

'Cardiac' Colby pushes substate to final set

All-heart Eagles needed one win

By R.B. Headley
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Goodland has its 4A substate champion Cowgirls, but no volleyball team at Saturday's tournament could top Colby High's true grit.

The No. 3-seed Eagles almost seemed ready to be eliminated after one set.

Yet trailing 22-18, an amazing seven-point Colby comeback knocked No. 2 Hugoton out of the title hunt 23-25, 25-22, 25-22.

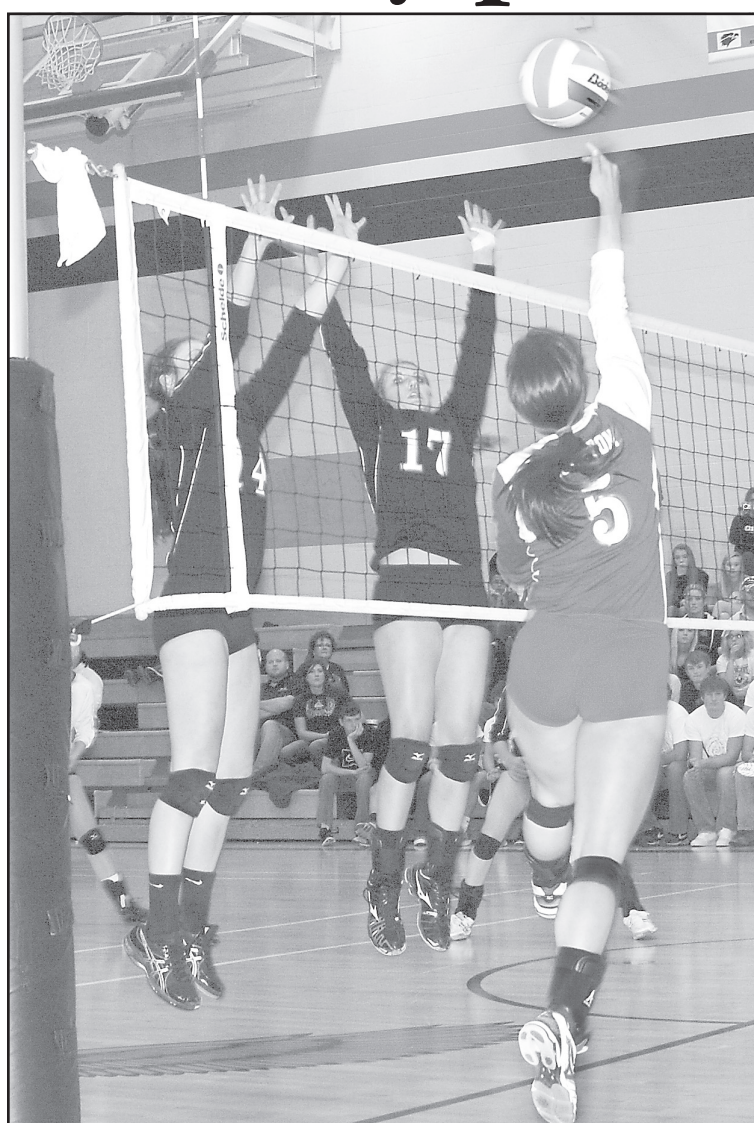
No. 1 Goodland (29-7 record) then needed just one more point to sweep Colby from Saturday's title match — a point which those Eagles simply would not permit.

Instead, Colby came firing back with an 8-1 run capped by senior Morgan Mengel's beautifully-placed "ace" serve for the 27-25 win.

Though Mengel simply turned and smiled as if it was no big deal, the thunderous celebration in Colby High's gymnasium will probably match this week's 4A Division II state tournament.

Perhaps that's why the eventual Goodland 25-22, 25-27, 25-18 victory really couldn't ruin the "We're still the best" sign in black-and-orange colors hanging nearby.

"I'm very pleased. I would have loved to go to the state tournament, but they gave us everything they had today," Colby coach Jerry McKee said.

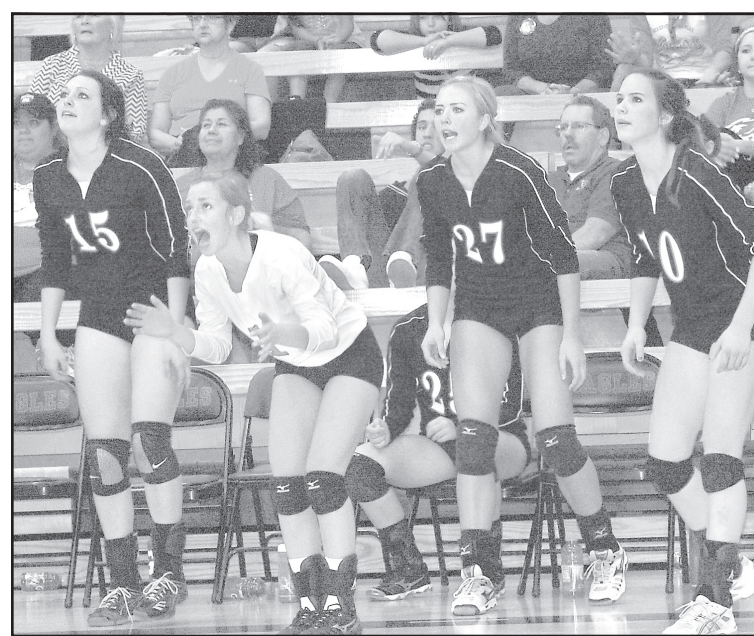


"We came back time and time again. We fought through some

really tough situations even going back to the semifinals (against Hugoton)," he added. "I'm very proud of them."

Colby (19-18 final record) made

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
The Colby Eagles delivered two thrilling three-set substate matches on Saturday that had both fans and players on their feet. Teammates (at right) Hailey Schindler, Brooklyn Bange, Karly Shull and Brenly Terrell showed the intensity No. 3-seed Colby's semifinal comeback win over No. 2 Hugoton. Eagles senior Haileigh Shull (at left) and sophomore Lara Stephens went high for a block attempt against those equally determined Hugoton Eagles. Colby avenged a defeat at last week's Great West Athletic Conference tournament and advanced into the substate title match.



Goodland earn its first trip to the state tournament since 2010.

The Cowgirls start state pool play on Friday in Salina's Bicentennial Center against No. 5-seed Frontenac (32-8 record).

Meanwhile, Saturday marked the end of high school volleyball careers for Colby's Haileigh Shull, Abby Friesen, Karly Shull, Tatym Rundel and Mengel.

Yet Saturday also showed why the future remains bright for an otherwise young Colby varsity team.

Sophomore Brielle McKee served the final seven points of that semifinal thriller with Hugoton, including a sinking "ace" which caught those Eagles at 22-22.

Haileigh Shull showed great

senior leadership again when she delivered a powerful tie-breaking stuff block of Hugoton's top hitter.

However, another sophomore — high-flying Brenly Terrell — who blasted down the next kill to give Colby match point. A Hugoton hitting error promptly finished the rally and started Colby's first great celebration of this tournament.

When Goodland threatened to finish the Eagles early, junior Hailey Schindler's jump serving clearly brought momentum back to Colby.

Schindler unleashed two consecutive aces that even inspired nearby observers from Scott City to say "wow, nice jump serve."

"We tell our young people they all have something that can help the team," coach McKee said. "We just have to find the right time to use it. Hailey did a nice job of getting us into the final set. I know

she's a little down right now, but she did a great job."

Sophomores Lara Stephens and Brooklyn Bange contributed their usual great efforts to keep the Eagles within striking range all day.

Bange, a libero/defensive specialist, often kept more potential Goodland and Hugoton points from ever hitting the home court.

Leading 24-20, the Cowgirls had at least four good hits that could have finished that two-set sweep.

Yet Colby battled and finally drew even at 24-24 when McKee sent down a free ball.

Junior Hannah Strange was also a powerful force all season, and her ensuing kill forced another tie of 25-25. A Goodland hitting error and Mengel's ace then forced the dramatic last set before state.

"They grew up today," coach McKee concluded. "It is a shame our season isn't continuing, because we took a big step."

Tigers pick off 43-6 win over Eagles

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The dreaded "pick six" interception struck Colby High twice and Clay Center carried this turnover of momentum to a 43-6 road win Friday night.

Colby appeared to shake off the first Tiger pick that created an early 14-0 deficit.

The Eagles even delivered their own passing heroics, as sophomore Josh Brown's first varsity reception was one tipped by Clay Center defenders.

Brown maintained his concentration, made the catch and eventually gained 45 yards deep into Tiger territory. However, Colby was stopped on downs just before the first half concluded.

However, Colby kept momentum through the break. The Eagles began moving again on strong first-down runs from senior Andrew Taylor and sophomore Brady Holzmeister.

Holzmeister then delivered a screen pass to sophomore Matthew Pieper, who rumbled downfield 25 yards to Clay Center's



Stop signs in the background are a perfect setting for Colby High sophomore Brady Holzmeister's effort against this Clay Center Tiger Friday night. Other Eagles pictured include Josh Brown (21).

four.

Moments later, Holzmeister followed blockers into the end zone as Colby closed within 17-6. The Eagles still had hope as nearly one full half remained.

Unfortunately, another tipped pass ended up in Clay Center junior Ricky Huse's hands. He navigated about 25 yards to the second Tiger "pick six" which began a run of 27 unanswered points.

Colby (0-8 record) saw its remaining playoff hopes end and hosts its finale against Goodland Halloween night (7 p.m.).

"It's still Goodland," Colby coach Chris Gardner concluded.



The Heartland Christian Crusaders, right, lined up for another snap during their showdown with Triplains-Brewster, left, Friday night in Brewster.

Titans top Crusaders, 54-34

Editor's Note: A more detailed story from Triplains-Brewster's perspective will likely appear later this week.

A tenacious 28-point Heartland Christian fourth quarter was not enough to rally past the Triplains-Brewster Titans Friday evening.

The Titans also scored 22 points which clinched their 54-34 victory.

"We started playing the way we're capable of, but three turnovers was tough to overcome," Crusaders coach Steve Ziegel-

meier said as his Crusaders (4-4 record) trailed 32-6 through three periods. "And we didn't stop them. They did a good job offensively."

Titans senior Nathan Jorgensen rushed for 129 yards and three touchdowns, according to maxpreps.com. Sophomore quarterback Ryan Gfeller completed nine passes totaling 134 yards.

"We didn't respect their passing game," Ziegelmeier said.

Junior Blaine Wertz delivered another five-touchdown performance in leading Heartland Chris-

tian. He ran to two scores when not connecting on three touchdown strikes with sophomores Caleb Morris (one TD) and Corey Wertz (two).

The Crusaders now must wait to see if they still earn a Kansas-Christian Association post-season playoff spot.

"We could get in by the skin of our teeth," Ziegelmeier concluded. "It just depends on what happens Thursday night. We won't probably know until Friday."

The Triplains-Brewster Titans improved to 5-3 this season.

Bulldogs fall short of state

The Golden Plains Bulldogs' terrific 28-9 volleyball season ended one win from a 1A state tournament berth on Saturday.

Golden Plains reached the substate championship match at Sharon Springs, but No. 1 seed and host Wallace County scored a 25-21, 25-22 victory.

The Wildcats (34-4) have earned a No. 2 seed for this weekend's 1A Division II tournament at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. They'll start pool play on Friday against No. 7 Attica (21-16).

Seeding didn't mean much early during Saturday's regional tournament at Sharon Springs.

No. 6-seed Triplains Brewster stepped up to surprise No. 3 Weskan 25-15, 25-17 for a huge first-round upset.

The Titans advanced into semifinal play against Golden Plains, where those No. 2-seed Bulldogs scored a decisive 25-10, 25-10 triumph.

Triplains-Brewster finished with a 7-24 season record.

Another upset nearly occurred when Wheatland-Grinnell won a 26-24 opener over Wallace County. However, those Wildcats recovered to win 25-23, 25-15.

Eagle runner earns repeat trip to state

Colby High sophomore Andrea Browne's returning to the 4A state cross country meet after a strong third-place finish at last weekend's regional in McPherson.

Browne conquered the qualifying course with a time of 16:14.01, which placed behind only champion Halle Helfrich from Pratt (15:49.54) and league rival Ulysses' Chisholm Branscum (16:08.75).

The regional's top 10 individuals and three teams move on to Wamego Country Club for their 4A state showdown on Saturday.

Browne also qualified as a freshman last fall.

Neither the Colby girls or boys were able to break into those top three qualifying teams. Senior Emma Kleist wasn't far from making state as she placed 19th

(17:22.75) but was within 30 seconds of the top 10.

The Colby girls' next best finisher was junior Taylor Lemman, who took 30th overall (18:50.63) according to available information.

Complete regional results were not obtained in time for today's press deadline.

Junior Aaron Faber set the pace (17th/18:29.31) for Colby's boys. The state-qualifying time came from 10th-place finisher Reed Rome from Hugoton (18:02.36).

Hugoton Eagles also swept this regional's top two places with champion Isaac Castro (17:06.21) and runner-up Luis Castro (17:27.34).

The Colby boys' next best finisher was senior Jaden Morrison in 41st place (19:21.59).

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
SELLER LES LOKER
Saturday, November 2, 2013 @ 10 a.m. CT
(doors open at 8 a.m. day of sale)
Auction Location: T-N-T & Jones Auction Facility, 200 N Franklin, Colby, KS
Preview sale items between 5 - 7 pm CT Friday, November 1, 2013

6ft-King Kutter 3pt. Bush Hog mower Ser. # 1000742694; Gopher Machine ser.# g4910; 5ft King Kutter 3pt. Bush Hog mower ser.# rfm60yk; (2)-Boss side row sprinklers w/motors approx. 2400ft; (2)-model A-motors; Shop air compressor; Several battery tenders; Grain Bin aeration fan; 2004-JX95 Case tractor with a LX132 Loader, (fwd), 8ft Bucket, 3pt-2-hyd, 540 pto, am-fm radio and air, ser #j95c45oc7xa14697, 18.4 R34 rear tires, 13.6 R24 front tires new rubber and weights, joy stick for loader, foot throttle, 252 hours; IH Farmall (A) culti-vision Tractor, 540pto, new rubber, rear wheel weights, ser# faa48297, restored; IH Farmall C Tractor, 540pto, new rubber, rear wheel weights, ser# 68520, restored; IH Farmall BN culti-vision Tractor, narrow front end, 540pto, new rubber, ser# fabn111358, restored; IH Farmall super-4 tractor, ser# 760J, 540pto, new rubber, restored; IH Farmall (H) tractor, 540pto, crank, ser #fbh142990x1, IH Farmall W-4 tractor, 540pto, new rubber ser# BH32089w1; IH Farmall W-6 standard tractor, 540pto, good rubber, wheel weights, ser#wkb-42512, restored; IH Farmall W-9 standard tractor, good rubber, 540pto, ser #6292412b, restored; IH Farmall M-1 tractor, ser# wb13406sp, W-30, 540pto, new rubber restored; IH Farmall (M) 1942 tractor, narrow front end, fair rubber, 540pto, restored, ser #fbk56245x; IH Farmall MD tractor, 540pto, narrow front end, new rubber, ser# fdbk185211; IH Farmall 574 tractor, fair rubber, 540pto, hyd, remote, ser# 2310074u106352; IH Farmall (H) tractor, ser# 179858, electric start, narrow front end, 540pto, fair rubber, not restored; 1974 Chev Deluxe 10 Pickup w/dump box, 34,913 orig mi., AC, new tires, battery and window door seals, 2-wheel drive, 350 motor; 2011 Camera RS, 10,000 miles, Loaded, LT2, V6; 2 siderolls, 1200" each; 1987 Fleetwood Motorhome, 454 cu in, 90,000 miles, New refrigerator, generator, hotwater heater, awning, exhaust; 1950 Studebaker, 4 door (motor overhauled), original title; 1956 Ford, 4 door, original title; A-Maize-Ing Heat Biomass Furnace (corn burning) Model 620-10, thermostat controlled, 14 bu bin + 100 bu bin
Miscellaneous Items: Some smaller antiques; Approximately 5 miles of new Christmas lights in boxes

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