

Panthers' football perfection ends at Colby

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

Pay no attention to spelling lessons, kids, because Phillipsburg football did not have a single "L" before Thursday afternoon.

For those few already confused, L means loss in the more important sports vocabulary.

Not one L could be found anywhere around Phillipsburg this fall from high school varsity (6-0 record) to junior varsity to eighth grade all the way down into seventh.

Yet the Panthers had also not visited Colby's Dennen Field until Thursday, so Eagle seventh-graders decided it was time to lessen any spelling teacher concerns.

They put an L in Phillipsburg with a grade-A performance and 18-12 victory.

Tied 6-6 through one half, Colby converted two huge fourth-down plays to keep scoring drives alive.

The first dramatic conversion came on a perfectly-placed pass from quarterback John Zerr to receiver Trey Miller. Exactly one play later, halfback Jordan Schippers blasted through defenders for the first crucial touchdown.



Trey Miller (7) led Colby Middle School's pass rush that forced a late Phillipsburg quarterback fumble during seventh-grade football action at Dennen Field on Thursday. Other Eagles identified by numbers are Kyler Britt (60) and Tommy Cline (53). The Panthers never had a chance to recover as Colby defenders pounced on this loose football.

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

However, the Panthers caught Colby again at 12-12 midway through their quarter four.

For their next tie-breaking drive, Schippers and his strong

blockers decided no passes would be needed.

The Eagles faced fourth and about 10 yards to go, so Schippers followed fullback Tucker Branum

past Panthers.

He fell forward just far enough to get that first down by less than a nose of the football.

Colby kept plowing along with

inside runs, until coaches decided it was time to show that Eagles can outrun feisty 'Cats.

Schippers dashed outside to the right and kept speeding along until

he reached that Panther end zone again.

Teammates celebrated Colby's 18-12 run, and even stuffing the ensuing two-point run would not preserve P-Burg's perfect record.

The Eagles fired darts into two potential Panther attacks.

First, aggressive pass rushers forced the quarterback to fumble and Kyler Britt recovered.

Phillipsburg stopped Colby cold, regaining possession of the pigskin with still more than a minute remaining.

Yet the visitors went nowhere as their final play was an errant fourth-down pass.

Colby not only ended this perfect season.

Many of these seventh-graders also avenged a loss to Phillipsburg in last fall's Western Kansas Football League sixth-grade title game.

The Panthers were getting some payback during Thursday's eight-grade contest that capped this doubleheader.

They were leading 36-0 before halftime at last report.

Colby Middle School will play host to its football season finale against St. Francis on Monday.

Kickoff is set for 4:30 p.m. at Dennen Field.

College, pro picks for week

It's an amazing football season when the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs are the last two remaining undefeated National Football League teams.

Yet all good things must end, as last week's college picks proved for *Free Press* couch potato R.B. (Really Beaten) Headley. His big mistake of switching from a Missouri-over-Georgia upset to Washington-Oregon cost him two huge games against Associated Press writer Ralph Russo.

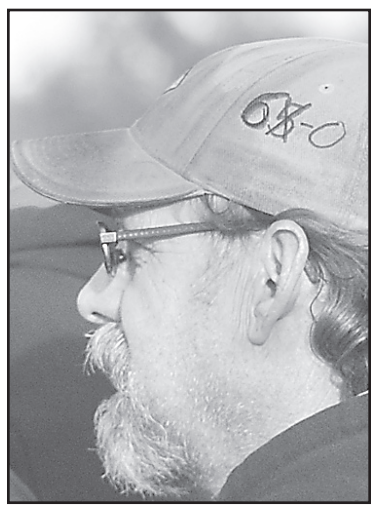
Overall, Rotten Breath's 2-7 record dropped his season record to 72-18 which is now five games behind Russo's 77-13. The big picks:

No. 5 Florida State at No. 3 Clemson

Russo: FSU 42-35. R.B.: Clemson 38-37 (*Free Press* boss Sharon should celebrate R.B.'s lack of Seminole support).

No. 9 UCLA at No. 13 Stanford
Russo: UCLA 31-24. R.B.: Stanford recovers 34-28.

Sadly, both agree on one upset special of West Virginia over No. 16 Texas Tech. R.B.'s own upset



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
A Colby football fan hasn't failed to notice his other favorite team — the Kansas City Chiefs — are still unbeaten this season. Could a 7-0 record be written on the cap Sunday?

special is not that daring: No. 22 Florida over the No. 14 Missouri Tigers, who lost their starting quarterback. He also likes Central Michigan over No. 23 Northern Illinois.

A few other not-so-close ones that both agree on: No. 1 Alabama over Arkansas, No. 4 Ohio State over Iowa, No. 11 South Carolina over Tennessee, No. 12 Baylor over Iowa State and No. 18 Oklahoma over Kansas.

R.B.'s best NFL guesses are Lions over Bengals, Cowboys over Eagles, Chiefs over Texans and Colts over Broncos.

Trojans sweep Cloud away in three

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

Visiting Cloud County never had a chance against the usual thunder and lightning of Colby Community College Thursday night.

Freshman Adrianna Sosnowska's 17 kills led the powerful Trojan attack that downed Cloud quickly 25-15, 25-18, 25-19 during Colby's regular-season home finale at the Community Center.

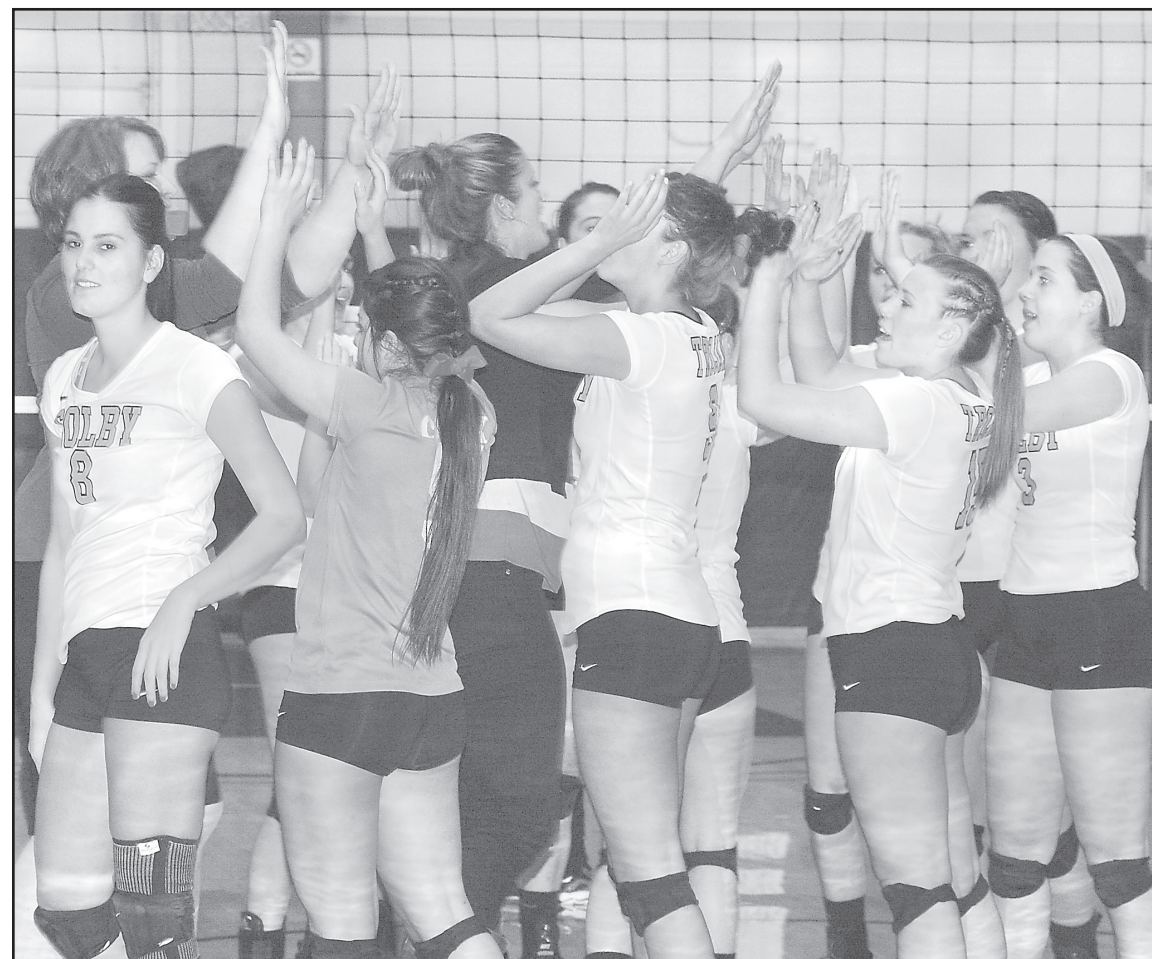
Sophomores Lorena Rosario (10 kills) and Taryn Lee (eight) delivered another 18 strikes to keep Colby in control of the Jayhawk League title chase.

Colby (11-1 league, 19-7 overall) still leads rival Hutchinson College (11-2 league) with two games remaining. If the Trojans can conquer those two road tests next week, they could be hosting a regional tournament later this month.

Cloud County slipped to 7-6 in league, 12-12 overall.

Other Trojan leaders were setter Maisy Munson (40 assists), server Savannah Gamble (four aces), defensive ace Danielle Rodriguez (13 digs) and blocker Lee (two stuffs, three assists).

Colby plays next in a weekend Air Force Prep tournament.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College volleyball team shared high fives after sweeping Cloud County Community College Thursday night at the Colby Community Center. Colby improved its Jayhawk League-leading record to 11-1. Among the Trojans pictured (from left) are Andjela Reljic (8), Danielle Rodriguez, Ariana Jacquez, Savannah Gamble and Taylor Alderson.

Titans put 74 on board against Bulldogs

By Bonnie Holm

The Triplains-Brewster junior varsity football team showed Titan fans what they can expect in the coming years with a 74-20 trouncing of the visiting Golden Plains Bulldogs 74-20 at Winona Monday evening.

Even though the Bulldogs scored on their first play from scrimmage, the Titans weren't discouraged, and answered with a touchdown and extra point scored by Justin Schmidt to take the lead 8-6.

With the Titans in control offensively, Colton Rogge took the ball on a wildcat play, and romped into the end-zone for Titan touchdown. Fred Schertz scored the extra points to make the score 16-6.

During the next series of plays for the Bulldogs, Takoda Turner tackled the runner for a loss, and Rogge recovered a fumble.

Tad Holm kept the ball on 3rd and goal, and charged up the middle to give the Titans another six points. The extra point attempt failed, but the Titans had a commanding lead of 22-6.

Golden Plains closed the margin to 22-14. However, Rogge ran into the endzone for another Titan touchdown, and Schmidt successfully converted on the extra point attempt, increasing the lead to 30-14.

Beginning the second half, Jaden Schmidt ran to the Golden Plains 35-yard line on a reverse, and Schertz scrambled into the end zone for a Titan touchdown. Schmidt scored on the two point



BONNIE HOLM

Triplains-Brewster quarterback Tad Holm handed the football to Colton Rogge while teammates Fred Schertz (18) and Tanner Abbott (24) delivered great blocks against the Golden Plains Bulldogs in JV football action on Monday.

conversion and the lead was 38-14.

Hudson Stramel recovered a Bulldog fumble after the kickoff, and after a couple incomplete passes, was able to run into the endzone for another Titan score.

Golden Plains again fumbled on their next possession, and Taylor Stramel recovered for the Titans.

Schertz took the handoff on a double reverse, and raced into the endzone untouched.

With the Titans ahead 50-14, the Bulldogs scored for their last

time, making the score 50-20. It didn't take long for Rogge to score again, and Taylor Stramel ran into the end zone for a two point conversion.

The Bulldogs once again fumbled, and another double reverse play put Jaden Schmidt in charge, as he romped into the end zone for the Titans.

Tanner Abbott converted on the extra point attempt, and the commanding lead reached 66-20.

With the clock running continuously due to the 45-point rule, the

Bulldogs once again turned the ball over on a fumble, and Taylor Stramel ran for the final Titan touchdown.

Rogge scored on the extra point, making the final score 74-20.

This was the season finale for the Titans' junior varsity.

Next varsity action will be tonight at 7 p.m. as the Titans take on the visiting Greeley County Jackrabbits in Winona.

Watch for the score and other details in next week's editions of the *Free Press*.

Golden Plains reaches Hill City title match

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs placed second in the Hill City Invitational on Saturday.

This is the second consecutive year the Lady 'Dogs have claimed the runner-up spot at this competitive tournament against teams the girls had not yet seen this season.

"This was an awesome team effort!" coach Orba Smith said "I am so proud of our girls."

The girls faced off in the early morning against the Natoma Lady Tigers. This close game with two competitive teams proved challenging as the Lady Bulldogs won the first set 25-19, but the Lady Tigers came back to win the second 25-20.

In the third set, it was close but the Lady Bulldogs claimed the win 25-23.

After a short break, the girls next were scheduled to play the Rawlins County team from Atwood. They lost two tough sets, 25-17 and 25-20.

Their next opponent was the Ness City Lady Eagles.

"We found our groove as the day progressed," senior Macayla Easton said.

"We started to trust each other more," senior Hailee Spesser added.

These games went quickly as the girls won easily 25-8 and

25-18.

Winning two of three pool matches, Golden Plains advanced to the semifinal round and quickly downed LaCrosse 25-13 and 25-18. The Lady Bulldogs advanced into the championship match only to face that same Rawlins County team.

The championship matches proved to be very exciting as the Lady Bulldogs pulled together to give the Lady Buffaloes an extremely close battle.

Rawlins won the first set 25-22 but the Lady 'Dogs rallied for a 25-23 win in the second. The final set kept everyone on the floor and in the stands on their toes as Rawlins County won the final point 25-23.

"We were pleased to play so well against these teams in Hill City," senior Jordan Christensen concluded. "It really helped build our confidence as we prepare for the (Western Kansas Liberty League) tournament next week where we plan to reach the championship game."

Crusaders must recover
In other area contests, the Heartland Christian Crusaders football team will try recover from a 42-18 loss to Sunrise Academy last weekend.

The 4-2 Crusaders visit Natoma tonight kicking off at 7 p.m.