

Winter sports hit halfway mark of season

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High winter sports teams are on break until next week, almost halfway through their schedules for the season.

The varsity wrestling squad has had a great season so far, still ranked first in the state in Class 4A.

The Eagles started the season in St. Francis for the Gabel/Jenkins Invitational, where they took first out of 12 teams with 207 1/2 points.

The team had five individual champions, a second-place finisher and three third places.

Colby then held home duals with St. Francis and Oakley and the boys outwrestled both. The Eagles dominated St. Francis 75-3 and defeated Oakley 62-12.

Next up was the Eagle Invitational, where Colby took second place out of 18 teams.

The varsity boys wrestled in seven duals over two days, winning all but one: the championship.

The Eagles then took first in the Holiday Classic Tournament in Goodland, winning five duals in one day.

The boys faced Norton in the championship dual and overcame the Bluejays 36-26.

Colby's final dual before winter break was at home against Goodland. The Eagles pulled out an-

other win, defeating the Cowboys 47-23.

The boys will head to Salina South High School for their next tournament, which will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5.

The varsity girls basketball team has an overall record of 3-2 and is 1-0 in Great West Activities Conference play.

The Lady Eagles started the season slow, losing their first two games: 43-33 to Hays High and 37-33 against Riley County.

But the girls got their stride back and are on a three-game win streak.

The Lady Eagles defeated Thomas More Prep-Marian 33-24; bounced back against Hays, winning 43-38 in their second meeting; and overcame Hugoton 47-33.

The Colby girls will begin the second half of their season at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in Holcomb.

The varsity boys has had a tough start, posting an 0-5 overall record and 0-1 league record.

The Eagles were crushed by Hays in their first game, 69-23, and Hays beat them again 63-29 a couple of weeks later.

Colby lost its second game to Riley County 57-39, then fell to Thomas More Prep 43-33 the next day and played a close game with Hugoton, losing 47-40.

The boys will return to action about 8 p.m. Thursday in Holcomb.



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior wrestler Beau Brown tried to pin his opponent earlier this month during the Eagle Invitational at the high school gym. The Eagles took second in their home tournament, winning six duals and losing just one.

Middle school boys lose two

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Middle School boys basketball teams played the Northern Valley Huskies in Alma, losing both games to the Huskies.

The Golden Plains A-team finishing with a 56-28 loss on Dec. 13 while the B-team suffering its first loss of the season, 44-25.

The A-team floundered in the first quarter while the Huskies jumped to a 20-0 lead. The Bulldogs found the basket in the second quarter with points from Dawson Spreser, Jesus Aragon and Devin Carter.

Down 29-7 at half, the Bulldogs continued to improve, as they added 11 points in the third and 10 in the fourth. Aragon finished the game with 11 points for the Bulldogs, A.J. Camacho added 6, Cole Bingham 5, Jacob Ritter 3, Carter 2 and Spreser 1.

The B-team boys managed just one free throw in the first quarter from Camacho, who added another 6 in the second along with 2 from Ritter. With a 19-9 lead at the half, the Huskies were determined to hold on, but the Bulldogs were not giving up, as Camacho added a three-pointer in the third and Ritter put up 8 points.

"We tried to make up points with our three-pointers to help us gain the lead," said Cama-

cho, "but they also shot a lot of threes."

Another basket from Carter gave the Bulldogs 13 points while the defense held the Huskies to 9 to close the gap to 29-22.

The Huskies stepped up the pace in the fourth with 16 points while Camacho's three-pointer was the only score for the Bulldogs.

"We almost caught up with them," added Ritter, "but they put a lot of pressure on us."

Camacho finished the game with 13 points along with 10 points from Ritter. Carter had 2.

With the 44-25 loss, the B-team went into the holiday break with a 5-1 record. They will play Cheylin in Rexford on Thursday.

Former Kansas coach back on the court

DALLAS (AP) – Larry Brown was a young assistant on coach Dean Smith's staff at North Carolina in the mid-1960s when he turned down his first head coaching offer.

At the time, Brown didn't think he was ready. But Smith asked him where he'd like to coach one day.

"I said, of course North Carolina, but I didn't ever want to see

him step down," Brown recalled. "So I said Stanford, Northwestern, Princeton and Vanderbilt...."

A record nine NBA jobs later, and a quarter century after leading Kansas to an NCAA title, the 72-year-old Brown found that kind of fit in his return to coaching this season at SMU.

For anyone who thought the Hall of Fame coach went to SMU as a figurehead for a struggling

program with a pending move to the ever-changing Big East Conference, it quickly becomes clear why he's back in the game.

Brown had to be told during early games to stay in the coaching box. He holds out his hands questioning a non-call by a referee, tries to prompt his team to run its play at the right pace and chides a player for hanging on the rim after a dunk.

During practice, Brown gets right in the middle of his post players to demonstrate what he wants them to do. He swishes a shot to start a drill, then moves up and down the court, waving his hands to direct the action.

Brown was hired in April to replace the fired Matt Doherty, who went 80-109 in six seasons. Brown left the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats in December 2010.

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