

Wrestlers begin season on Saturday

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High School wrestling team begins its season this weekend and expectations are high for the state runner-up Eagles.

But Coach Matt Sims said right now, he's not going to worry about the team making it to state again this year.

"Of course, they currently have us ranked first in the preseason rankings," he said, "but like I said before, we don't buy into that. We haven't even stepped on the mat this year."

"Just because you qualified for state last year doesn't mean you will this year. We're just taking it week by week."

He did admit that the team has many talented wrestlers returning this winter.

"This is probably the most state qualifiers returning that we've had," Sims said.

The Eagles lost only two of the state qualifiers to graduation: Konnor Kriss and Michael Tubbs.

Senior Dustin Reed, who brought home a gold medal from state last year, will return, as will senior Zell Bieberle and junior David Mainus, who each took fourth.

Other state qualifiers returning are seniors Beau Brown, Quade Woofter, Macen Shull and Troy Quenzer and junior Andrew Taylor.

Sims said he has 40 boys out for the team this year: nine seniors, five juniors, seven sophomores and 19 freshmen.

Last season, the Eagles had a 23-1 record in dual matches and placed in several tournaments. The boys were Great West Activities Conference regional champs.

Colby's first dual meet of the season was to be Friday against Burlington, but Sims said that meet has been canceled.

The Eagles' first competition will now be on Saturday. The varsity will go to St. Francis for a tournament beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the junior varsity will be in Goodland at 10 a.m.

K-State coach favors title game

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

MANHATTAN – Kansas State coach Bill Snyder still believes the Big 12 should ultimately expand to at least 12 teams again, creating two divisions and a conference championship game.

Snyder said Tuesday, "There are a number of programs in our conference who have and would profit from that type of system," pointing out that teams with multiple losses would generate more interest late in the season by still having a chance to play for a championship.

The 73-year-old Snyder has seen the Big 12 go through a dramatic series of changes since he took over the once-downtrodden Kansas State program in the late 1980s. When the old Southwest Conference disintegrated, the Big Eight expanded by four teams to become the Big 12, and played a conference title game every year from 1996-2010.

The game has cut both ways for the Wildcats: They were in position to play for a national championship in 1998 before losing to Texas A&M in double overtime, but managed to win the Big 12 title and earn a Fiesta Bowl berth in 2003 by upsetting then-No. 1 Oklahoma.

The league has undergone even more change the past couple of years, with longtime member Colorado leaving for the Pac-12

and Nebraska heading to the Big Ten, and with Missouri and Texas A&M joining the Southeastern Conference beginning this season.

The league picked up West Virginia and TCU to remain at 10 teams, and locked up broadcast rights to stabilize a league not long ago on the brink of extinction.

The conference realignment merry-go-round has been spinning again in recent weeks. Maryland is leaving the ACC and Rutgers the Big East to establish a 14-team Big Ten, while Tulane announced Tuesday it would join the Big East, with East Carolina joining as a football-only member.

That's left the Big 12 in a precarious position: Stand pat with 10 teams or expand to 12 or more, thereby re-establishing its lucrative conference championship game.

Rather than playing a single winner-take-all game on Saturday, two games will be played with title implications: TCU plays No. 12 Oklahoma early in the day before the Wildcats finish up the regular season against No. 23 Texas at night.

TCU can essentially make Kansas State's game irrelevant by beating the Sooners, because the Wildcats would be assured of at least a share of the title and, through tiebreakers, the league's automatic BCS bowl berth. And if the Sooners and Wildcats both win, they'll share the trophy.



JULIE ZIEGELMEIER/Golden Plains Elementary School
Thomas County 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Ross Sloan (sitting) checked on results for the team Sept. 15 at the Kinsley Kids Klassic Trapshoot as Keegan Morgan (left) and Kurtis Sloan left the field. Sloan's team finished fourth and individually, three shooters finished in the top 10.

Area youths place in trapshoot

Seven area youths competed in the 20th annual Kinsley Kids Klassic Trapshoot against 123 shooters from 16 teams from Kansas and Oklahoma.

Each contestant shot 50 16-yard targets at the Dodge City Gun Club on Sept. 15, and then went to the Kinsley Gun Club for 50 handicap targets.

They competed for medals and prize drawings that included four guns, 29 cases of shells and miscellaneous hunting and trap shooting gear.

"The shoot was tough and a great experience," Cole Ziegelmeier said. "Everyone was very competitive, and most of all, we had fun."

Keegan Morgan, Jay Ziegelmeier, Chance

Hoeting, Cole Ziegelmeier and Kurtis Sloan competed as a team for a fourth-place finish after a tie for third with Clark County 4-H, with both teams scoring 426. A shoot-off determined the finish.

The boys also competed individually. Morgan won first in the 14- and 15-year-old age group by shooting a 90 for the day. Cole Ziegelmeier, also in this age group, finished with an 86 to take seventh.

Jay Ziegelmeier, Chance Hoeting and Kurtis Sloan competed in the 16-and-over division. Jay Ziegelmeier shot a 90, finishing eighth. Sloan and Hoeting both shot an 80, tied for 22nd in their division.

Jake Blye and Braedyn Vogler competed as well. Blye shot a 56 in the 11-and-under

age, placing ninth, and Vogler shot a 71 in the 14-15 age group, placing 16th.

All contestants were sponsored by the Oakley Trap Club and many other sponsors, including the Northwest Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Orscheln of Colby, Dude Morgan, Matt Ziegelmeier, Jerry Pitnar, Barry Samuelson, Cold Steel, Greg Bruggeman of G&T Guns.

"All of the contestants would like to thank Oakley Trap Club," Julie Ziegelmeier said, "and coaches Tim Samuelson, Dude Morgan, Nick Blye and Thomas County 4-H Shooting Sports leader Ross Sloan for providing our area youth with this opportunity."

Any youth interesting in joining in the group should call Morgan at 460-6830.

Golden Plains basketball teams prepare

By Haydyn Best
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School basketball teams have begun preparing for their upcoming season.

Both teams have something new to offer this year. The girls have a total of 18 out compared to the few they had last season, but only one senior – Angela Ritter – stepping onto the court. They are coached by Parker Christensen, in his 14th year as head coach at Golden Plains, and Steve Shaw.

The girls finished their season last year in the semifinal round of the substate tournament with a 12-10 record. Their goal is to extend their season this year.

The men's team has a total of 16 boys. Coming off a 3-18 record from last season, they have three returning seniors: Jose Bermudez, Andrew Luna and Camron Sprester.

The boys have new coaches to look up to, Mike Doll as head coach and Laura Rush as assistant.

Coach Doll coached at Brewster

under Tom Stephens during the 2009-2010 season. After graduating from high school in Goodland, he went to Colby Community College and Kansas Wesleyan University, playing basketball at both schools.

He came to Golden Plains because it "provided a great opportunity to me."

"I am very thankful for that," he added. "The opportunity to coach and prepare young men has always been a goal, and I am blessed to have this opportunity with the boys on this team."

Rush came to Golden Plains last year as health/physical education teacher and has coaching experience at Brewster.

The boys have set five goals for the season, they said: Stay the course; come as a team, leave as a family; become successful; outwork; and have fun.

"The guys are working very hard to become a winning team so far," Doll said. "The season is a long journey, and they understand that improvement every day is crucial."

"Look for the boys to jump out and surprise some teams this year. We expect to be competing with all teams by the end of the year."

"I expect the season to go good," Luna said. "I feel like the team will work together, and will show more effort because of the new coach."

"I'm really excited for this upcoming season," Ritter said. "Being the only senior, I know I'm going to have to step up and be a leader. This year we have quite a few girls out, which is always a huge plus. I have high expectations for this season, and I'm looking forward for what this year has to offer."

Both teams agree that they are looking forward to playing and are eager to begin. They kicked off their season at home last Tuesday against the Bobcats from Western Plains.

The schedule:
Friday, Nov. 30 – vs. Western Plains.

Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4, 7 and 8 – Castle Rock Tournament at Quinter.

Friday, Dec. 14 – at Weskan.
Tuesday, Dec. 18 – vs. St. Francis.

Friday, Jan. 4 – vs. Brewster-Triplains at Rexford.

Monday, Jan. 7 – WKLL play-in games at Wheatland-Grinnell.

Tuesday, Jan. 8 – WKLL quarter finals at Wheatland-Grinnell.

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 11 and 12 – WKLL semi-finals/finals at Colby.

Friday, Jan. 18 – at Palco.

Tuesday, Jan. 22 – at Quinter.

Friday, Jan. 25 – vs. Northern Valley.

Tuesday, Jan. 29 – at Cheylin-McDonald.

Friday, Feb. 1 – at Logan.

Tuesday, Feb. 5 – at Hill City.

Friday, Feb. 8 – vs. Healy.

Tuesday, Feb. 12 – at Brewster-Triplains.

Friday, Feb. 15 – at Wheatland-Grinnell.

Friday, Feb. 22 – vs. Cheylin.

Monday to Saturday, Feb. 25 to March 2 – substate.

Wednesday to Saturday, March 6 to 9 – State at Fort Hays State University.

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