

Eagle golfers debut with three high places

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
rbheadley@nwks.com

Lightning's never a good word on the golf course, and a few more not very good words probably described those Cimarron course "lightning-fast" greens Tuesday afternoon.

"Not to make excuses, but it's hard to practice 100-foot putts. That's how big some of the greens were, and they were really fast," Colby High coach Mark Williams said about the season-opening tournament. "Plus they've gotten a lot of rain there, and that made the roughs really gnarly."

Gnarly's not necessarily a favorite word, either, along with "undulating" that further described the Cimarron greens.

Yet despite all these obstacles, the Eagles delivered a very respectable season-opening effort.

In fact, their team score of 212 at this nine-hole showdown took third among 12 teams competing.

Only Larned (200) and host Cimarron (207) fired lower scores, while Colby finished five strokes better than defending Great West Athletic Conference champion Goodland (212).

"But they (Goodland) didn't have all their top players there," Williams said even if it did toss a proverbial bucket of water on this electric performance. "We didn't beat the good Goodland team. But overall, I thought everyone hit the



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Sophomore Miranda Kern delivered a state-qualifying effort last season, and she was one of three Colby Eagles to reach the top 10 at Cimarron in Tuesday's season opener.

firing 51 to finish ninth. "Andrea hit the ball about the best I've ever seen, which makes her score a little odd since she's such a good putter," Williams observed.

Sophomore Miranda Kern (52, 10th) gave the Eagles a trio of top 10 placers. All three played major roles on Colby's state-qualifying team from one year ago.

Meanwhile, sophomore Elisa Zerr delivered her career-best nine-hole score (59) to complete Colby's 212 total.

"The putting cost us. I'd say we could have shaved another six or eight strokes off each of those scores with better putts," the coach observed. "But that's why we go down to southwest Kansas, to see courses like what we saw at Cimarron. Because that's the kind of greens we will see at state tournament time. It's part of the preparation."

Another pair of Colby golfers competed on Tuesday as freshman Isabelle Rosales shot 65 and sophomore Jenna Crampton finished at 68.

After another lengthy road trip, the Colby golfers will be right back in action at Tuesday's Hugoton Invitational where Williams expects similar challenges.

They'll be closer to home next Tuesday when competing in the Goodland Invitational against those long-time league rivals.

Watch for results and details all season in the *Free Press*.

ball really well."

Senior Haley Mengel's 50 paced the Eagles while placing sixth among a field that featured more than 80 players.

Classmate Andrea Barton was only one stroke behind Mengel,

Golfers scramble for Meadow Lake titles

The Meadow Lake golf season rolled along as both ladies and men played scrambles last week.

Ladies Night

A total of 11 ladies competing in the 2-lady scramble Tuesday evening.

The top three placing duos

were: 1. Kristy McCarty-Audrey Hines, 2. Michelle Spence-Audrey Hines, 3. Cheryl Edmundson-Wanda Brown.

Men's Night

Actually, men played scramble format on odd holes and best ball with even holes during their com-

petition Wednesday evening.

As usual, first names were not obtained for the top placers.

Flight one: 1. Brown-Karnes, 2. Suter-Garcia, 3. Edmundson-Jones.

Flight two: 1. Kern-White, 2. VanHorn-Kriss, 3. Dennler-Au-

K-State players remember fan

MANHATTAN (AP) — Kansas State football players are all wearing bracelets these days.

They are made of rubber. They are colored purple. And they mean a great deal to everyone who knows the story behind them.

Sophomore quarterback Daniel Sams wears one on each wrist, and happily rolled up the sleeves of his sport coat earlier this week to show them off during an interview.

"I wear two of them," Sams said. "The whole team has them."

The bracelets honor the memory of Braxton Kooser, a K-State fan who died in a car accident at the age of 14 in January.

Braxton regularly attended games with his family — both parents are K-State alums and season-ticket holders — and was an athlete himself, playing football and baseball at Derby High.

Braxton was in attendance for K-State's final game of 2012 and watched the Wildcats defeat Texas to clinch their first Big 12 championship since 2003.

His family celebrated by running onto the field.

As the stadium emptied, he stayed on the field and took a picture looking up with his arms spread wide.

He would later call it "a night I will never forget."

"He was a huge fan," said Alana Kooser, Braxton's mother. "Braxton's whole room is Kansas State."

Braxton died when the Dodge Durango he was riding in spun off the road and rolled over several times into a ditch on Jan. 26.

He was on the way home from a movie with friends, and pronounced dead on the scene.

Afterward, students at Derby

and two other area schools paid tribute by wearing purple.

Coach Bill Snyder and K-State president Kirk Schulz sent flowers and hand-written letters to the family.

Now the Wildcats are getting in on the act with purple bracelets that feature Braxton's name.

Some players, including quarterback Jake Waters, wore them during Friday's opener.

"It is amazing and very humbling," Alana Kooser said. "We knew that the players had been wearing them, but we didn't expect to see them during the game. We got to meet some players afterward and they all came out with them on. It was a very special moment, and it meant a lot to us."

It's these kind of stories that are sometimes forgotten, especially after a tough 24-21 loss like Friday night to North Dakota State.

Golden girls go for the gold



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School
The Golden Plains High School cheerleaders display some trophies and other awards earning during recent competition. From left are MiKayla Lobato, Gabrielle Schiltz, Jessica Koerperich, Kylie Jones, Kami Miller, Kellee Snyder and Macayla Easton. Other cheerleaders and the Colby High School dance team are featured in today's Fall Sports Preview section.

Titans, Bulldogs play openers

Both the Brewster-Triplains Titans and Golden Plains Bulldogs split their opening two volleyball matches at Tuesday's Golden Plains Triangular.

Brewster-Triplains rallied for a victory over host Golden Plains 17-25, 25-22, 25-23.

Golden Plains earlier swept a match from Logan 25-23, 25-18.

However, Logan also rallied for a 17-15, 25-9, 25-23 triumph over Brewster-Triplains which means all three teams finished 1-1.

The junior varsity volleyball featured Brewster-Triplains prevailing over Golden Plains 25-17, 8-25, 15-7.

No other details were provided for today's edition. However, watch for a complete story and photos later this week.

Other upcoming events as fall sports hits full speed throughout this week:

Today

College volleyball - Hutchinson at Colby, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Golf: Colby at Hugoton, 3 p.m.

Tennis: Colby at Hays, 3 p.m.

JV tennis: Colby at Scott City, 3 p.m.

C volleyball: Colby Quadrangular, 4 p.m.

Junior high football: Colby at Goodland, 4:30 p.m.

Cross country: Colby at Goodland Invitational, 5 p.m.

Friday

College cross country - Colby Invitational, 6 p.m.

Football - Oakley at Colby, 7 p.m.

Football - Healy/Western Plains at Brewster, 7 p.m.

Football - Quinter at Golden Plains, 7 p.m.

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God bless all those who answer our nation's call to defend our great country's freedoms!
Vet, SSgt. Matthews USMC 3rd Recon Bn.

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