

Crusaders win pair

Senior Amy Myers' 28 points powered the Heartland Christian girls to a 49-36 Sagebrush Shootout win over Healy on Friday.

The Crusaders only led 30-29 through three quarters, but Healy no chance after that as Myers tallied 12 points in those final eight minutes.

Seniors Kirsten Bandy, Savannah Sullivant and teammate Quinlee Niblock also hit clutch fourth-quarter baskets to help Heartland even its season record at 1-1.

Sullivant (10 points) joined Myers in double figures while Bandy slipped seven points through the nets. Bandy hit five of her final six free-throw attempts.

Niblock netted four points, three in the final quarter.

The Crusaders shook off a tough first half where Healy hit four three-pointers. Despite the outside barrage, they only trailed 23-20 at intermission.

Myers scored eight points during the second quarter and 16 after halftime.

The winning momentum carried into Friday's second game as Heartland Christian's boys also defeated Healy 51-19.

Corey Wertz (14 points) paced a balanced attack that featured nine Crusaders hitting shots. Heartland Christian took a 27-10 halftime advantage and really never let Healy recover.

Blaine Wertz and Gabriel Schirmer provided a great 1-2 punch with eight points apiece.

Caleb Morris and Matt Wertz each added four points, while Shawn Sullivant made Heartland Christian's one three-pointer.

Michael Maurath and Brook



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Heartland Christian's Savannah Sullivant, left, was ready to battle for rebounding position against this Stratton-Liberty, Colo., foe during Sagebrush Shootout action in Brewster.

Ziegelmeier each tallied two.

The Crusaders advanced into Saturday's fifth-place games of this eight-team Sagebrush Shootout in Brewster.

Logan awaited the Heartland Christian girls and scored a 47-29 victory. Sullivant continued her consistent play with another 10 points.

Logan limited Myers to eight points (four of five free throws) while Niblock netted six.

Bandy (four points) and freshman Allie Mollendor (one) completed the Crusader scoring column. Logan stayed ahead after an 18-6 opening quarter.

St. Francis also proved to be a tough final opponent, beating the

Heartland boys 63-28.

Shawn Sullivant delivered a team-high 10 points followed by Brennan Ziegelmeier (seven), Corey Wertz (four), Matt Wertz (two), Blaine Wertz (two) and Brook Ziegelmeier (one point).

Brennan Ziegelmeier buried the Crusaders' one trifecta.

St. Francis shot ahead 16-6 through one quarter and 31-10 by halftime.

The Crusaders will both take 1-2 season records into their home opens Tuesday evening when Healy returns for an early-season rematch in Heartland Christian's gymnasium.

Watch for results and other details on Wednesday.

Trojans trounce Pratt

The Colby Community College wrestlers lost only two matches while scoring a dominating 38-7 dual win over visiting Pratt Saturday night.

Colby High alums Konnor Kriss and Beau Brown both scored wins for the Trojans.

Kriss took an 11-2 decision from 149-pound foe Kory Pfannestiel.

Brown took a quick 2-0 lead, then showed some of his football running-back elusiveness as he slipped free from 165-pound opponent Cade Noble's potential ankle takedown.

The two-point margin held up as Brown eventually won 5-3 for a good early highlight of his collegiate wrestling career.

Other Trojans were impressive like Calvin Ochs' 9-1 win over Austin Hughey at 157. Ochs is a freshman who wrestled for Hoxie High School.

Freshman Jared Johnson was the most efficient Trojan with his 1:00 pin at 174.

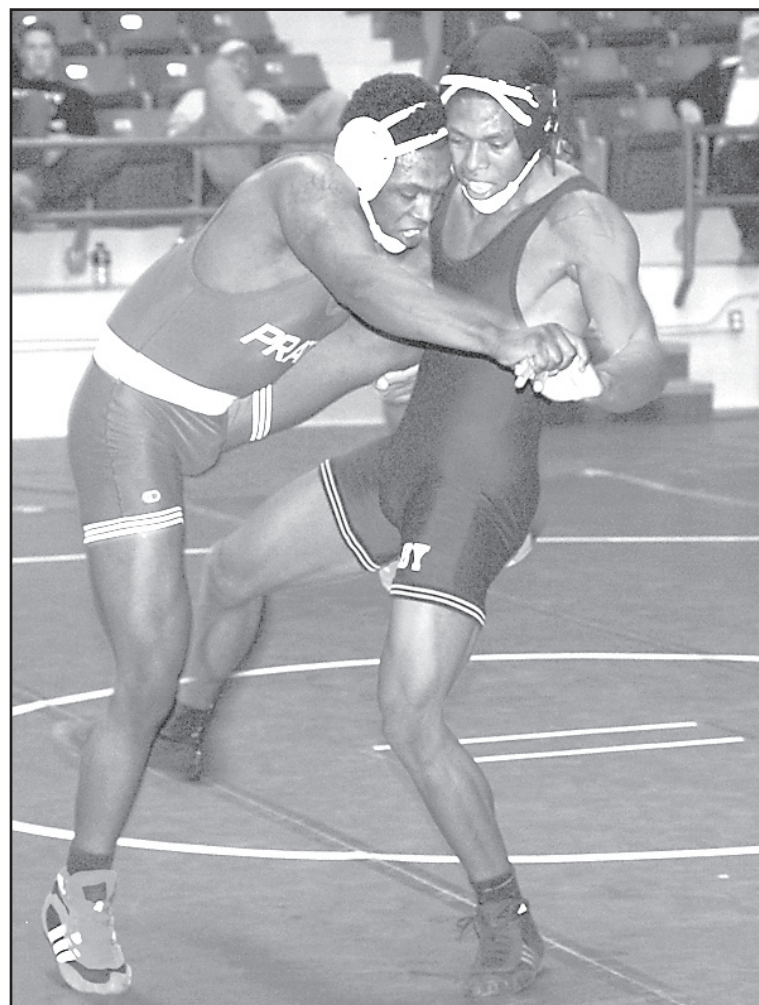
After Pratt did capture one close 1-0 win for Kasey Crump over Colby's James Jones, the Trojans rebounded to win Saturday's other two matches.

Freshman Rakin Deam pinned Pratt's Julius Coats at 184, and heavyweight Devanti Ragland won a 9-7 decision over Beau Bergeron.

Ragland is a freshman from Sanford, North Carolina. Dean wrestled at a Tulsa, Okla.-area high school.

Colby captured one more victory on the mat Saturday night, but official results were not available by press time.

Labette will dual the Trojans in Colby Thursday evening.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College freshman Rakim Dean, right, takes charge of his 184-pound match against Pratt's Julius Coats Saturday night. Dean pinned Coats to help clinch the Trojans' win.

Bulldog senior signs with Barton

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School

Kylie Jones, a senior at Golden Plains High School, signed a letter of intent to play Volleyball at Barton County Community College for the 2014 season. Jones has been a four-year starter for the Lady Bulldogs and has been recognized for her efforts.

She was named first-team All-League in the Western Kansas Liberty League both her junior and senior seasons and honorable mention as a sophomore.

She was selected to the 2013 All-State Honorable Mention Team for Class IA-II by the Kansas Volleyball Association.

Kylie was also chosen to play in the Northwest Kansas All-Star volleyball game in Colby this fall. The Lady Bulldogs had one of their best seasons in 2013 with a season record of 29-9.

The team was named runner-up in the Hill City tournament, the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament and the IA-II Sub-State Tournament held in Sharon Springs.

"I am very proud of Kylie for her volleyball accomplishments," said Coach Orba Smith. "Kylie put in many hours in the gym and in the weight room over the past four years. She worked hard both in-season and during the off-season to reach her goals."

I'm extremely excited for her to continue her volleyball career at Barton County," Smith added, "Kylie's strong work ethic and drive to succeed will benefit Kylie at the collegiate level and allow her to become a valued member of the Cougar volleyball squad."

As a junior, Jones was also named first-team all-league in

basketball and all-state honorable mention by the *Topeka Capital Journal* as a member of the third place in state team.

She was named first team all-league her sophomore year.

She placed second overall in state powerlifting as a freshman and fourth overall as a junior. She qualified for state track in high jump her junior year.

In addition to her athletic success, Kylie has been a four-year cheerleader for Golden Plains High, maintains a 4.0 grade point average in the classroom, and is active in National Honor Society and serves as Student Council President this year.

She qualified for state music as a sophomore, has been in the all-school play for three years, and was selected to participate in the Midwest Energy Youth tour last summer.

Kylie is the daughter of Alan Jones of Rexford and Sally Graham of Hays.

She plans to major in pre-med at Barton County.

A glance at upcoming area sporting events:

Today

JV girls/boys basketball: Colby at Goodland Tournament, TBA

Tuesday

Girls/boys basketball: Healy at Heartland Christian, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

College wrestling: Labette at Colby, TBA

JV girls/boys basketball: Colby at Goodland Tournament, TBA

Junior high basketball: Northern Valley at Golden Plains, 4 p.m.

Friday

Girls/boys basketball: Colby at Hugoton, 6:30/8 p.m.

Girls/boys basketball: Triplains-Brewster at Healy, TBA

Chiefs score 56 to clinch playoff spot

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jamaal Charles turned the Kansas City Chiefs' playoff clinching party into a game-long celebration right from the start.

Charles scored the first of his team record-tying five touchdowns on a 49-yard screen pass on the first play from scrimmage, sending the Chiefs to a 56-31 win over the Oakland Raiders on Sunday that clinched at least a wildcard spot.

"A big part of this team depends on me," Charles said. "Once I'm healthy this offense can go a long way and this team can go a long way."

Alex Smith threw four of his five TD passes to Charles, going 17 for 20 for 287 yards to make the Chiefs the fourth team ever to make the playoffs a year after losing at least 14 games. Kansas City (11-3) is tied for first place in the AFC West with Denver but needs help to win the division because the Broncos swept the season series.

"Anytime you can be a part of the turnaround, it's a special feeling," Smith said. "These guys have worked hard and deserve a ton of credit. It's special to be a part of this."

Matt McGloin threw four interceptions and lost a fumble while sharing time with Terrelle Pryor as Oakland (4-10) allowed the most points in franchise history and lost its fourth straight game. The Raiders had seven turnovers overall.

The performance drew constant boos from a crowd frustrated over

Kansas City matches Denver's record of 11-3

11 straight seasons without a winning record and raise questions about whether the Raiders are showing enough progress in year two under coach Dennis Allen to convince owner Mark Davis to keep him around for a third season.

"We get paid out there to play, we get paid out there to not let these guys light up the scoreboard the way they did," cornerback Tracy Porter said. "They did, in fact, what we didn't want them to do. We have no one to blame but ourselves."

There is not questioning the progress the Chiefs have made in their first year under coach Andy Reid. He took over a team that went 2-14 a year ago in a season troubled by the murder-suicide involving Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher, who shot to death the mother of his infant child before turning the gun on himself.

"It's a feeling that you want everyone to have," linebacker Derrick Johnson said. "It's a great feeling. What we went through last year to be in this situation and have an opportunity to do some big things, clinching the playoffs before the season's over, it's great."

The addition of Smith to a talented roster that featured six Pro Bowl players also helped. Charles was one of those Pro Bowlers a year ago but he never had a game quite like this even though he only

rushed for 20 yards in eight carries.

He did most of his work in the passing game, beating blitzes with screen passes and also having success running patterns downfield. He caught eight passes for 195 yards and four touchdowns in the third-most productive receiving day by a running back since the 1970 merger.

"I didn't do much," Smith said. "I mean three screens for touchdowns. I've never been a part of anything like that or seen that."

Charles joined Shaun Alexander, Jerry Rice and Clinton Portis as the only players since the merger to score five touchdowns and gain at least 200 yards from scrimmage in a single game.

"I don't know how anybody can be more valuable to a team and the success that we've had than he has," Reid said.

The Chiefs built a 35-10 lead before the Raiders scored three straight touchdowns to make it a game late in the third quarter. It quickly became a blowout again.

On a third-and-1, Smith found Charles on a wheel route down the sideline for a completion. Charles then cut toward the middle and raced in for the 71-yard score that tied Abner Haynes' team record set in 1961 against the Raiders with five TDs in a game.

The Chiefs put the game away after Taiwan Jones fumbled the ensuing kickoff, setting up a

Cowboy sorry for leaving field early

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant apologized for leaving the field before the clock ran out in Sunday's loss, explaining that he didn't want to be seen crying on the sideline.

Bryant left the bench area with 1:21 remaining as the Green Bay Packers were running out the clock in an epic 37-36 come-from-behind victory, having rallied from a 26-3 halftime deficit.

"I was wrong," Bryant told reporters during a Monday morning visit to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. "It didn't have anything to do with my teammates. I just ... I couldn't watch Green Bay kneel the ball down on the field after a tough loss like that. I was very emotional. I cried

when I got into the locker room. I didn't want to show that stuff on the sideline."

Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said he would discuss the situation with Bryant, who had 11 catches for 153 yards and a spectacular touchdown, on Monday.

"We'll address that with Dez today," Garrett said in his radio interview with 105.3 The Fan Dallas-Fort Worth.

"I understand why to a certain extent: They're kneeling the ball, the game essentially is over. He's an emotional guy; we're all very emotional about what we do. But he needs to stay out on the field, and I'll address that with him today, and just explain why it's important to do that. I'm sure he will understand."

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