



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Colby High's Luke Cox attacked the hoop during a game against eventual 4A state champion Scott City last season. The Eagles begin again on Thursday (3 p.m.) against Great Bend in Hays.

Colby boys set opening lineup

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Eagles battle Great Bend to begin tournament

Game time has arrived and Great Bend will be a welcome sight when the Colby High boys tip off their basketball season Thursday afternoon in Hays.

"Our guys are really looking forward to it. I'm happy it isn't against (6A) Garden City, (5A No. 6) Hays or Newton," new Eagles coach Kevin Brown said about his Hays Shootout tournament opener. "Great Bend will be a challenge, but I think it will be a good game to see where we're at."

Opening tip is set for 3 p.m. at Hays Middle School. The Eagles jump into their opener with an interesting combination of quickness, strength and "instant energy" guys who will provide great help off their bench.

Brown offered insight on each Colby varsity player entering the three-day shootout with a guaranteed three games for each team.

Starting backcourt
It's not been confirmed whether 6'2" senior Cameron Brown was a "blur" while helping dad Kevin move furniture during their move to Colby earlier this year.

But on the basketball floor, coach says this two-time all-league player and starting point guard will be fun to watch for Eagle fans.

"He goes so fast, and he can finish (with a basket) or find the open man," coach Brown said. "That's one thing I've noticed in practice. We're passing the ball really well."

Senior 6' returner Luke Cox and 6'1" sophomore Chandler Comfort are the Eagles' starting "wing" players.

"Luke is unbelievably competitive. He's very aggressive and just seems to have a knack for getting the ball in the hoop," coach explained. "Chandler's a really solid

player who can play point guard or the wing. He's very aggressive, smart and blends well with the other starters."

More guards
Senior Adam Giersch will definitely deliver excitement, just as he did during Colby's recent football campaign where he averaged about 20 yards a pass reception.

"Adam plays about 100 miles per hour, and he's very defensive-minded," coach Brown said.

Junior 6-footer Connor Mountford will join the 5'8" Giersch in sparking Colby's backcourt, once he is cleared from a football injury.

Starting inside players
Senior 6'4" post Marc Bremenkamp and 6'3" senior Connor Schwanke will anchor the Eagles' inside attack.

"Connor might be the best rebounder I've ever seen. He blocks out every time," coach Brown re-

vealed. "Marc's real good at creating his own shots. He runs the floor really well and gets shots in transition. And we have more depth inside."

Other inside talent
Junior Ashton Russ (6'2"), freshman Donte Winfield (6'1") and 6'3" junior Caleb Mazanec will also play key roles around the baskets.

Mazanec and Russ have both been cleared for contact after football injuries, though coach Brown said they might be "a ways from being game ready."

Whitfield's aggressive, no-fear style earned great reviews on the football field.

"Donte's very aggressive, perhaps a little overaggressive at times. We'll hopefully be able to keep him out of foul trouble," coach Brown concluded.

Watch for Eagle coverage throughout the Hays Shootout.



Colby Free Press photo

The Triplains-Brewster Titan mascot was on alert during last year's substate basketball tournament. The Titans tip off their season Friday evening in Winona against Logan.

Titans focus on high goals, first two foes visit this week

By Bonnie Holm

The Triplains-Brewster Titans have high hopes for winning seasons in basketball this year.

The boys' team, led by coach Michael Collett, will return three starters from last year.

The Titans will rely on sophomore Ryan Gfeller, seniors Seth Smith and Nathan Jorgensen to pave the way at the beginning of the season.

The Titans have a very young team, with 12 freshmen and sophomores from a total of 18 players.

Collett said that the underclassmen will be given the opportunity for varsity play if they rise to the challenge and work hard.

Although the Titans lack experience, they still have high expecta-

tions for this year. The team made it to the second round of substate last year, and this gave the Titans (10-11 record overall) a taste of what the postseason is all about.

They plan to go farther this year, and are hungry for something that the Triplains-Brewster Titans haven't had in basketball yet, a state tournament appearance.

The Lady Titans (14-8 last season) return all their starters from last year, including seniors Brittany Plummer, C.J. Lewellan and April Mays; juniors Dara Roulier, Alicia Barrie, Shayna Rogge and sophomore Kelly Lamb.

Coach Kent Gfeller has high hopes for this year's team, including winning just one more game in substate to make a trip to the state tournament.

The Lady Titans had many close games last year, and with a lot of strong competition in the area, the girls will have a challenge ahead of them.

Gfeller said that the team continues to improve in practice every day, and the underclassmen are pushing the varsity players to ramp up their game.

First action for the Titans will be Friday in Winona, where they will take on the visiting Logan Trojans.

Junior varsity action for the girls starts at 4 p.m., followed by JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys.

The Titans will also play on Saturday in Winona against the Healy Eagles, with varsity games beginning at 6 p.m.

Trojans fall short

Freshman Amanda Miller hit five of seven three-point shots, but the Colby Community College women still lost 54-38 at North Platte, Neb., Tuesday night.

Miller finished with 19 points while Tori Biddle (six points) was the only other Trojan to score more than five. Colby fell behind 29-16 at halftime and didn't heat

up enough after the break.

Loren Evans and DeAndra Williams added five points. Ariel Hutchinson hit one two-point basket and Semaj Blanton added a free throw.

The Trojans slipped to 2-10 this season. DeVontaye Merritt's 14 points paced the North Platte Community College team.

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