

Colby wrestlers ranked by coaches

By Kayla Cornett

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The Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association released its third rankings last week and Colby High held its place as the No. 1 team in Class 4A.

According to Clint Harden of CatchItKansas.com, the 4A rankings are "the most stable classification in the state."

"Not a single top-ranked wrestler moved down in the ranks or changed weight," he wrote.

After Colby, Bonner Springs is ranked second, Andale third, El Dorado fourth, Chanute fifth, Buhler sixth, Concordia seventh, Mulvane eighth, Tonga-

noxie ninth and Augusta 10th.

Two Eagles wrestlers are ranked at the top of their weight classes and six more in the top six:

- Dustin Reed, 126 pounds, first.
- Zell Bierberle, 285, first.
- Beau Brown, 182, third.
- Quade Woofter, 160, fourth.
- Andrew Taylor, 170, fourth.
- Macen Shull, 138, fifth.
- David Mainus, 106, sixth.
- Troy Quenzer, 195, sixth.

The varsity and junior varsity squads will have a home dual with Goodland beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the high school gym.

Lady Bulldogs squad challenged at tourney

By Hailee Spreser

Golden Plains High School

The annual Castle Rock Tournament in Quinter drew eight teams including Golden Plains, Hoxie, Ellis, Wheatland-Grinnell, Dighton, Quinter, Atwood and Cheylin.

The Lady Bulldogs came into the tournament as the No. 2 seed behind Hoxie and finished in fourth place, winning their first game, but losing the next two.

"Throughout the tournament, we worked well together as a team," said junior Kylie Jones. "It was awesome having our fans and bench behind us all the way - win or lose."

Senior Angela Ritter reflected on her last year of the Castle Rock Tournament: "Overall, even though Castle Rock is always an exhausting week, I was proud of the positive attitude we all maintained throughout. Despite a couple of losses, I feel we were really able to grow and improve as a team. Although it didn't end how we wanted to, there is a lot that we were able to learn and grow from to improve on for our future games."

In their first game, Golden Plains played the No. 7-seeded Rawlins County-Atwood Lady Buffaloes on Dec. 4. The Lady Bulldogs entered into this matchup with a record of 1-0. Golden Plains started off with slow defense in the first quarter. The girls permitted Atwood 15 points, but the Lady Bulldogs managed to put 23 on the board. Better defense in the second quarter allowed Golden Plains to pull further ahead for a halftime score of 34-19.

Even with a huge lead, the

Lady Bulldogs didn't give up in the second half and continued to dominate Atwood. They put in 31 points, holding Atwood to 20 in the second half to whip their opponent 65-39.

Kylie Jones led in points with 17. Other scorers were Angela Ritter 14, Jordan Christensen 7, MiKayla Lobato, Hailee Spreser and Leea Juennemann 6 each, Kami Miller 5, Macayla Easton 3 and Kynndra Rush 1.

"It was awesome having so many underclassmen that can come in and keep the pace up," said Jones.

The Lady Bulldogs advanced to the winner's side of the bracket and took on the No. 3 Ellis Lady Railers Dec. 7. Golden Plains started off ahead 5-0, but as the quarter went on, Ellis crept up and got ahead of the Lady Bulldogs, 26-12. Golden Plains put up 15 points and held the Lady Railers to 7 in the second, putting the halftime score at 33-27 Ellis.

In the third quarter, baskets by Ritter, Juennemann and Christensen allowed the Lady Bulldogs to out-score Ellis 12-9, but Ellis still led by three, 42-39. Starting out the fourth quarter, Christensen made a three-pointer to tie up the game. From there for the next three minutes, Ellis would score and then Golden Plains would score to tie it up. As the fourth quarter wound down, Ellis pulled away from the Lady Bulldogs to win the game 63-57.

Christensen led the team with 18 points, followed by Ritter with 12, Spreser 10, Jones 7, Juennemann 4, Easton 4 and Miller and Lobato 2 each.

Golden Plains proceeded to

the consolation game against the Wheatland-Grinnell Lady Thunderhawks on Saturday. Golden Plains got the tip and immediately scored with a pass from Spreser to Christensen for a layup. Unfortunately, that was the only score for the Lady Bulldogs in the first quarter while the Lady Thunderhawks put in 10 points.

Christensen started off the second quarter with two free throws, and then Ritter followed with a basket. Jones put up two in a row, followed by Spreser, Ritter and Lobato. Ritter stole the ball for a layup for the last basket before halftime. The Lady Bulldogs scored 16 in the second quarter, setting the halftime score very close, 20-18 with Wheatland-Grinnell leading.

After the half, the Lady Thunderhawks went on a 7-point streak, then a 5-point streak, but still kept it a close game at the end of the third quarter, 34-29. In the fourth quarter, the Lady Bulldogs couldn't hold down the Lady Thunderhawks. Golden Plains lost, 50-41.

Leading the team was Jones with 12 points, Christensen 10, Ritter 6, Spreser 4, Miller 3 and Easton, Juennemann and Lobato 2 each.

"There's always going to be those few bumps in the path," said Ritter. "We just have to focus on what needs to be improved, show up to practice with the right mindset and work to get better every day."

The Lady Bulldogs' record stands at 2-2. They looked forward to their next games Friday in Weskan.

Broncos get ninth straight win

BALTIMORE (AP) - The Denver Broncos no longer can be considered a notch below the best in the AFC, nor can they be viewed as a team that can succeed only when Peyton Manning puts up dazzling numbers.

Their 34-17 rout of the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday showed just how good these Broncos can be.

Chris Harris returned an interception 98 yards for a momentum-turning touchdown, and Denver cruised to its ninth straight victory in surprisingly easy fashion.

Manning threw for 204 yards and a score in his ninth consecutive win against Baltimore, the first with the Broncos (11-3).

But he was merely a role player in this one, because Denver's defense dominated the Ravens, who

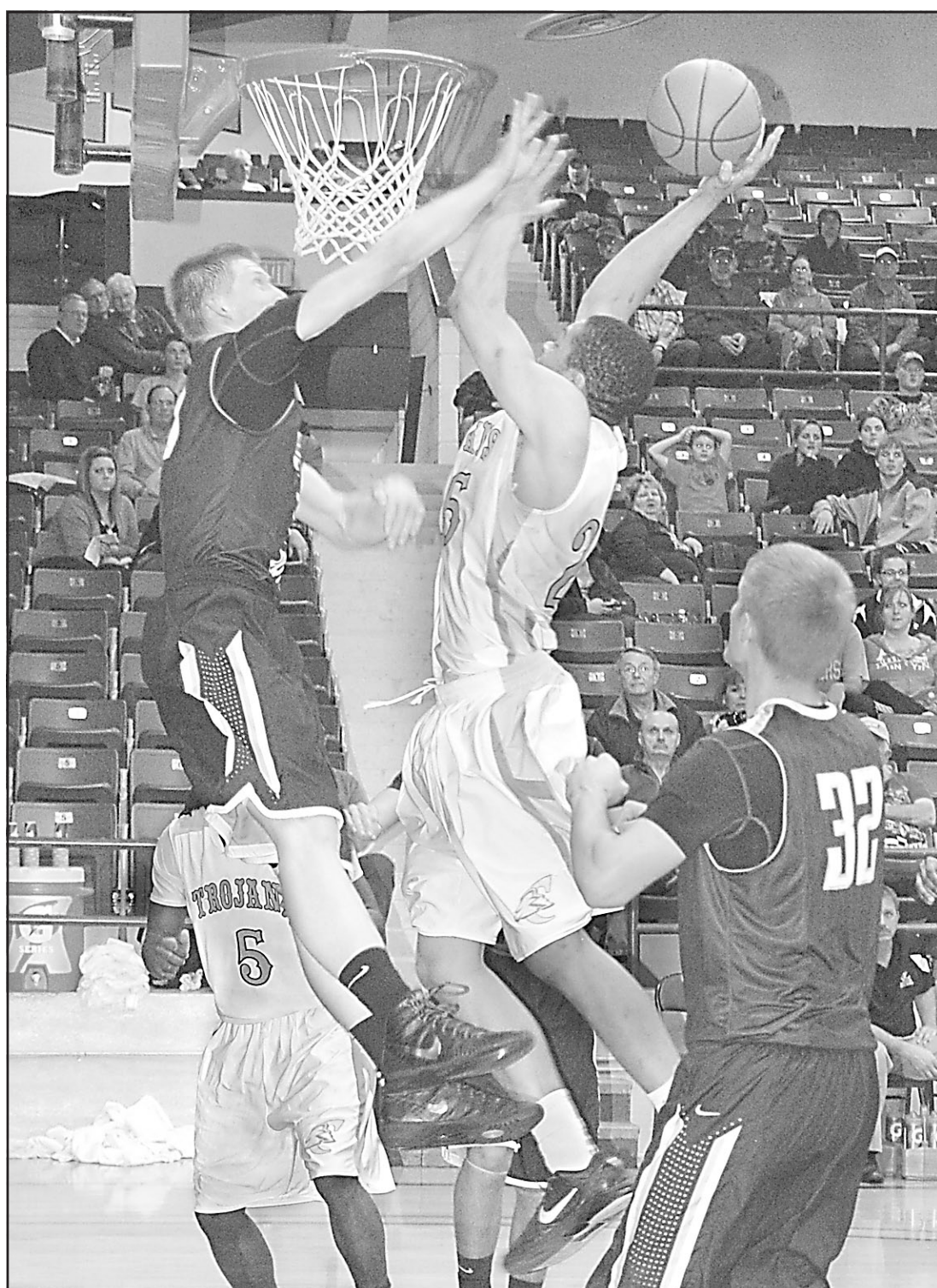
sputtered in their first game with Jim Caldwell as offensive coordinator.

This was supposed to be a test for Denver, which was 0-5 in Baltimore and was eager to face a quality opponent on the road.

Down 10-0 late in the first half, the Ravens had a first-and-goal at the Denver 4 when Harris stepped in front of Anquan Boldin, picked off a pass by Joe Flacco and sprinted down the right sideline with Flacco in pursuit. The quarterback tripped up Harris, who tumbled into the end zone, leaving Flacco flat on his stomach and with a cut lip.

It was the longest regular-season interception return in Broncos history, and it turned a close game into a rout.

Powering up



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
Kris Rolle powered himself to the basket Thursday during a Colby Community College men's basketball game at the Community Building. The Trojans defeated Air Force Prep 56-48.

Bulldogs win in Quinter

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School
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The Golden Plains High School boys basketball team gained its first win of the season in a consolation game of the Castle Rock Tournament in Quinter on Dec. 8 against the Wheatland-Grinnell Thunderhawks.

The boys suffered losses to Ellis and Cheylin in the first two rounds and were determined to bring home a win over the 'Hawks, who had lost to Dighton and Quinter for their first two rounds and to Cheylin in their season opener.

"We kept a positive attitude throughout the tournament despite our early losses," said junior Shane Ryburn.

Grant Spreser added, "We took control of the tempo in this game."

Tristan Schwarz opened the game with the first 2 of his 14 game, only to be answered with a 'Hawks basket as the contest got underway. Andrew Luna regained the lead for the Bulldogs, but the 'Hawks pumped in a three to pull back ahead.

Two successful free throws from Jose Bermudez tipped the game back in the Bulldogs' favor. Ryburn stepped into the action and scored 6 exciting points for the Bulldogs, with Joseph Koerperich adding 2 to give the 'Dogs a 14-7 lead at the end of the first

quarter.

Koerperich extended the lead by 2 in the second before the 'Hawks added 6 to close the gap. With solid teamwork by the Bulldogs and an assist from Grant Spreser, senior Camron Spreser scored his first 2 points of the season. The 'Hawks added a three at the end of the quarter to narrow the spread to 18-16 at the half in favor of the Bulldogs.

The boys continued to work together as a team in the third quarter, and with baskets from G. Spreser, Schwarz and Koerperich, they maintained a 28-23 lead going into the fourth. With determination and teamwork, the Bulldogs entered the fourth with momentum. They pumped in 4 consecutive three-pointers - three from Schwarz and one from Luna - to extend their lead to 40-25. Additional buckets from Ryburn and G. Spreser gave the 'Dogs a 44-27 lead with four minutes to play.

The 'Hawks played hard but the 'Dogs had a taste of victory and hung on for the win. Another three-point shot from Koerperich, a final steal and layup from Ber-

mudez sealed their first win of the season, 51-32.

"We stayed together well as a team," added Ryburn, "We communicated well."

The Bulldogs had 6 three-point shots fall in the game, five of them coming in the fourth quarter, and 4 from Schwarz. Schwarz finished the game with 14 points while Koerperich had 10, Ryburn 8, G. Spreser 6, Bermudez 6, Luna 5 and C. Spreser 2.

"This win will give us some momentum," said Grant Spreser.

Ryburn concluded, "We needed to get our first win to get the season going. We hope to get a couple more wins before the holiday break."

The boys worked well together, pulling down 42 rebounds, snatching 8 steals and helping each other with 11 assists. Schwarz led the team with 10 rebounds while Ryburn claimed 8, Koerperich, G. Spreser and Bermudez 6 each and C. Spreser 3.

The Bulldogs traveled to Weskan Friday and will play St. Francis at home on Tuesday before taking a couple of weeks off for the holidays.

Caring Like Family

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The angel said to them "A Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord"

In Loving Memory

In honor of Theron Johnson, the Johnson Family is sponsoring a LIVING NATIVITY December 17-21, 2012 2626 Highway K25, Colby, Kansas 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hot Cider and Fellowship will be provided.

A free-will offering may be made. All proceeds will benefit Genesis-Thomas County (local food bank)