



ROD HAXTON/Scott County Record

Colby High's Andrea Browne, right, worked her way to the top three at last weekend's 4A regional in McPherson and qualified for a second consecutive state championship meet.

## Racing back to state

Colby Eagle runner knows what it takes

By R.B. Headley  
Colby Free Press

Unlike many motorists, Colby High sophomore Andrea Browne knows how to nicely zoom past and leave others in the dust.

"She's the most polite runner you'll ever meet, and she also takes nothing for granted," coach Chris Giersch said about his two-time 4A state cross country qualifier. "She just works and works and works and works."

Browne's effort even inspires male teammates like junior Aaron Faber, who would enjoy cheering on Browne during Saturday's 4A state championship meet at Wamego Country Club.

"She always works the hardest at practice. She never takes a day off," the Colby boys agreed during a quick interview on Thursday.

Browne earned her second 4A state spot thanks to a strong third-place finish in last weekend's regional showdown at McPherson.

Her 16:14.01 time puts Browne within striking range of what would be her first 4A state medal. The 20 fastest finishers will take home those shiny rewards.

"It would be good to see Andrea get down in the 15-minute range," Giersch observed. "And the way she works, there's no reason she can't do it. She is always trying to improve."

The 4A girls race is scheduled to begin at noon on Saturday.

Browne placed 33rd last season and showed great determination, considering she tripped early in the state race.

"It's hard to get back up," she admitted. "You just have to keep going."

# Trojan hoops tip off tonight

Basketball season officially tips off tonight when the Colby Community College men debut at home against Lamar (Colo.) Community College to begin Colby's Taco John's/Pizza Hut Classic.

Opening tip is set for 7:30 p.m. in the Colby Community Building. Colby plays a second game against Sunrise Academy at that same time on Saturday evening.

Colby Community College supplied this season preview information

As men's basketball coach Rusty Grafel begins his second season as head coach, the Trojans plan to keep moving the program in the right direction with seven returning players from last year's team.

A position-by-position breakdown:

### Backcourt

Sophomores: The Trojans have five returning back court players as well as two transfer players. Terry Starks from Detroit, Mich., returns after averaging 12 points and 5.6 assists per game. Jeremiah Ingram of Southfield, Mich., also returns after averaging 13.4 points and 6.9 rebounds. Branden Williams of Orlando, Fla., returns after averaging 7.7 points and 2.9 rebounds. Jamal Jones of Wichita



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press  
Jeremiah Ingram went for the finger-roll basket in a Colby Community College home game last fall.

averaged 1.6 points and will bring more leadership to the backcourt this year. Dalaan Organ of Colby also returns after playing in nine games last year. Cameron Lee of Columbia, S.C., transfers from Francis Marion University after redshirting one year and playing this past year. Isaiah Bradshaw of Jetmore transfers from Butler County Community College after

averaging 2.5 points in 15 games.

Freshmen: With a more balanced sophomore to freshmen class, the Trojans have added more depth to their court. Joey Meyer of Scott City comes from a long line of success when it comes to sports and brings a big time motor to the Trojan team. Kyle Summers of Shawnee has the ability to shoot the basketball and brings some stability. Justin Talley of Hernando, Miss., and red-shirt freshman Saeger Grafel of Council Grove both bring energy with experience. Rounding out the freshman class are Scottie Gardner of Salina, Anthony Barley of Detroit, Mich. and Zach Mann of Brady, Neb.

### Frontcourt

Sophomores: Gage Deis of Sioux Falls, S.D., transferred from an area school where he posted 13.9 points and 6.3 rebounds per game as a freshman. Deis brings more size and experience to our

team and he also brings more versatility to our front court.

Freshmen: Colby has added another good frontcourt recruiting class to the program. Ramon Johnson of Newark, N.J., brings a 6'10" size and skill to our program. David Tait of Brooklyn, N.Y., rounds out our freshmen frontcourt. Tait brings a lot of energy followed with athleticism which will be utilized a lot for the Trojans.

### Schedule

In addition to a solid non-conference slate, the Trojans will have another tough schedule as they do each year in the Jayhawk West Conference.

A highlight of this year's schedule is that Colby will play its first five games at home in the Community Building.

"It's always an advantage to play games at home," Grafel said. "Especially when you have the support we do here at Colby."

## Will Seminoles roll?

According to Pregame.com in Las Vegas, No. 3 Florida State's 21-point spread over No. 7 Miami is the largest in November history when two Top 10 teams collide.

How do *Free Press* fading picker R.B. Headley (86-26 record) and surging Associated Press expert Ralph Russo (94-18) see Saturday night's battle of unbeaten? Russo: Florida State 42-17. Rumblin Bumbly: You never know when these two — actually, I do know Seminoles are the better team. Florida State 40-24.

No. 23 Michigan at No. 24 Michigan State

Russo: Spartans defense first in yards per game, yards per play. Michigan 17-16. R.B.: So you

brag up Sparty and take Big Blue? Tempting, but I'll go green. Michigan State 24-19.

No. 18 Oklahoma State at No. 15 Texas Tech

Russo: Texas Tech 31-23. R.B.: Cowboys' musical chairs at quarterback concerns me. Texas Tech 35-27. Other picks where both gurus agree: No. 10 Missouri over Tennessee, No. 8 Auburn over Arkansas, No. 9 Clemson over Virginia and No. 16 Fresno State over Nevada. R.B. does take Iowa to surprise No. 22 Wisconsin. Take Kansas State to beat Iowa State.

R.B. went 4-0 in NFL last week. He takes Chiefs over Bills, Packers over Bears, Vikings over Cowboys (heh!) and Saints over Jets.

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