

# Colby girls squad dominates Larned

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby High varsity girls basketball team won easily Tuesday, taking out Larned High School 54-11 in the first round of the Class 4A substate tournament held at the high school gym.

The Lady Eagles will play the next round in Pratt, where they will face Hugoton in the semifinals at 6 p.m. Friday.

The Colby girls started their scoring in the first minute with a three-point shot from senior Kenzie Curry. About 30 seconds later, senior McKenna Ortner scored another basket.

Larned scored 2 points early in the first quarter, but that would be all the Lady Eagles would allow.

The teams traded possessions for a couple of minutes until freshman Brenly Terrell sank 2 free throws at the 4:28 mark. A minute later, a foul by Larned sent junior Haileigh Shull to the line, where she made 1 of her 2 free throws.

Senior Lauren Bell got on the board with a three-pointer with 2:18 left in the quarter, followed by a two-pointer at 1:10. In between Bell's shot, senior Karly Kriss was 1 of 2 at the free-throw line. Curry closed out the first quarter with another three. The Lady Eagles led 17-2 heading into the second.

Larned made the first basket of the second quarter, a three-pointer, but the Lady Indians would manage only 1 more point before the half.

Sophomore Hannah Strange scored with 6:40 on the clock and Bell followed with another three about 20 seconds later. After a timeout by Larned, Kriss made a jumper with 4:35 left. Shull went back to the line for a one-and-one, making the first shot but not the second.

With about two minutes to play before halftime, Curry and Kriss each landed two more baskets and

Colby led 29-6 at the break.

The Lady Eagles piled on the points in the third, with Ortner getting 4 points within the first 30 seconds. With 5:27 on the board, Shull made a turn-around shot. Bell stayed hot with 2 more threes in the next couple of minutes.

Shull stole the ball with 3:20 left for another basket and Curry added a three-pointer at 2:55. Larned managed a three-point shot and a two-pointer, but a jumper by Bell set the score at 50-11 at the end of the third.

Larned couldn't get any shots to fall in the fourth while the Lady Eagles added 4 more with a basket from Bell and 2 free throws from Shull and Strange. Colby triumphed with a final score of 54-11.

Bell dominated the floor, scoring a game-high 18 points on 7 of 14 field goals, including 4 three-pointers. She had 9 rebounds, an assist and a block.

Curry followed with 11 points, going 4 of 6 from the field including 3 three-point baskets, and stole the ball 3 times.

Ortner finished with 8 points, 2 rebounds, an assist and 4 steals; Kriss grabbed 7 points, 4 rebounds, an assist, a block and 3 steals; Shull chipped in 5 points, 5 rebounds and 2 steals; Strange contributed 3 points, 4 rebounds and 1 block; and Terrell made 2 free throws and grabbed 4 rebounds, an assist and a steal.

The girls scored 37 points off Larned turnovers, pulled down 44 rebounds and scored 21 points from three-point shots.

KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Karly Kriss tried to make a jumper Tuesday during the Colby High varsity girls substate basketball game at the high school gym. The Lady Eagles crushed Larned in the first round, winning 54-11. The girls will play their next game at 6 p.m. Friday in Pratt against Hugoton.



# College men's team barely falls to Barton 67-65

The Colby Community College men's basketball team lost a close game to Barton County Community College 67-65 Sunday at the Community Building in the men's last home game of the season.

"It was a very exciting game down to the last second," said Coach Rusty Grafel. "It was a game and a situation every player wants to be in. Unfortunately,

we didn't get the big stop we needed.

"Sophomores John Clarke and Kris Rolle played their last game in that gym on Sunday. They will be greatly missed. They are two young athletes who have matured into men in the last two years, and both do more than what is asked of them.

"I can't say enough good things about

both of them, but I would like to say 'thanks' again."

The Trojans kept pace with Barton early in the game, but by the end of the first half, the men trailed 28-21.

Colby doubled its points in the second half, outscoring Barton 44-39. But Barton edged Colby out in the end and got the win 67-65.

Rolle had a game-high 17 points, including 5 of 5 free throws. He also grabbed 11 rebounds and an assist.

Jeremiah Ingram followed with 16 points and 5 rebounds; Terry Starks finished with 11 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists and a block; Clarke chipped in 8 points, 5 rebounds and a block; Brandon Williams had 8 points, 4 rebounds and an assist; and Cody Sluder contributed 7 points, 3 rebounds and a steal.

The men, now 12-18 for the season, and 3-13 in the Kansas Jayhawk Conference West Division, were in Pratt Wednesday and will play in the first round of the Region VI playoffs on Saturday at the higher seed's location.

# Titan teams win substate games

By Michele Werth

Brewster Schools

The Triplains-Brewster Boys (10-10) continued their roll, winning the first-round game of substate play Tuesday against Wheatland-Grinnell, 44-39.

The Thunderhawks scored the first 4 points, but that would be their only lead as the Titans went on an 11-0 run and never looked back.

The Brewster-Triplains boys have worked hard all year and finally turned the corner, learning how to complete a game and get a victory.

"The boys played hard the whole game and won it with suffocating defense," said Coach Michael Collett.

The team will play the Cheylin Cougars in semifinal action at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Colby Community Building.

Seniors Michael Schmidt and Will Allen led the team. Schmidt had 14 points, 2 assists, 1 blocked shot, 4 rebounds, 4 steals and 1 deflection, and Allen made 10 points, 2 assists, 2 rebounds, 1 steal and 1 deflection.

Senior Dan Brown put in a three-point basket and added an assist. Junior Seth Smith put up 13 points, 2 assists, 2 rebounds, 6 steals and 2 deflections, while Junior Nathan Jorgensen had 6 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 deflections.

Freshman Ryan Gfeller contributed 3 assists, 1 rebound, 5 steals and 2 deflections, and sophomore

Jace Jorgensen had an assist.

As a team, the boys shot 42 percent from two-point land and 35 percent from three-point range.

The Lady Titans edged out Cheylin to earn a spot in the semifinals; they'll play Weskan tonight at the Community Building.

It was a hard match for the girls, who struggled for the 48-46 win. They seized the lead in the final moments after trailing most of the second half.

Sophomores Shayna Rogge and Dara Roulier led the Lady Titans. Rogge made 21 points (shooting 43 percent), 14 rebounds and 3 steals, while Roulier put in 11 points (40 percent), 10 rebounds and 1 steal.

Brittany Plummer made 6 points, 5 rebounds and 1 steal. Alicia Barrie put in 6 points and 5 rebounds. Crystal Mays had 1 rebound. Off the bench, C.J. Lewallen made 2 points and 3 rebounds; Kelly Lamb scored 2 points and 2 rebounds; and April Mays grabbed 3 rebounds and 1 assist.

For the Cougars, Stephanie Busse had 18 points and 19 rebounds; Elizabeth Peltz put up 11 points and 14 rebounds; and Shayla Hubbard scored 9 points, 5 steals and 4 assists.

In other semifinal action, the top-ranked Golden Plains girls (18-2) will face the Wallace County Lady Wildcats (13-9) at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. In boys action on Friday, the second-rated Wallace County Wildcats (16-5) will face the Weskan Coyotes (15-5) at 6 p.m.

# Golden Plains A-team second in league

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains Middle School A-team girls placed second in the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament on Feb. 9 in Brewster.

The girls entered the tournament with an 8-3 record, sitting third behind Grinnell-Wheatland and Logan.

They played the Brewster-Triplains Lady Titans in the first round on Feb. 7, easily defeating them 49-14 by pulling ahead 16-0 in the first quarter. As the game advanced, the girls worked well together to extend their lead to 27-2 by half.

The Lady Titans came back to score 10 points in the third, but the Lady Bulldogs held on to their lead by adding 12.

They finished the game with 10 more points in the fourth while holding the Lady Titans to 2.

KayCee Miller scored 18 points for the Lady Bulldogs along with Morgan Ritter 8, Courtney Heinrich 6, Carmen Sepulveda 6, Jessica Koerperich 5, Gabrielle Schiltz 4 and Brittany Fringer 2.

"Everyone played really good. I have the best team and coaches! Proud to be part of such a great team!" exclaimed Kellee Snyder.

This first round win allowed the girls to advance to the semifinals on Feb. 9 to play Lo-

gan. Logan had defeated the Lady Bulldogs early in the season and the girls were ready for the challenge.

The Lady Bulldogs jumped out to a 9-2 lead in the first. Both teams scored 11 in the second, but the Golden Plains girls kept a 20-13 lead going into the half.

The Lady Bulldogs struggled a bit in the third, as they only made a basket and a free throw while the Lady Trojans made 8, so the Bulldogs barely had a 2-point lead going into the fourth.

The Lady Bulldogs made 5 of their 9 free throw attempts in the fourth quarter along with a basket as the defense held the Lady Trojans to 4. The Lady Bulldogs slipped past the Lady Trojans 30-25 and into the championship game.

Scoring for the Lady 'Dogs in the semifinal game were Miller 10, Schiltz 6, Ritter 6, Koerperich 5, Heinrich 2 and Fringer 1.

The Lady Bulldogs had to face the Grinnell-Wheatland Lady Thunderhawks in the championship game of the tournament. The Lady 'Hawks were ranked No. 1 in the tournament and had defeated the Lady Bulldogs in both of their previous encounters this season.

The Lady Thunderhawks demonstrated their strength as they held the Lady Bulldogs to 5 points in the first quarter, pulling ahead 12-5. The Lady Bulldogs answered with 12 in the second, allowing the Lady 'Hawks 8.

Following a close 20-17 halftime score,

the Thunderhawks took over in the second half, scoring 10 points in the third and the fourth while holding the Lady Bulldogs to 9 in the second half for a final score of 40-26.

Miller put in 17 of the Lady Bulldog points. Schiltz scored 5 and Ritter 4. The Lady Bulldogs finished their season with a 10-4 record as Western Kansas Liberty League tournament runner-up.

The girls all agreed that they improved this season on working together as a team, becoming more aggressive, and on defense.

"We also improved on not allowing the other team control how we play," said Ritter. They all had a good time this season as they bonded as a team. Snyder said her favorite part of the season was "getting to play with a great team. It is the best feeling getting able to go out there and have fun with friends."

"I had the best time of my life playing basketball," Miller said. "It was very fun playing for Mr. Smith. I am very proud of all the girls this year."

"We worked hard to get the championship game and I'm glad to be a part of this team," Arianna Camacho added.

The girls are looking forward to next season. They plan to continue to work hard to develop their shooting and other skills.

"We did very well this year, and I'm really excited for high school basketball," eighth grader Ritter concluded.

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