

Big-play Bluejays erase 22-10 Colby lead

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

Don't worry, Colby High's first lead all football season will not be its last if the Eagles keep playing like Friday night against visiting Norton.

The crazy-fun roller-coaster ride leading to an eventual 37-22 Norton victory clearly left everyone wearing Colby colors a little sick.

Yet it also showed with more experience and better halftime adjustments, the Eagles could soon be capturing that elusive first win.

"They (Norton) blitzed a little more than they had before, and that hurt us in the second half," coach Chris Gardner said about Colby letting a 22-10 halftime advantage slip away. "So did their quarterback draw (plays). I just have to get them better prepared on how to handle a lead."

Norton sophomore quarterback Jordan Dole will be a tough load to handle for many opponents during these next two-plus seasons.

The 200-pounder showed both power and speed as his 68-yard touchdown run ignited that Bluejay comeback.

Norton (4-2 record) delivered three more scores in the final quarter. A pair came on fourth-down plays, including senior halfback Tanner Furbush's 21-yard gameteating journey to pigskin paradise.

The ensuing extra-point kick made it 23-22 and sent Norton to its fourth consecutive victory. Another pair of TDs in the final minutes sealed this win.

Meanwhile, Colby (0-6) remained winless despite a powerful first-half effort.

Everyone will remember the remarkable 16-point flurry that took less than 59 seconds before halftime. It matched Colby's highest scoring effort in five previous entire games this fall.

Yet it was an absolutely beastly performance from linebackers Bryce Arnberger, Eric Schuette, Garrett Rose and senior leader Andrew Taylor which really set the strong Colby tone.

Together, they would eventually make 32 sacks with several huge stops holding Norton a first-quarter field goal.

Even when Furbush's first touchdown of the game created a 10-0 advantage, Colby defense kept this contest within striking range.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby defenders swarmed around Norton sophomore quarterback Jordan Dole (1) during an impressive first half where the Eagles built a 22-10 advantage. However, Dole's later 68-yard touchdown run on a quarterback draw ignited the 27-point Bluejays second half.

Junior Josh Matchell ignited the first touchdown drive with speedy quarterback runs covering 14 and 25 yards. Matchell not only dashed outside, he showed great ability to cut back and elude potential Norton tacklers.

Moments later, sophomore Matt Pieper showed how power can still top speed. He covered the final seven yards and refused to be stopped until falling into Norton's end zone.

Of course, the score would never have been possible without linemen Austin Hart, Brady Slinger, Casey Quagliano and Arnberger — all sophomores — along with other strong Eagle blockers.

Still trailing 10-6, Colby's most fun all season was about to begin.

The defense continued its relentless pursuit, as senior Austin Boehme and junior Jay Ziegelmeier broke through for a huge fourth-down quarterback sack.

Not even one unfortunate lost fumble inside Norton's 15 could deter the Eagles.

Another Arnberger tackle forced the next punt, and Colby's amazing 59-second flurry was un-

derway.

First, Matchell dropped back and spotted sophomore Brady Holzmeister behind the last Bluejay defender.

His pass hit Holzmeister almost perfectly in stride, and nobody came close to even touching him while giving Colby that first lead in five-plus games this season.

Taylor delivered the punishing two-point conversion run, but no one was satisfied with 14-10. The Eagles wanted more.

"It was a well-executed pooch kickoff," Gardner observed.

The Bluejays weren't as prepared, letting that football bounce around until Colby senior Austin Hartwell recovered inside Norton's 30.

Matchell followed with another excellent pass that senior Adam Giersch pulled down inside the two.

Enough time remained for Matchell to take that next snap and dash around left end again. He faced more obstacles than earlier runs, yet dove across the end-zone pylon to make it Colby 20, Norton 10.

Eagle leaders on Friday

Complete Colby varsity stats from the varsity football game with Norton at Dennen Field:

Offense

Passing: Josh Matchell 6 completions in 14 attempts for 129 yards, 1 touchdown, 1 interception.

Receiving: Brady Holzmeister 4 catches, 95 yards and 1 TD; Adam Giersch 1 for 26; Matt Pieper 1 for 8.

Rushing: Matchell 12 carries for 46 yards and 1 TD; Pieper 9 for 39 and 1 TD; Andrew Taylor 12 for 27.

All-purpose yards (rushing, receiving, kick returning): Holzmeister 126, Giersch 55, Pieper 48, Matchell 46, Taylor 27.

Defense

Total tackles: Andrew Taylor 10, Eric Schuette 8, Garrett Rose 7, Bryce Arnberger 7, Brady Holzmeister 6, Austin Boehme 5, Connor Mountford 5, Matt Pieper 3, Jay Ziegelmeier 2, Ethan Jay 1, Josh Matchell 1.

Tackles for losses: Arnberger 2, Taylor 2, Rose 1.

Sacks: Boehme 1, Schuette 1.

Takeaways: Chase Hartwell (fumble recovery).

Special teams

Kickoffs: Isaac Nichols 3 for 111 yards.

Punts: Andrew Taylor 5 for 202 yards (40.4 average).

Kickoff returns: Brady Holzmeister 1 for 31 yards; Adam Giersch 3 for 29.

Punt returns: None.

Scoring summary

Norton 37, Colby 22

First quarter

NHS — 22-yard field goal

Second quarter

NHS — Tanner Furbush 5 yd run (kick good)

CHS — Matt Pieper 7 yd run (pass failed)

CHS — Brady Holzmeister 40 yd pass from Josh Matchell (Andrew Taylor run)

CHS — Matchell 2 yd run (Taylor run)

Third quarter

NHS — Jordan Dole 68 yd run (kick blocked)

Fourth quarter

NHS — Furbush 21 yd run (kick good)

NHS — Furbush 6 yd run (kick good)

NHS — One-yard touchdown run and kick was good.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High sophomore Brady Holzmeister (7) ran away from every Norton Bluejay on a 40-yard touchdown reception Friday night to give the Eagles their first lead this season.

Taylor's second PAT power run made it 22-10. The surprised Bluejays didn't have any seconds left to respond before halftime.

Of course, Norton did respond after the break which featured a Colby High alumni band performance.

Colby threatened once in the fourth quarter, but a fourth-down pass was broken up inside Norton's 25.

Bizarre score helps Titans beat Bulldogs

By Bonnie Holm

It was an interception Friday night that will be talked about for years to come by the Triplains-Brewster Titans.

With just a few seconds left on the clock before halftime, Titans quarterback Ryan Gfeller threw the ball to Jace Jorgensen, but the Golden Plains defender stepped in front of Jorgensen and intercepted the pass.

Jorgensen grabbed the perpetrator from behind, and confusion reigned as the scoreboard buzzer sounded, but no whistles were blown by the referees.

The Golden Plains player dropped the ball as Jorgensen released him, and quick thinking

on the part of senior Seth Smith resulted in a Titans touchdown. Smith ran toward the ball, scooped it up, and ran into the endzone untouched, giving the Titans a 26-14 lead at the half.

Triplains-Brewster carried this momentum to a 48-22 victory over the rival Bulldogs at Rexford Friday evening.

The Titans were slow to start offensively, and had a narrow lead at the end of the first quarter, 6-0.

However, the second quarter saw the Titans increase the lead and get their passing game going, with completions to Nathan Jorgensen and Justin Culwell.

Golden Plains answered with 14 points in the second quarter. The third quarter was deadlocked

at eight points for each team, but the fourth quarter belonged to the Titans, as they racked up 14 unanswered points that sealed this victory.

Triplains-Brewster evened its season record at 3-3, while Golden Plains slips to 1-5.

Leading rusher for the Titans was Gfeller with 99 yards and a touchdown, followed closely by Jace Jorgensen with 93 and Nathan Jorgensen with 78, with each brother scoring a touchdown.

Culwell, back after missing a few games with an injury, was a force to be reckoned with on the receiving end of Gfeller's passes, with four receptions for 62 yards and a touchdown.

Nathan Jorgensen's two recep-

tions were both for touchdowns, and Jace Jorgensen caught a pass for a 14 yard gain.

Gfeller threw for 103 yards, completing eight out of 13 attempts.

Jace Jorgensen had 76 yards on kick-off returns, followed by Nathan with 10 yards.

For the Titans' defense, Seth Smith led all players with 14 tackles.

Nathan Jorgensen had 11, Justin Schmidt and Gfeller each had eight, Skylor Hansen five, Fred Schertz and Tony Aguilar four each, Culwell and Jace Jorgensen had three each.

The Titans next take on the visiting Greeley County Jackrabbits on Friday at 7 p.m. in Winona.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior Sarah Lamm attacked the net during a home invitational at Fike Park earlier this season. The Eagle tennis team competed at their regional tourney last weekend.

Eagles compete at region tournament

The Colby High tennis team competed in last weekend's 4A regional tournament at McPherson and did not score any team points.

Individual results will be featured later this week.

Home-team McPherson dominated the meet with 23 points, placing both singles players and top doubles teams in the top three of this tournament. All of these girls qualify for the upcoming 4A state tournament.

Chapman took second with 13 points. Both singles and doubles also qualified for state.

Other teams that competed in the regional were Abilene (nine points), Wamego (seven), Smoky Valley (five), Clay Center (one)

and Concordia (one).

Russell and Scott City joined Colby in not scoring any team points.

Other action

Other Colby teams that were busy on Saturday included the C volleyball team earning second place at a Hays tournament.

The Eagles advanced through Garden City and Goodland before scoring a 25-19, 25-15 semifinal sweep of Dodge City. They reached the championship match but lost 25-20, 25-15 to Hays.

Colby's junior varsity volleyball lost matches to Garden City and Salina South in the JV tourney. The girls did defeat Goodland.set

Trojan runners surprise powerful squads

The Colby Community College men's cross country team placed fourth out of a field of 22 teams at the Fort Hays State Tiger Open on Saturday.

With the fourth-place finish, the nationally No. 10-rated Colby Trojans upset No. 2-ranked Allen and No. 9 Garden City Community College.

"There is no quit in this team," coach James Ortiz said. "These guys got knocked down two weeks ago and got back up and showed what they are capable of doing. We aren't done yet. We

have two weeks to continue getting better and the plan is to repeat what we did on Saturday."

The Trojans were once again led by freshman Chris Speaks who ran a personal best 24:40 to finish ninth overall. Speaks was followed by his teammates Mike Kinuthia, 25:09 (22nd); Gunnar Hays, 25:22 (32nd); Brandon Levi, 25:25 (36th) and Omar Trevino, 25:50 (58th).

Adams State, the top-ranked Division II school in the country, finished first in the team standings with 33 points. Adams State

was followed by the University of Nebraska-Kearney and Fort Hays State in second and third.

Rounding out the top-10 were Colby 134, Northwest Missouri State University 144, the Air Force Academy 159, Allen 221, Pittsburg State University 242, Garden City 280 and Colorado Christian University 288.

Next up for the Trojans is the Region VI Cross Country Championships in Hutchinson on Oct. 28.

The men's race time in Hutchinson is set for 11 a.m.

Trojans volleyball
The Colby Community College went 2-1 at last weekend's Missouri State University West Plains Tournament.

Colby lost in three sets to both the home team and a non-league match with rival Hutchinson Community College.

The Trojans swept three sets from Jefferson (Mo.) College.

Colby hosts two huge Jayhawk Conference matches on Tuesday and Thursday at the Colby Community Center. Watch for more details throughout this week.

Top 10 Golden Plains splits at Almena

By Hailee Spresser
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School Lady Bulldog volleyball team traveled to Almena to take on Triplains-Brewster and Northern Valley Tuesday evening.

For week five of volleyball,

Golden Plains was ranked 7th in Class 1A-Division 2 by the Kansas Volleyball Association.

Golden Plains first swept the Triplains/Brewster Lady Titans 25-9, 25-19.

Golden Plains next took on the Northern Valley Lady Huskies. The weekend before, the Lady

Bulldogs took Northern Valley to three sets, with the last set ending with a narrow 30-28 Northern Valley victory.

"We were ready to avenge our previous loss to them," senior Jordan Christensen said.

The Lady Bulldogs played a very close first set with North-

ern Valley, but the Lady Huskies slipped ahead with the first set win, 25-23. Golden Plains came up short in the second set, 25-17.

The Lady Bulldogs advanced from these games with a record of 16-5. They traveled to the annual Hill City tournament on Saturday. Results will appear later this week.