

Trojans soar through Air Force tournament

After their successful "Think Pink" cancer awareness event Thursday night, the Colby Community College volleyball players were thinking sweep at a weekend Air Force Prep Tournament. Mission accomplished. The Trojans finished a perfect 5-0 week by winning one thrilling five-set finale over Otero (Colo.)

Junior College 25-21, 25-23, 20-25, 19-25, 15-3 Saturday afternoon. Sophomore Maisy Munson's season-high 62 assists directed the Trojans to this marathon victory against the tough 20-9 Otero squad. Freshman Adrianna Sosnowska's 21 kills capped a terrific ef-

fort that also featured freshman Ariana Jacquez crushing her collegiate career-high 22 kills against host Air Force Prep. Colby needed just four sets to take that match 25-15, 17-25, 25-14, 25-17. The Trojans' other triumph was a 25-7, 25-18, 18-25, 25-15 conquest of Colorado Christian Uni-

versity's JV team. Sosnowska (13 kills) and Jacquez (eight) teamed for 21 kills. All these numbers add up to a six-match winning streak for coach Carey Jones' Kansas Community College Jayhawk League leaders. The Colby women can clinch this league title with two more

road wins this week at Garden City Tuesday evening and Barton Thursday night. Both of these final regular-season matches should begin around 6:30 p.m. Other leaders from each of Colby's Air Force tourney victories. Colorado Christian — Kills: Andjela Reljic 7. Assists: Munson

30. Ace serves: Danielle Rodriguez 3. Digs: Rodriguez 14. Block assist: Taryn Lee 5. Air Force Prep — Kills: Reljic 10. Assists: Munson 40. Ace serves: Munson 2. Digs: Reljic 16. Rodriguez 16. Stuff blocks: Savannah Gamble 3. Otero — Kills: Lee 15. Digs: Rodriguez 20. Total blocks: Lee 2.

Colby takes fourth in tough league

By R.B. Headley
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With Halloween fast approaching, what better time for Colby High to quote a classic movie line from "The Mummy":

I'll be seeing you again. The Eagles will get another three shot at three teams who visited Colby for Saturday's Great West Athletic Conference tournament.

Rival Goodland won a three-set opening contest with the Eagles, while Colby split matches against Scott City (win) and Hugoton (loss).

All four teams meet again for this Saturday's far more important 4A substate. This single-elimination tourney will send one and only one team to the 4A state championship tournament.

The Eagles certainly aim to achieve better results. They finished fourth among six conference teams on Saturday, winning one of five matches in this round-robin format.

Colby didn't catch any early breaks while facing the tourney's eventual top two teams — runner-up Goodland and champion Ulysses — before some people had likely finished their Saturday morning Froot Loops.

Momentum went round-and-round throughout the great opening match. Goodland grabbed a commanding 20-12 first-set lead that was suddenly just 22-21 after Colby junior Hannah Strange's stuff block.

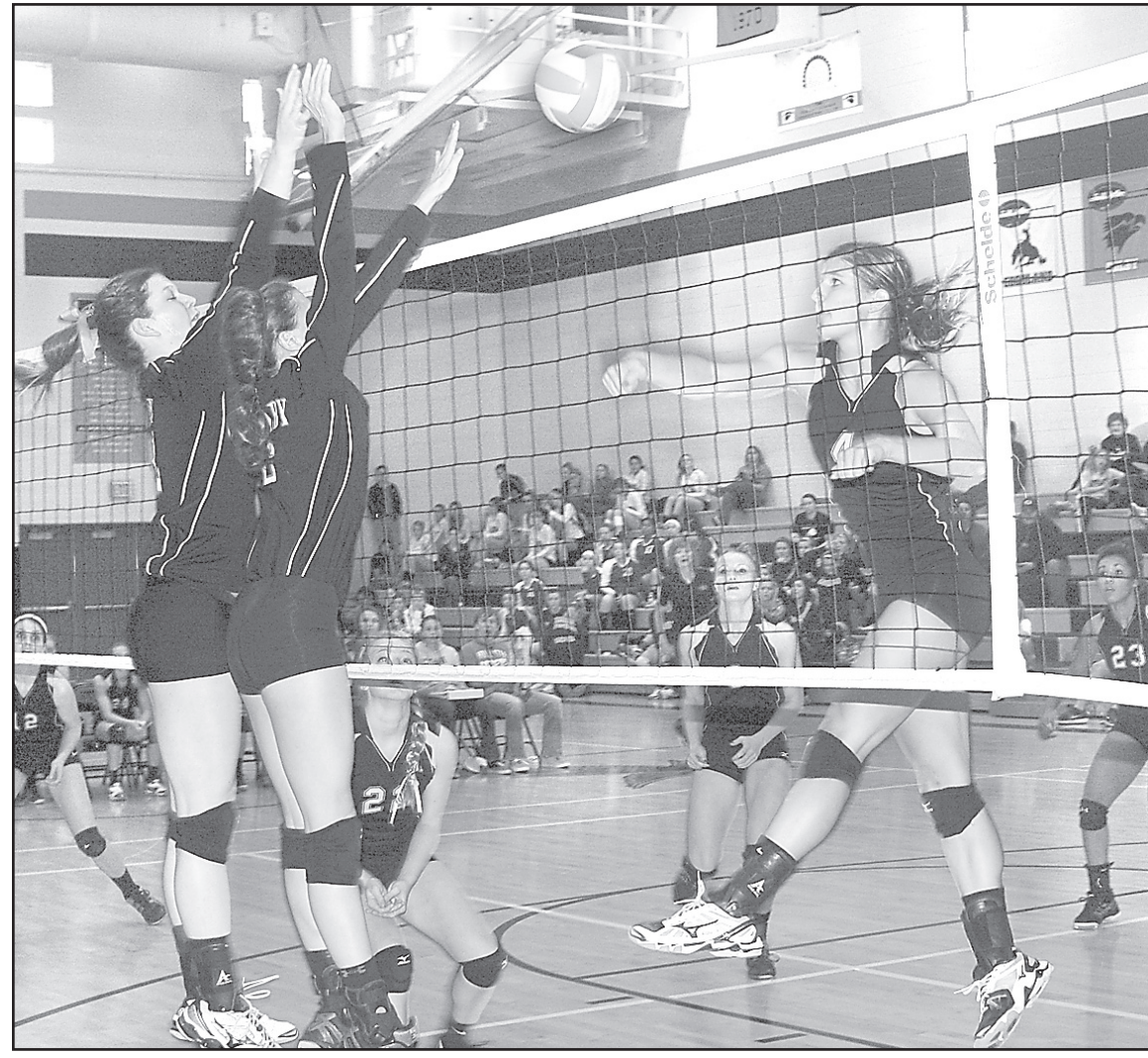
However, the Cowgirls escaped for a 25-22 victory only to see those Eagles take charge early in set two. Sophomore Lara Stephens helped lead a strong hitting attack.

Once again, though, these rivals drew close at 22-21 until senior Haleigh Shull launched a rocket off some Cowgirl blocks.

Colby never lost the lead and celebrated a 25-23 win on Goodland's net violation.

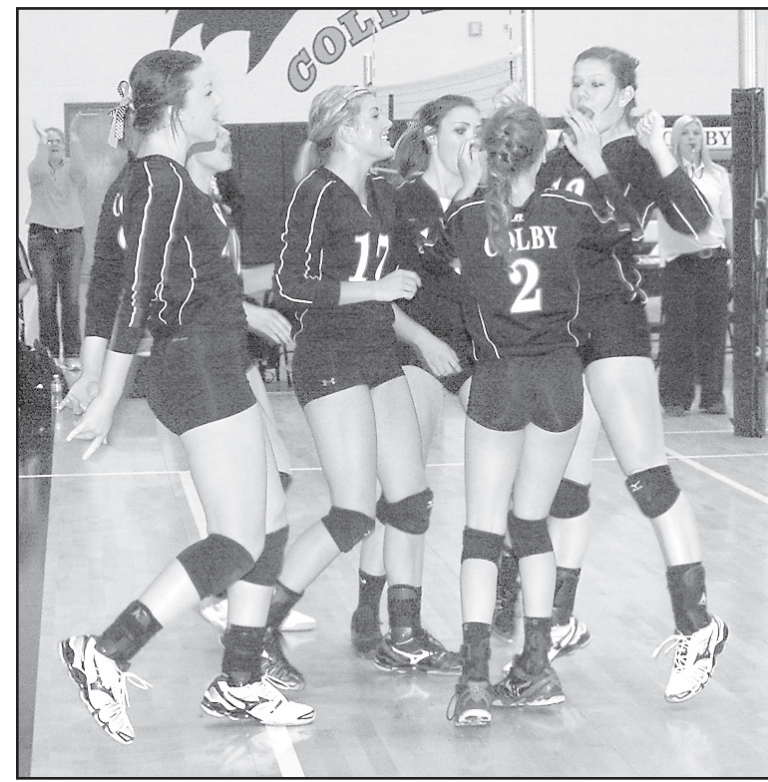
Unfortunately, the anticipated drama of a third set fizzled thanks to some tough serving. The Eagles struggled with serve-receiving while falling too far behind to rally in a 25-15 Cowgirl clincher.

Colby (18-17 record overall) defeated Ulysses earlier this season, but the Tigers were healthy on Saturday and ready to repeat



R.B.HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High teammates Hannah Strange and Brielle McKee (above) went for the block against Goodland hitter Taryn Bedore during a spirited three-set showdown that began Saturday's Great West Athletic Conference tournament at Colby High School. The visiting Cowgirls prevailed and eventually placed second among these six teams. Colby players (right) had some great moments to celebrate during a busy five-match day where they finished fourth overall.



as conference champions. They topped Colby 25-22, 25-18 en route to a perfect 5-0 performance. The Eagles quickly recovered to sweep through traditionally tough Scott City 25-14, 25-22 in Saturday's third match. Sophomore Brielle McKee set the tone for a dominant opening set, and Shull even showed some setting kills for senior classmate Morgan Mengel as she blasted down a kill.

Yet Colby momentum didn't carry over against Hugoton, which scored surprising 25-22, 25-19 wins. The Eagles won one more set over Holcomb, 25-22, during a finale to determine third place for this tourney. Yet the Longhorns recovered for 25-19, 25-17 wins.



ROD HAXTON

Colby High senior Jaden Morrison moved along during the Great West Athletic Conference varsity meet in Scott City on Saturday.

Eagle runners earn all-league Saturday

A pre-race injury didn't stop the Colby High cross country runners from winning high honors during Saturday's Great West Athletic Conference championship meet in Scott City.

The Colby girls placed third as a team behind sophomore Andrea Browne's strong third-place finish (16:24) and senior Emma Kleist taking seventh (17:39). Both Eagles earned all-league honors by breaking into the top 10.

"Our girls ran well, but we ended up one runner short because (junior) Bridget Bickner sprained her ankle during warm-up and could not run," coach Chris Giersch explained. "If Bridget would have been able to run for us, we would have ended up second as a team."

Sophomore Sydney Stephens (16th/18:36) led the remaining Eagles in this five-runner lineup.

Junior Taylor Lemman finished 23rd (18:59) and sophomore Makayla Hoffman placed 38th. The Colby girls totaled 83 points.

Meanwhile, the Eagle boys encountered some touch competi-

tion that left them sixth overall (165 points).

Junior Aaron Faber delivered Colby's best effort (19th/19:17) while four other Eagles finished in the 30s: senior Jaden Morrison (34th/20:35), junior Alec Onstad (36th/21:04), freshman Ernie Lieja (37th/21:16) and senior Luke Cox (39th/21:28).

"This meet gave the boys some idea of what the regional meet will be like in McPherson next Saturday," Giersch remarked after the race. "We will have to show much improvement in a week to have a chance to qualify runners for the state competition in Wamego (Nov. 2)."

The Eagles did feature one Top 10 junior varsity medalist in senior Maura Hansen (sixth/25:47). Sophomore Chris Otten was 38th among JV boys (29:15).

Panthers rally to ruin Colby's victory quest

Eagles led 12-0 a week after 22-10 advantage

By R.B. Headley
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The first quarter featuring six points and five lost fumbles was actually full of promise for Colby High Friday night.

Yet a second consecutive rough fourth quarter means time is running out on this 2013 football season.

"I know our backs are against the wall these next two weeks," coach Chris Gardner said after a 12-0 lead over Concordia turned into an eventual 22-12 defeat.

The Panthers outscored Colby, 15-0, in Friday's final 12 minutes one week after Norton tallied 21 fourth-period points to steal a 37-22 comeback victory.

Now the Eagles (0-7 record) must win their final two district contests or forget about any post-season playoff plans.

"I think our team played very well most of the time. They did a good job coming off the long road trip," Gardner observed. "We just have to get things going for four quarters."

Big plays also doomed Colby Friday evening.

The 12-0 lead lasted exactly 13 seconds because Panthers quarterback Zach Kyle promptly dropped back and lofted a 65-yard touch-

down pass to junior halfback Shea Crum.

It was a stunning development considering Concordia's "old school" wishbone rushing offense had attempted two passes in two games — completing neither.

The Eagles' 12-7 advantage still held until one play into that final quarter.

However, a really devastating score occurred when top rusher Drake Hake shook loose and dashed 53 yards into pigskin paradise.

Hake's heroics and the ensuing PAT kick gave Concordia (2-5 record) its 22-12 lead while leaving Colby barely five minutes to score twice.

The Eagles actually drove into Panther territory twice, only to see a lost fumble and interception ruin both threats. Friday's all-important turnover battle finished 4-4.

"We got some turnovers and I thought we hit hard, too," Gardner said. "We just have to get a little more consistent. We're working on that."

Nobody could doubt Colby's workman-like attitude during a 68-yard touchdown drive, especially when senior Andrew Taylor carries the football.

Taylor blasted ahead for 18 big yards to move the Eagles past midfield.

After two more tough inside runs, it was junior quarterback Josh Matchell's to deliver some outside fireworks.

Matchell ran an option play left, cut upfield past one Panther and outran three or four others for a 30-yard touchdown run.

The missed two-point attempt left Colby ahead 6-0. It almost seemed like enough points as Eagle defenders were completely stuffing Concordia's wishbone attack.

Matchell continued his magnificent running while moving Colby into Panther territory again.

However, Concordia forced and recovered a fumble inside the 35.

And early missed opportunity didn't seem that painful when the Panthers dropped a fourth-down pass.

Colby took over to begin another touchdown drive covering about 60 yards.

Taylor and sophomore Josh Pieper both ran for crucial first downs, but it was Taylor's terrific "tiptoe" journey down the sideline that set up another score. He went nearly 20 yards past some Panthers who apparently thought the play was over.

Moments later, Holzmeister took a quarterback snap and went through a large opening for the three-yard touchdown.

Crusaders fall 56-50

By R.B. Headley
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The Heartland Christian Crusaders courageously erased a 34-8 deficit to pull even at 50-50 Friday night in Natoma.

Yet with less than four minutes remaining, the Tigers delivered one final drive that severely damaged any remaining Crusader playoff hopes.

"We still have a slim chance, but a lot of things would have to go exactly right," coach Steve Ziegelmeier said after the 56-50 setback. "We turned it over three times in the first half (Friday) and that really hurt us."

The Crusaders' comeback featured a combined seven touchdowns from junior Blaine Wertz.

Wertz ran for four TDs when he wasn't throwing three scoring passes.

Sean Sullivant caught two scoring strikes and Corey Wertz took the other to six-point paradise.

However, Heartland must try to stop a two-game losing streak in Friday's season finale against Triplains-Brewster (4-3 record).



JESSICA LE DUC/Concordia Blade-Empire

Colby High senior Andrew Taylor left a Concordia Panther in the grass during Friday night's varsity football game.