

Young wrestlers third at Goodland tourney

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
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The Colby Kids Wrestling Club came in third place at the Goodland Invitational on Saturday, placing higher than 20 other teams.

The Atwood Kids Wrestling Club grabbed the top spot followed by Chanute in second and Colby third. Ellis finished fourth, Goodland fifth, Hays sixth, Hill City seventh, Hoxie eighth, Kearney (Neb.) ninth, Leoti 10th, an unnamed team from Colorado 11th, Norton 12th, Oakley 13th, Oberlin 14th, Phillipsburg 15th, Plainville 16th, Prairie Rattlers (Colo.) 17th, Scott City 18th, St. Francis 19th, Stockton 20th, Tribune 21st, Ulysses 22nd and Wakeney 23rd.

Wrestling for Colby in the 6 and Under category were Tucker Wark, 56 pounds, with 18 points scored; Kaeden McCarty, 43, 17 points; Aden Reilley, 39, 14 points; Talon Wark, 47, 12 points; Nathan Cates, 36, 9 points; Jack Delzeit, 45, 8 points; Clayton Barton, 48, 2 points; and Jaxson Carney, 46, no points.

In the 8 and Under category, Conner Lanning, 56, had

17 points; Roberto Loya, 66, 11 points; Keden Frahm, 62, 7 points; Baylei Kraft, 56, 4 points; Dawsyn Lemman, 74, 4 points; and Aaron Lindsey, 47, 3 points.

In 10 and Under, Rojelio Loya, 75, got 15 points; Cade Lanning, 81, 10 points; Riley Kraft, 74, 9 points; Hagan Booi, 99, 8 points; Braden Schritter, 71, 6 points; Matthew Schritter, 74, 6 points; Bradyn Blackhart, 87, 6 points; Steele Brown, 75, 5 points; and Declan Ryan, 142, 2 points.

In the 12 and Under group, Rathe Aschenbrenner, 71, grabbed 9 points; Sean Rall, 109, 12 points; Kurt Schroeder, 71, 6 points; Konnor Griffin, 76, 5 points; Zachary Hart, 118, 4 points; Austin Reed, 79, 3 points; and Mason Wright, 82, 2 points.

For the 14 and Under category, Tate Carney, 104, had 16 points; Austin Hart, 202, 16 points; Alex Young, 124, 11.5 points; Tanner Reed, 105, 10 points; Bryce Arnberger, 144, 9 points; Tanner Elias, 110, 2 points; Colyn Gugelman, 195, 2 points; and Shevin Martin, 124, no points.

In the high school group, Brett Schroeder, 131, got 5.5 points; Ernie Leija, 97, 4 points; Matthew Pieper, 157, no points; and Ethan Jay, 250, no points.



A wrestler from the Colby Kids Wrestling Club worked on his opponent Saturday during the Goodland Invitational at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Colby wrestlers took third out of 23 teams at the tournament.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Goodland Star-News

College western team qualifies seven riders

The Colby Community College western team competed March 1 at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis. Seven Colby riders qualified for regionals and two will be moving on to the Western Semifinals in Syracuse, N.Y., the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and 24.

Individual results are listed below:

Open Reining: Heather Darling, Abilene, first; Jade Kruse, Oakley, third; William Wright, Louisburg, fifth.

Novice Horsemanship: Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, first.

Advanced Horsemanship: Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., third.

Open Horsemanship: Darling, fourth.

Intermediate Horsemanship: Liz Leiker, Wakeney, third.

Wright was the Reserve High Point rider for the Region. Darling and Normand will be moving on

to semifinal competition. The Colby western team was second in the region overall.

The hunt seat team competed on March 2 in Boulder, Colo., at the University of Colorado practice facility. Four Colby riders qualified with three moving on to Hunt Seat Zones to be held at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colo.

Individual results are listed below:

Intermediate Fences: Brady, third.

Novice Fences: Normand, first; Brady, second.

Walk Trot Canter: Amanda Barnum, Colby, first; Amanda Reed, Brookville, reserve.

Open Flat: Brady, second.

Normand, Barnum and Brady qualified for the Hunt Seat Zone competition. The hunt seat team finished second in the region overall.

The team is coached by Shanda Mattix. She is assisted by Katie Crone.

K-State to play Oklahoma State

By Doug Tucker
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It didn't seem to matter what Rodney McGruder did — fire away over the Texas zone, pull up in the lane or take a pass from Angel Rodriguez down low.

There was no way the Longhorns were stopping No. 11 Kansas State's all-conference senior, who scored 24 points to lead the Wildcats to a 66-49 victory over the Longhorns on Thursday night in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 tournament.

"It all starts with our fans, how much they support us," said McGruder. "They push us to so hard, we know what we're doing is not only for ourselves but also the Manhattan (Kan.) community. It just feels good to do big things for our community."

McGruder, who ranks in the top 10 in 14 of Kansas State's career

categories, also had a team-high seven rebounds as the second-seeded Wildcats (26-6) whipped the Longhorns for the third time this year.

Julien Lewis scored 13 points and Jonathan Holmes had 10 for Texas (16-17), which trailed almost the entire game and is in grave danger of missing the NCAA tournament for the first time in 15 years.

"I'm disappointed," said Texas coach Rick Barnes. "I think when you have high expectations in anything you're going to be disappointed. I'm disappointed. I think we could have won this game...."

The Wildcats, who tied No. 7 Kansas for their first regular-season conference title since 1977, will face No. 14 Oklahoma State in the semifinals Friday night.

"It's a good win," said Kansas State coach Bruce Weber, whose shooters spent most of the game trying to solve the Texas zone. "I

told the guys I thought they would play zone. So it wasn't unexpected. And when you saw that starting lineup, you knew they were going to do it."

The Wildcats held a 43-36 lead midway through the second half when McGruder's one-handed floater ignited the run that put the game out of reach. A moment later, the 6-4 senior stole the ball at midcourt, drew a foul and then connected on a 3-pointer over the Longhorns' zone. D.J. Johnson followed with a dunk and McGruder added a pair of 3-pointers.

McGruder's 10 field goals tied the school record for a conference tournament game.

"We're living into the second day," said Weber. "Now let's see if we can get to the championship."

Sheldon McClellan and Lewis hit back-to-back 3-pointers after Kansas State's 11-0 run to cut the lead to 58-47, but that was as close as the Longhorns would get.

Kansas rolls Texas Tech, will play Iowa State tonight

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Top-seeded Kansas wasn't about to let itself get lulled into a sense of apathy by playing an early afternoon game in the Big 12 tournament.

It helped that the Jayhawks had a partisan crowd behind them in the Sprint Center.

It also helped that they had Iowa State awaiting them in the semifinals.

Ben McLemore scored 24 points and the hot-shooting, seventh-ranked Jayhawks rolled to a 91-63 rout of Texas Tech on Thursday, setting up a third matchup with the Cyclones that basketball fans can only hope lives up to the drama of their first two games this season.

"Those two games may be the two most exciting games played in our league this year," said Kansas coach Bill Self, whose team emerged victorious in overtime on both occasions.

If Kansas shoots it like it did Thursday, regulation might suffice this time.

Anrio Adams had a career-high 11 points as the Jayhawks (27-5) shot 66 percent from the field (31 of 47), the best mark by any team in a Big 12 tournament game, and finished 9 of 18 from beyond the arc.

They also went 20 of 23 from the foul line, putting on a show for a crowd that included new Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith, who sat a few rows behind the Texas Tech bench.

"We were pretty efficient offensively when we didn't turn it over," Self said.

Dejan Kravic scored 20 points, Dusty Hannahs added 15 and Jordan Tolbert had 13 for the Red Raiders, (11-20), who head into the offseason awaiting the fate of interim coach Chris Walker.

The longtime assistant took

over in October, shortly after Billy Gillispie submitted a letter of resignation citing health concerns, and has been told he'll be a candidate for the job.

"I'm going to take it day-by-day," Walker said. "There's a process we're going through at Tech. I'm certainly aware of it, and I think it's a good thing."

The Jayhawks, wearing their special, Zubaz-like Adidas uniforms, raced out to a 15-2 lead in the opening minutes, getting into transition and easily taking the ball to the basket.

McLemore, their star freshman, hit a pair of 3-pointers after missing his first nine tries against the Red Raiders during the regular season. He also added a mid-range jumper, a soaring dunk in transition and a couple of free throws before Texas Tech could slow him down.

The Red Raiders stormed back to make it close by halftime.

Kravic, whose buzzer-beating tip-in Wednesday night helped Texas Tech beat West Virginia, followed up a 3-pointer by Jamal Williams by scoring the Red Raiders' next nine points.

His jumper midway through the

second half forced Self, his face red with fury, to call a timeout and lay into a starting lineup that includes four seniors.

Kansas slowly settled down and led 35-25 at the break, and after Tolbert hit a couple free throws early in the second half, the Jayhawks ripped off an 18-4 run to put the game away.

It started when McLemore got loose in the corner opposite the Kansas bench and, with a silky smooth stroke, poured in his third 3-pointer of the game. Young added a dunk, Withey scored inside and McLemore hit again from beyond the arc as Walker burned another timeout for Texas Tech.

Later in the run, Travis Releford got ahead on a fast break and converted a layup as he was clobbered from behind by the Red Raiders' Josh Gray. The officials ruled it a flagrant foul, and the senior from Kansas City made both of his free throws to give the Jayhawks a 52-31 lead.

The Jayhawks emptied their bench in the closing minutes, the game well in hand, giving their starters the luxury of looking ahead to at least one more game with the Cyclones.

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