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COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Monday

February 27, 2012
Volume 123, Number 32
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Two Eagles bring home state titles

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High varsity wrestling team was hoping to have a state champion this weekend at the Class 4A State Wrestling Tournament, but little did the Eagles know that they would leave Salina with two.

Junior Dustin Reed at 120 pounds and senior Konnor Kriss at 138 brought home gold medals Saturday from the Bicentennial Center after winning the championships in their weights, while the team as a whole took second place with 96.5 points.

Their victories put Colby atop the standings, at least temporarily, in a hard-fought battle for the team championship in the 4A tournament. Defending champion Andale High pulled back ahead after winning the 170-pound class, however, and held on for a three-point lead.

Three other Eagles took medals at state: Senior Michael Tubbs placed fourth at 132 pounds, while junior David Mainus finished sixth at 106 and junior Zell Bieberle was sixth at 285.

Both Reed and Kriss were state champions last year as well, and Coach Matt Sims said he believes they expected to win again, but he personally didn't expect them

to repeat.

Reed has never placed lower than second in the state tournament, though, and Kriss has never finished lower than third in his four years.

Andale finished in the top spot at the tournament with 99 team points, its second straight state title, and Bonner Springs was third with 92.5 points.

Reed started the tournament Friday by wrestling Antonio Ferro of Basehor-Linwood and he won by technical fall 18-3. He then faced Cullen Hood of Louisburg, winning that match 12-3.

Reed continued his streak Saturday when he pinned Brad Hake of Concordia. His final match for the state title, against Tim Prescott of McPherson, was a fight until the end.

The match went into overtime with the boys tied 1-1. In the extra round, the wrestlers started on their feet and had one minute to get the first takedown. Neither was able to get one, and the match went into a second overtime.

This round had a 30-second time limit and the referee did a coin toss to determine choice, which Prescott won. He chose to start on the bottom, and was able to get away from Reed rather quickly, sending the match into yet another round.

In this 30-second third over-

time, Reed went down after winning the coin toss and got away with a few seconds to spare, sending the match into ultimate overtime.

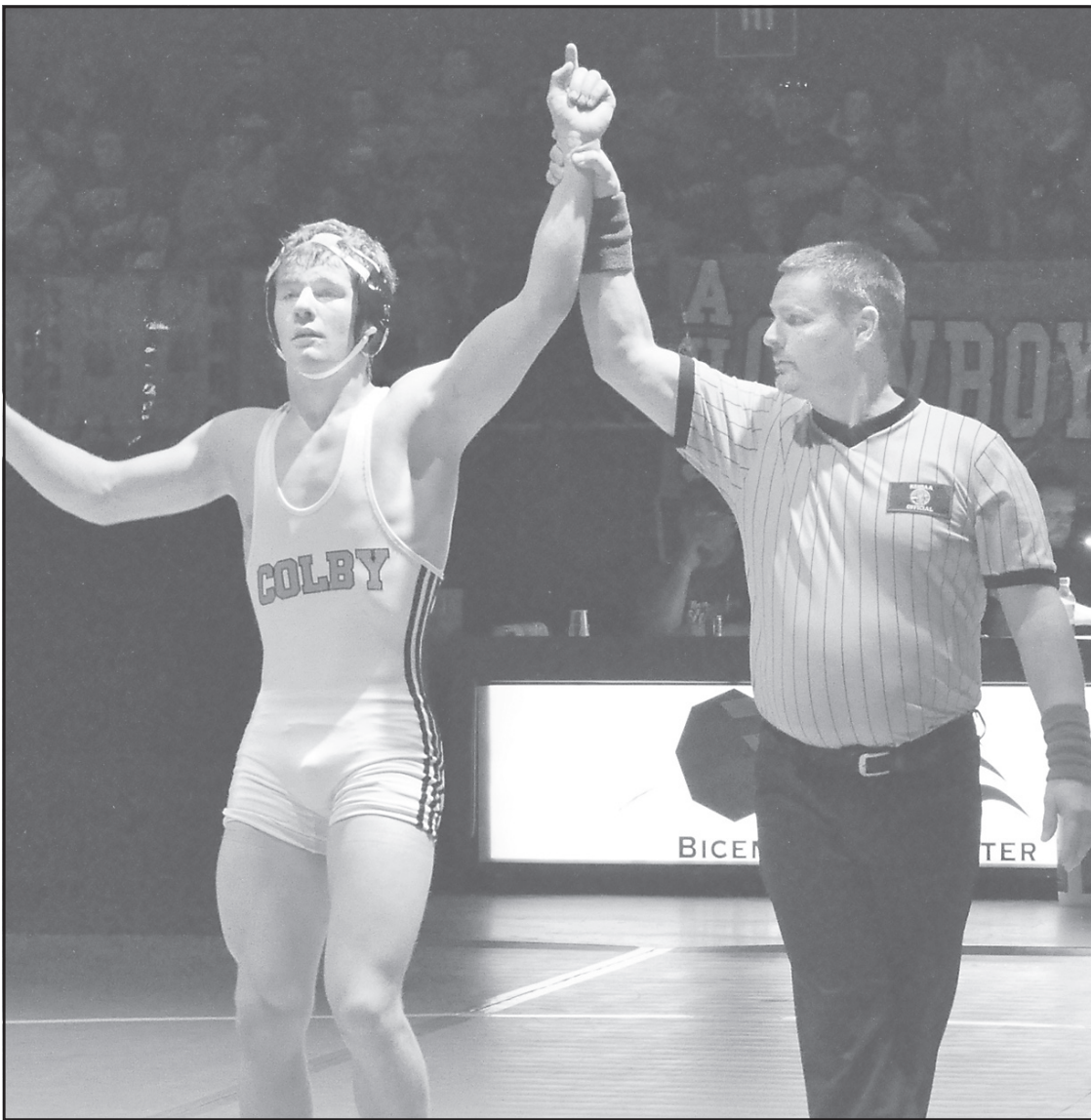
In this period, either the bottom man had to escape from the top wrestler or the top man had to ride out the bottom opponent to win. Since Prescott scored the first point in regulation, he was given the choice of where to be. He chose the bottom once again, and Reed had to ride him out to get the win.

Reed hadn't been able to keep Prescott from escaping the entire match, but in this final 30-second round, Reed held on for the first time.

"Dustin certainly had the closest match in the finals, and his work ethic and his conditioning definitely helped him be able to ride his opponent in the final 30 seconds," said Colby High Principal Larry Gabel, a long-time wrestling coach himself. "That's a tribute to his hard work and dedication."

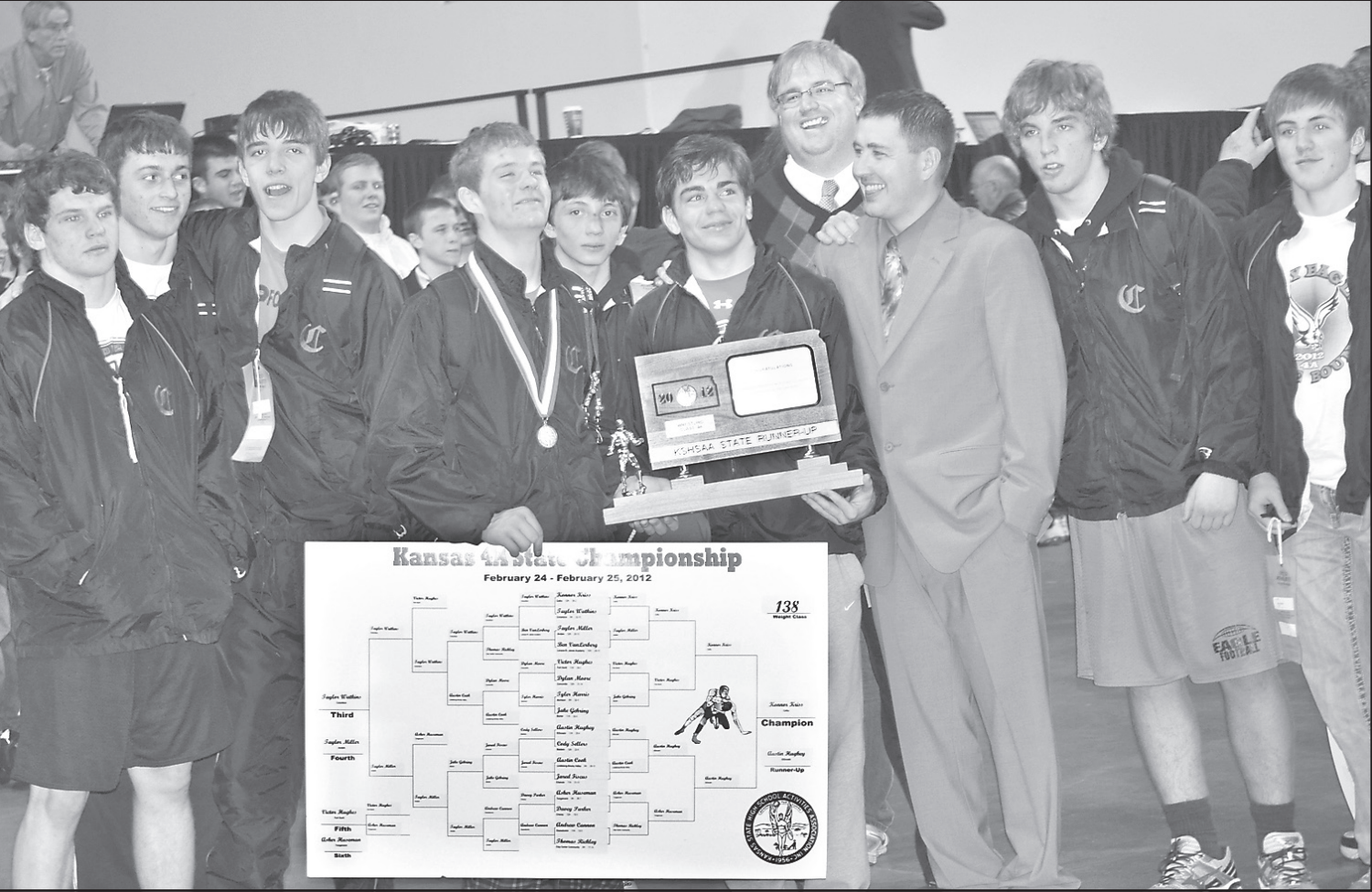
Kriss began his run by pinning Taylor Watkins of Columbus. He then had a tough match against Taylor Miller of Andale, which he won 5-2.

On Saturday, Kriss faced Victor Hughes of Fort Scott and once



ADRIANE SIMS/Colby Free Press

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Senior Konnor Kriss (above) is presented as the Class 4A State Tournament champion in the 138-pound weight class Saturday after winning his final match and the state title at the Salina Bicentennial Center. This is Kriss' second state title after he won his weight last year. The Colby High varsity wrestling team showed off their medals and trophies Saturday after taking second place as a team at the state tournament. Along with Kriss, junior Dustin Reed was the 120-pound state champion. Senior Michael Tubbs placed fourth at 132 pounds, while junior David Mainus finished sixth at 106 and junior Zell Bieberle was sixth at 285.

Eighth grader designs logo

By Christina Beringer
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Inspired by a speaker at school and with the support from his math teacher, Colby eighth grader Dayan Valdez has taken his love of skateboarding and turned it into a start on an independent business venture.

Colby Middle School math teacher Deb Collins said a presentation by Kevin Honeycutt from the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas, a support service based in Hutchinson, got Valdez to thinking.

"One of the topics he spoke about included the growing popularity of self-employment as an entrepreneur," she said. "There are several websites that offer to create the inventions of others, which could be for sale or just for personal production."

She said that Valdez, along with many other students, were inspired by the concept of producing things they are interested in for others.

"These websites offer means for production that otherwise couldn't take place without great investment," she said. "Dayan just happened to be so inspired by this concept that he was determined to follow through with the ideas of his skateboard logo designs."

Working with Collins, Valdez took his logo and uploaded it using digital tools. Then, using www. Zazzle.com – one of the websites introduced by Honeycutt – he was able to have his logo produced on a skateboard.

"3D printing is gaining in popularity, but the cost of the machines ... runs \$1,500 or more, which is way beyond the amount our school could invest at this time," Collins said. "Zazzle is proving to be an interesting alternative as students explore the art of creating a unique item, having it produced,



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Dayan Valdez was excited to show off a skateboard featuring his hand-drawn logo, which was produced using the website www. Zazzle.com. He hopes to sell his logo on merchandise in the future.

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Meeting set for walking trail update

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Volunteers working on Colby's walking trails have set a meeting from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library to talk about progress on efforts to find more money and plans for construction.

"We want to remind the community that, with their help, we met our goal to secure funds for the first half mile of walking trails, which will be called the Frahm Family Trail," said co-coordinator Megan Carmichael.

"And we are excited to share that the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition has been accepted to receive a \$35,000 grant from the Sunflower Foundation. A stipulation to receive this money is that we have to develop an additional two miles of trail, which will help extend the Frahm trail."

The committee is excited about the additional two miles, says co-coordinator Diann Gerstner.

However, Carmichael added that to make the extension pos-

sible, the group needs to raise another \$100,000, and they are hoping people will help make this happen.

Co-coordinator Sue Evans said that since the project has been expanded, more property owners have been contacted and included in plans, too.

"So, in addition to the city, Colby Public Schools and Colby Community College became partners in the larger and longer walking-trail project," she said.

The Colby Tree Board and Colby Rotary Club have stepped up, too, she said. The board has already planted trees along part of the proposed trail on Franklin Avenue and has plans to plant more along the entire trail.

Rotary is raising money for an entrance to the trail, she said.

"The vision is for an impressive trailhead with landscaping, signage and lighting," she said. "At a minimum, we will begin the Frahm Family Trail in late spring. However, the auxiliary parking lot for the Aquatic Park must be completed before beginning construc-

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