

Colby wrestlers are regional champions!

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High wrestling team traveled to Abilene for the Class 4A state regional wrestling tournament Friday and Saturday and came away champs – for the second consecutive year.

Christian D. Orr, writer for CatchItKansas.com, said Colby was the highest ranked team in the 15-team field, being ranked No. 2 in the state, according to the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association's latest poll.

"The Eagles made those standings stand up," Orr wrote, "as they roared from behind on Saturday and built up a total of 196 points, easily outdistancing Holton, who was unranked but had the lead after the opening day of the two-day tournament."

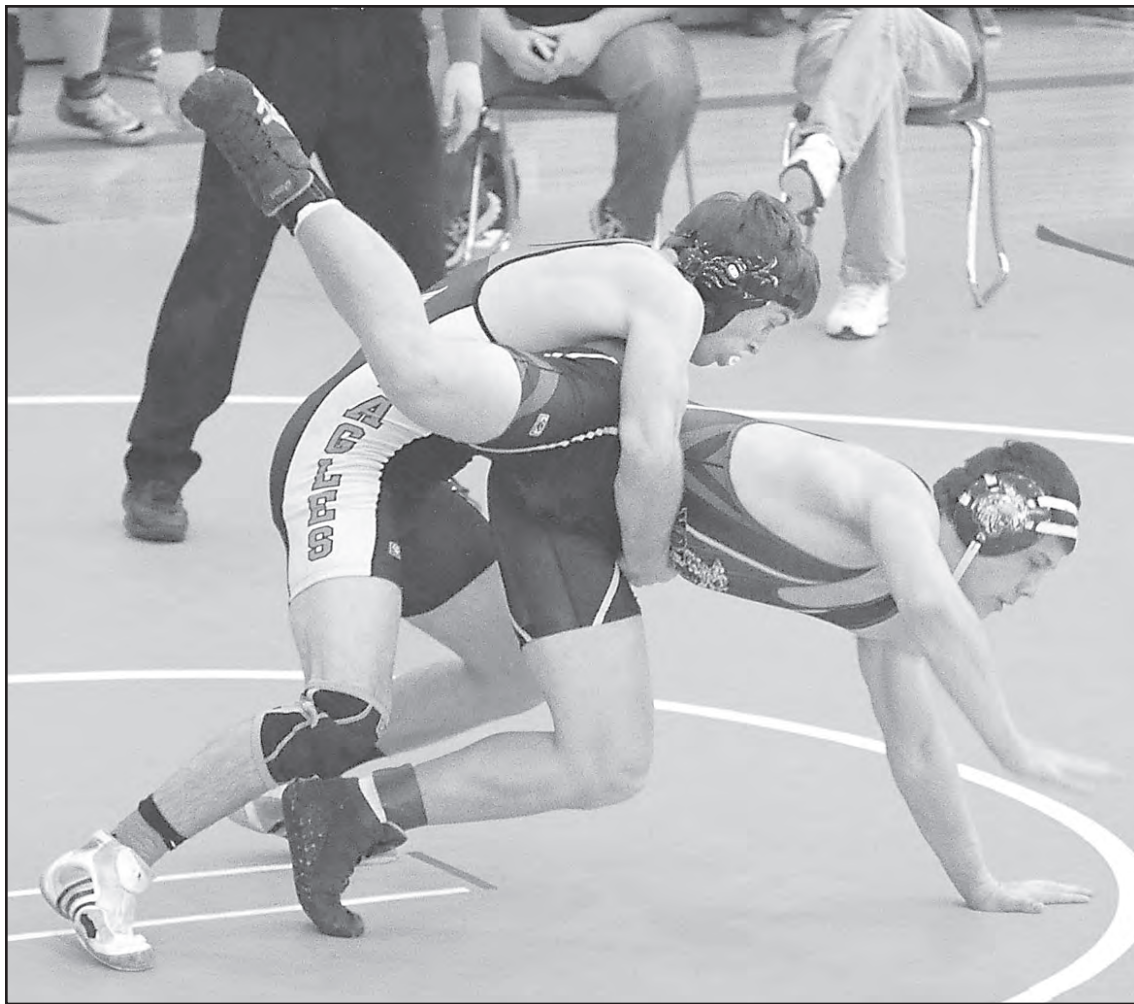
Orr said Holton finished in second place with 177.5 points while Smoky Valley, which was the only other of the 15 teams ranked in the latest coaches poll at No. 10, finished third with 142 points. Goodland took fourth with 135 points and Abilene rounded out the top five with 120.5 points.

The Eagles tied with Goodland and Holton for the key statistic from regionals: the number of individual state qualifiers. Each school had nine wrestlers qualify.

All 15 of the teams competing in the tournament qualified at least one individual for this week's Class 4A state tournament, Orr wrote.

"What helped the Eagles outdistance Holton and Goodland in the regional team standings," Orr wrote, "was the number of regional champions Colby earned."

Being a regional champion will also come up large at this week's state tournament, he said. There are four regional tournaments in the 4A classification and at the



state tourney, in the opening round a regional champion is matched up against a fourth-place finisher from another of the three regional tournaments, Orr said.

Therefore, second-place regional finishers are paired up against regional third-place winners in the opening round of the state tournament.

Colby had three regional champions: junior David Mainus, 106 pounds, senior Dustin Reed, 126, and senior Zell Bieberle, 285, all won their respective regional championship matches at Abilene Saturday night.

As for the other qualifiers, freshman Austin Hart, 220, took second

at regionals; senior Macen Shull, 138, third; senior Quade Woofter, 160, third; junior Andrew Taylor, third; senior Beau Brown, 182, fourth; and senior Troy Quenzer, 195, fourth.

The nine Colby wrestlers have been paired up with the opponents they will meet in the first round at the Salina Bicentennial Center on Friday:

- Mainus, who has a 34-3 record, will face freshman Emmanuel Browne of KC Sumner, who is 28-6 this season.
- Reed, 43-0, will wrestle junior Lane Rosenberg, 20-11, Labette County.
- Bieberle, 35-5, will meet se-

nior Steve Degollado, 22-14, Ulysses.

- Hart, 23-17, will face junior Jon Yates, 30-9, Buhler.

- Shull, 35-10, will wrestle senior Andrew Cannon, 15-3, Osawatomie.

- Woofter, 27-5, will meet senior Quentin Spainhower, 28-7, Augusta.

- Taylor, 35-5, will face freshman Jace McDown, 26-12, Columbus.

- Brown, 29-11, will wrestle junior Dalton Weidl, 38-5, Ottawa.

- Quenzer, 31-11, will meet senior Julius Coats, 32-4, Tonganoxie.

Andrew Taylor (left) took his opponent to the mat during the Class 4A regional wrestling tournament in Abilene. Austin Hart (below) looked relieved and exhausted as he hugged Coach Matt Sims after winning a match at regionals. Taylor and Hart both qualified for the state tournament, which begins Friday at the Salina Bicentennial Center. For more photos from the regional tournament, check out the *Colby Free Press*' Facebook page.

ADRIANE SIMS/for the Colby Free Press



Men's track second at regionals

The Colby Community College indoor men's track team had another record-breaking day at the Region VI Indoor Track and Field Championships on Friday.

The men finished second in the team standings with 104 points. In addition, Coach James Ortiz was selected as the 2013 Region VI Indoor Track and Field Coach of the Year.

The Trojans improved on last year's seventh-place team finish, which was previously the best finish in the college's Division I history.

The Trojan men started off with momentum on their side, leading the meet after the first six events. After a few mistakes and a few injuries, Colby dropped to sixth in the team standings after 17 events. Then the Trojan men closed out the meet by scoring 38

points in the final three events, securing second place.

All-Region first-team performances include:

- 4x800 meter relay team of Ashley Riley, Fabian Hayles, Robert Monticone and Josh Quiroga.

- Distance Medley relay team of Quiroga, Brandon Parson, Gabe Johnson and Damarius Lowery.

- 1,000 meters – Jonathan Burgess.
- Second-team performances include:
 - Long jump – Gennard Paul.
 - 1,000 meters – Monticone.
 - 3,000 meters – Peter Koskey.
 - 5,000 meters – Koskey.

Third-team performances include:

- 4x400 meter relay team of Hayles, Aaron

Lecesne, Parson and Anthony Stephens.

- Mile – Burgess.
- 5,000 meters – Juan Pacheco.

"This meet was big for us," said Ortiz. "Since the team is about 75 percent freshmen, it was a big test to see how they would respond to a long schedule and the high expectations of a championship meet. Everyone fought together for each other, and the success took care of itself."

"I could not be more proud of the efforts my guys exhibited. I've said it before and I'll say it again, 'It's a great day to be a Trojan.'"

The men's track team will compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association Indoor Track and Field Championships Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, in Lubbock, Texas.

College squads fall to Hutchinson

The Colby Community College men's and women's basketball teams played on the road in Hutchinson on Saturday.

The women, coached by Brady Jasper, were defeated 86-35 by the Hutchinson Lady Blue Dragons. The Hutchinson women's team is currently ranked third in the nation in Division I.

The men were also defeated by Hutchinson 89-66. The Blue

Dragon men are ranked fourth in Division I. The Trojan men are coached by Rusty Grafel.

The final regular-season home game for the Trojans was set for tonight against Barton Community College, but the games have been postponed.

Public Information Director Debbie Schwanke said the games will be at 5 and 7 p.m. Sunday at the Community Building.

Lady Bulldogs knock off Hill City girls

By Hailee Spresser

Golden Plains High School
The Golden Plains High School Lady Bulldogs traveled to Hill City to play the Hill City Lady Ringnecks, posting a 42-33 win.

The Lady Bulldogs came into this game Feb. 5 with a record of 13-2.

"When we first stepped on the floor, we were so pumped, but a little nervous," said junior Mi-Kayla Lobato.

In the first quarter, Golden Plains and Hill City fought to start the game with a lead. Hustle on both sides ended the first quarter with a tie at 12.

The second quarter brought impressive defense by the Lady Bulldogs, who held Hill City to just 2 points while Golden Plains in 11 points. That gave the girls a 23-14 lead at the half.

Coming out of the break, the Lady Ringnecks picked up their

pace. Hill City outscored Golden Plains by 1. The Lady Bulldogs ended the third up by 8 points, 34-26. In the fourth quarter, Hill City got in range of the Lady Bulldogs but couldn't take the lead. Golden Plains scored 8 to Hill City's 7, and the Lady Bulldogs won 42-33.

Jordan Christensen led with 15 points, Angela Ritter, Hailee Spresser and Kylie Jones put in 6 each, Lobato 5, Kami Miller 3 and Leea Juenemann 1. The Lady

Bulldogs nearly doubled Hill City in rebounding, 33-17.

"Teamwork was a key factor in this game and every game," Lobato said. "We had to work extra hard on defense because they were all three-point shooters. I am just so happy to have a team that loves to win and is willing to work hard in practice and take it to games."

The girls played their next game Feb. 8 at home against the Healy Lady Eagles.



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