She cares about the community and definitely shares a love for recreation as I do. I think she'll be a great fit."

McLaughlin is the assistant women's softball coach for Colby Community College. She started working for the city on Tuesday.

Kansas, K-State face off tonight

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE — Frank Martin flipped on the television after his Kansas State team dispatched lowly Howard last weekend and watched Kansas do the same to North Dakota.

It didn't matter that the Jayhawks were facing a smaller school with low expectations or that many students were still on winter break. Allen Fieldhouse was rocking from the opening tip, even when Kansas stretched the lead to nearly 30 in the second half.

Just imagine what the atmosphere will be like tonight.

The No. 23 Wildcats visit the No. 14 Jayhawks in the opener of a longer, tougher Big 12 schedule that could give one team's conference title hopes a major boost and the other's a debilitating blow.

"There's three major challenges," Martin said. "Bill Self and his coaching staff, their players and the culture they built, and then obviously the 16,000 sitting in the stands just don't let you communicate with your players. That's what you face every time you go in there."

"I don't want to make it sound simplistic, but it is what it is," Martin said. "Their crowd is amazing, and it makes it an incredible challenge for us and everybody else that goes in there."

The Jayhawks (10-3) shouldn't be intimidated by the Wildcats, who moved into the Top 25 for the first time this season. Kansas already has faced Kentucky at Madison Square Garden, highly ranked teams in Duke and Georgetown in Hawaii, and beaten Ohio State at their venerable on-campus field house.

They also have the swagger that comes with a school-record seven straight conference titles and have not lost a league opener since the 1991-92 season.

"I don't think anybody in the country would have an undefeated record if they've played the schedule that Kansas has played," said Martin, whose team is 11-1 with the lone loss in double overtime to West Virginia. "Kansas has lined up and played anybody and everybody, and anywhere."

The Wildcats soon will learn

what that feels like.

After facing the Jayhawks, they return home for games against No. 7 Missouri and fourth-ranked Baylor, before visiting Oklahoma, which is off to a 10-2 start under Lon Kruger.

It's the start of an expanded 18-game conference schedule, the result of conference realignment that left just 10 teams this season. Everybody will play everybody twice, a brutal stretch of games that should separate championship contenders from teams simply trying to hang on.

"We're ready to go. Does that mean we have a chance to win? I've got no idea," Martin said. "But our guys have been good. They've answered the bell every time."

"What's going to happen in Big 12 play?" Martin asked. "I don't think anybody knows."

Self certainly doesn't profess to know.

He figures a team that finishes 14-4 in the conference will have a pretty good chance of at least sharing the Big 12 crown, something that's become expected on Naismith Drive.

It might not even take that many wins considering how difficult the league has become.

"It's good for our league to be good," Self said. "What you hope for is they're not good at your expense. But I like that there's interest in the games going on. I think our players like it, too."

There will be interesting matchups galore Wednesday night.

The premier one should be in the paint, where the Jayhawks' Thomas Robinson — fresh off a 30-point, 20-rebound performance against North Dakota that earned him his third Big 12 player of the week award — will go toe-to-toe with rugged forwards Jamar Samuels, Thomas Gipson and Jordan Henriquez.

On the perimeter, veteran guards Tyshawn Taylor, Elijah Johnson and Travis Releford will be matched up against a young group of Wildcats that includes a freshman, Angel Rodriguez, and sophomore, Will Spradling, who have played beyond their years.

"I watched their progress this year, and they've become more noticeable on the national stage," Robinson said. "We've been practicing hard, and like I said once again, it's not going to come down to scouting reports and all that stuff. It's going to be a man's game."

There are a bunch of tough games still to come, followed by the conference tournament and the madness of March. But Taylor may have summed up what is on the line Wednesday night most succinctly.

"This is the first game of conference, and we have to understand, you can't win them all unless you win the first one," he said. "We have to start right here."

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Annual tournament needs volunteers

The Colby Kids Wrestling Club will hold its annual tournament from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building.

Due to the good response to the tournament last year, members said, the club is expecting around 500 kids and their families this year. Volunteers

are needed to help stage the event.

The club is looking for help with the concessions and table duties at matside. If you would like to help or have questions, call Missy Siruta at (785) 269-7043 or Holly Lynn at (785) 443-0603.

Friday the 13th

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