



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Senior Morgan Bell (left) and sophomore Haileigh Shull played tough defense Thursday during the Colby High varsity girls basketball game at the Community Building. The Lady Eagles barely lost to Dodge City 36-35.

Lady Eagles fall short against Dodge City 36-35

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press
colby.sports@nwkanas.com

The Colby High varsity girls basketball team lost a nonleague game Thursday to Dodge City at the Community Building.

The Lady Eagles (7-0 Great West Activities Conference, 11-5 overall) came up just short in the 36-35 loss.

Both teams fought hard throughout the first half, tying up the score at the end of the first quarter and tying it again at 16 by the half.

Dodge City took a commanding lead in the third quarter, when it outscored Colby 11-2, putting the score at 27-18.

The Lady Eagles were down 32-20 early in the fourth, but they went on a 6-0 run to come within six points with 4:29 left.

Senior Morgan Bell had hit a three-point shot and Colby stole the ball from Dodge City to lead to another three-pointer from Bell.

At 3:40, junior McKenna Ortner made a basket to bring the

score to 32-28. Dodge City had a chance to increase its lead, but a Lady Red Demon missed her first free throw on a one-and-one. Dodge City grabbed the rebound, but Colby blocked the shot.

Dodge City committed a foul while trying to steal the ball away from junior Lauren Bell, and Bell made both of her free throws for a 32-30 score with 2:04 on the clock.

Sophomore Haileigh Shull committed a foul on the next possession and the player sank her two free throws.

Colby missed a shot and Lauren Bell fouled on the next possession. Another free throw put the score at 35-30 with 47 seconds left.

Bell made up for the mistake, though, by making a layup with 26 seconds left.

The Lady Eagles got another chance to add points when Dodge City was called for a foul on the floor while trying to throw the ball inbounds. However, a pass from Lauren Bell to Morgan Bell was stolen and Colby was forced to

foul with 14 second left. Dodge City made 1 of 2 free throws to go up 36-32.

After a couple of missed shots and a timeout by Dodge, there was one second left when the Lady Eagles threw the ball inbounds. Morgan Bell threw it in to McKenna Ortner, who sank a three-pointer as the buzzer went off, ending the game at 36-35.

Morgan Bell had a game-high 13 points, including 3 three-point baskets, 7 rebounds, 1 block and 1 steal.

Lauren Bell followed with 7 points, 4 rebounds, 3 blocks and 3 steals.

Ortner finished the game with 5 points and 2 rebounds, junior Karly Kriss had 4 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 block, senior Brenna McKee had 3 points, 4 rebounds and 1 steal and junior Kenzie Curry had 3 points and 1 rebound.

The Lady Eagles will play in Holcomb at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and the boys will follow at 8 p.m.

Lady Trojans lose home game

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press
colby.sports@nwkanas.com

The Colby Community College women's basketball team lost to Seward County Community College 64-44 on Wednesday at the Community Building.

The Lady Trojans (3-7 Jayhawk West, 7-17 overall) kept the game close in the first half and went into the locker room only seven points down, 29-22.

Seward (8-2, 19-4) piled on the points in the second half, however, outscoring Colby 35-22.

The Lady Trojans couldn't get

many shots to fall and ended the game hitting 13 of 59 for just 22 percent from the field. Their free throws were outstanding, though, with the women sinking 15 of 17 from the line for 88.2 percent.

Liga Vente led the scoring and had a double-double in the game with 14 points and 11 rebounds. She was perfect from the free-throw line, 6 of 6.

Shantydra Arnold followed with 10 points, shooting 4 of 7 field goals, 2 rebounds and 1 assist.

Brooke Bursiek finished the game with 9 points, 2 three-point baskets and 3 rebounds. Marie McAbee had 5 points, Emily Tor-

son 3 and Morgan Rickwartz 3.

The Lady Trojans will travel to Dodge City for their next game at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Dodge City is winless in the conference (0-10) and 8-16 overall.

Eagle wrestling team wins first league title

The Colby High School varsity wrestling team shined at the Great West Activities Conference league meet Saturday, grabbing its first league title in school history.

The Eagles defeated all five of the other teams in the league to win the title in Holcomb.

Colby squashed Holcomb 75-6 in its first match and then squeezed by Hugoton 43-30 in the next match. The Eagles edged out Scott City 45-27, followed by beating Ulysses 55-21 and lastly they dominated Goodland 54-18.

There were four first-place finishes for the Ea-

gles in the meet. Dustin Reed, 120 pounds, Konnor Kriss, 138, Quade Woofter, 145, and Andrew Taylor, 160, all took the top spot in their weight classes.

David Mainus, 106, John Faber, 126, Michael Tubbs, 132, Beau Brown, 170, and Zell Bieberle, 285, took second place in their weights in the tournament.

Macen Shull, 152, and Troy Quenzer, 182, finished in third place for their weights.

The Eagles will head to the regional tournament on Friday and Saturday in Chapman.

Turnovers costly in Bulldogs varsity loss

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School
need e-mail

The Golden Plains High School Bulldogs suffered a loss to the Dighton Hornets 63-54, at least partly because of excessive of turnovers.

The varsity boys played close through the first quarter on Jan. 27. Cole Christensen started off with two consecutive baskets before the Hornets could score. Kalyn Weber then added two more, but the Dighton team pulled ahead 9-8 at the end of the quarter.

The second quarter was action-packed, as the Hornets stepped behind the three-point line for a number of shots, pulling ahead of

the Bulldogs by 13 points midway through the period. The Bulldogs determination and successful shots from Christensen, Weber and Joseph Koerperich pulled them back to within 8 by halftime, when the Hornets led 32-24.

The Hornets continued to take advantage of multiple turnover opportunities in the second half, pumping in another 23 points in the third quarter while the Bulldogs managed 14 from Christensen, Weber and Koerperich.

Trailing 55-38 going into the fourth, the Bulldogs took advantage of substitutions by both teams. Christensen and Weber each added baskets to the two three-pointers by Chance Hoeting and a field goal from Andrew Luna. The boys

held Dighton to 8 fourth-quarter points and closed the gap to the final score of 63-54.

Although the Bulldogs score was their second-highest so far this season (they scored 55 against Logan), they had 45 turnovers.

"As long as we are averaging over 20 turnovers in a game, it is going to be difficult to win," Coach Terry Preston said.

Christensen led the team with 20 points, with 16 from Weber and 10 for Koerperich, 6 for Hoeting and 2 for Luna. The team had just 13 assists but managed 32 rebounds, 4 steals and 5 blocks – mostly from Christensen. The boys have 3 wins and 10 losses going into the last month of basketball season.

Kansas rolls Oklahoma State

By Dave Skretta

AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE – Travis Ford has a theory about why Jeff Withey has emerged as an unsung star for No. 7 Kansas: The 7-footer finally realized he's playing next to Thomas Robinson.

"I think he understands he's playing with the best player in America," the Oklahoma State coach said, "and he's realized, 'Hey, this is kind of good for me.' That's good for Kansas. Bad for us."

Especially on Saturday.

Withey finished with 18 points and a career-best 20 rebounds, Robinson had 24 points and 14 boards, and the seventh-ranked Jayhawks pulled away after blowing a big chunk of a 29-point lead in an 81-66 win over the Cowboys.

Elijah Johnson finished with 11 points and Travis Releford had 10 for Kansas (20-5, 10-2 Big 12), which could do no wrong in building a 55-26 lead, and then could seemingly do no right as the advantage dwindled to a dozen points with 6:43 remaining in the game.

Withey and Robinson answered the call, each knocking down a pair of free throws, and Kansas cruised the rest of the way to its 19th consecutive home victory.

The unheralded Withey, who was coming off a career-best 25

points in a win at Baylor, also had seven blocks and even dished out an assist.

Markel Brown had 21 points and Keiton Page added 19 for the Cowboys (12-13, 5-7), who have lost 16 straight at Allen Fieldhouse. Their last victory at the Phog was Feb. 8, 1989.

Kansas spent the afternoon honoring the 1952 national championship team.

The Jayhawks wore throwback uniforms, the cheerleaders were dressed in skirts that touched the floor, and a pregame video montage showed grainy, black-and-white clips of the team that knocked off St. John's to win the school's third national title.

Several members of the team were introduced at halftime, including Bill Hougland and Clyde

Lovellette, who was the MVP of the Final Four and later became a four-time All-Star in the NBA.

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