

Colby Lady Eagles end win streak, finish fourth

By Joey Falkoff

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After capturing their first state championship last season, the Colby Lady Eagles stood on the Salina Bicentennial Center floor and wept tears of joy.

The tears flowed at the conclusion of this year's state tournament, but these were tears of sorrow.

After going 383 days without a loss, the No. 2-ranked Lady Eagles concluded the season with two losses in a span of 21 hours and finished a disappointing fourth at state.

The real heartbreaker came Friday, when the Lady Eagles saw their state-best 32-game winning streak, undefeated season and quest for a second consecutive state championship come to an end as Melissa Nelson's 27-foot three-pointer splashed home with 2.5 seconds left to give No. 4 seed Holton a 47-44 win over Colby.

"Words can't describe how devastated the girls are right now," said coach Parker McKee on Friday. "I'm at a loss for words."

Still feeling the effects of the loss Saturday, the girls took a one-point half-time lead over Abilene in the third-place game, but fell flat in the second half as the No. 3-seeded Cowgirls pulled away for a 66-54

victory. The Lady Eagles finished the season 24-2, just like last year, but this wasn't quite the same.

Andover Central accomplished what the Lady Eagles failed to do. The team captured the Class 4A state girls crown, capping a perfect season with a 41-39 overtime victory over Holton on Saturday.

"Like we said all year long, we came here for one thing, and that was to win it," said senior Lissa Mazanec. "This is very disappointing."

Also disappointing were the ways in which the veteran Lady Eagles lost both games.

Free-throw shooting, taking care of the ball and solid defense — all hallmarks of an experienced team — were largely absent Friday and Saturday.

Against Holton, the Lady Eagles made just six of 18 (33.3 percent) of their free throws and committed 21 turnovers, 16 in the second half. All but three of their 21 turnovers came from their four seniors, with six each from Tasha Wagoner and Mazanec.

Colby's carelessness with the ball also was evident against Abilene, when they committed another 16 turnovers while forcing only nine. This time, 14 of 16 were courtesy of the seniors. Colby allowed

Abilene to shoot 48 percent from the field, the highest any team has shot against them all year.

A weekend that started so promisingly with a 29-point thumping of Andale in the first round began to unravel with the Lady Eagles ahead of Holton 26-13 with 3:17 remaining in the first half.

Rather than extending their lead and putting doubt in Holton's mind, the Lady Eagles allowed the Wildcats to trim their deficit to 27-17.

An April Gee basket gave Colby a 31-19 lead early in third quarter, but Holton went on a 14-0 run to take their first lead, 33-31, with 21 seconds left. Gee halted the run to tie the game at 33 with eight seconds to go.

Nelson's basket at the start of the quarter gave Holton the lead back at 35-33. The Lady Eagles tied the score on two occasions and had a chance to take the lead with Mazanec on the free-throw line for two shots, trailing 41-40 with 49.4 seconds left.

Mazanec, who was just 4 for 8 at the line, saw the first one bounce three times on the rim before falling away. She regrouped to make the second one and tie the game at 41.

Colby appeared to have forced Holton's Crista Bechard into a 10-second violation with 38.1 seconds to play. Then officials

reversed their ruling, saying Wildcat coach Jon Holliday had signaled for a timeout.

Holton passed the ball around the perimeter for 35 seconds before Nelson got some daylight from beyond NBA range and put a dagger through Colby's hearts with 2.5 seconds left.

The Lady Eagles had one final attempt, but Mazanec's pass up the court was intercepted by Nelson to end the game.

The Eagles lost despite shooting close to 52 percent and holding Holton to 34.9 percent. Nobody reached double figures for the Lady Eagles, who were led by Gee with nine points. Mazanec and senior Aubrette Stephens each had eight.

The Lady Eagles did all they could to deliver a knockout blow in the first half against Abilene. Colby shot a season-best 64 percent from the field and was 4 for 4 from the three-point line.

The problem was it barely swayed the Cowgirls, who trailed just 34-33 at the break.

Colby cooled off in the second half, connecting on 7 of 24 (29.2 percent) of their shots while Abilene opened the half with an 11-3 run to pull ahead 45-36.

Wagoner and Aubrette finished the game with 10 points each.

Colby got within three on two different occasions in the half but scored just four points in the final 4:34.

Abilene knocked down 9 of 10 free throws in the final two minutes to seal the win. Emma Ostermann led the Cowgirls with 24 points, while Mazanec led Colby with 13.

"We pride ourselves on defense, so to give up 66 points is uncharacteristic," said McKee. "The loss (Friday) took the wind out of our sails."

The season's goal was a state championship, and the Lady Eagles fell two games short, but McKee says it'd be absurd to call this season a failure.

"That's garbage," said McKee. "Our girls have nothing to hang their heads about. They accomplished what few teams in the history of Colby High have."

The players agreed. "I guess people can think that if they want, but it's not a failure to me," said senior Paige Stephens. "I wouldn't trade this team for the world."

"Let's see how many wins they (the critics) have had in their high school season," said Mazanec. "Four losses in two seasons. You can't be terribly disappointed with that."

Story tells of tragic death of Goodland men

Tragedy on the high plains of northwest Kansas never ventured far at the turn of the 20th century. The untimely deaths of two young men in Goodland were reported in the Jan. 7, 1904, edition of *The Goodland Republic*. Graphic details of the incident were not for the faint-of-heart.



marcia smith

• from the vault

ground, where with the coat and blankets, which had now been brought, the fire was smothered.

Someone now cried that there would be made. James Welch, Sr., of Savana, Ill., also ordered the body of his son to be made ready for shipment and he would arrive Tuesday in Goodland.

TWO MEN BURNED TO DEATH: DEPOT HOTEL EMPLOYEES FATALLY BURNED SUNDAY

James Welch and Robert Fleet, employees of the Depot hotel, were burned to death Sunday night, Jan. 5, at 8:20 by the igniting of the vapor from gasoline with which they had been cleaning their clothing. So rapid was the work of the flames upon their bodies that before assistance could be given, the men were a mass of blisters.

Medical aid and all relief possible was given, but to no avail, and victims died in agony six hours after the accident.

The fire started by the lighting of a match by Welch to smoke a cigarette.

Both young men had come to Goodland, and before they died told where their homes were, the names of their parents and requested that their folks be notified by telegraph of their dying condition. Return messages came ordering the body of Robert Fleet to be expressed to Salisbury, Mo., where burial

was fire in the laundry, which was given added horror by Welch saying that his partner was in there and to save him. John Dempsey, a (railroad) brakeman, was the first to enter the room and found Robert Fleet taking refuge in the bed trying to smother the fire on his person by wrapping bed comforts around him. But Fleet had made little success, and when he was hurriedly carried outside his underclothes, the only covering on him when the fire started, were partially burned from his body, and what was thought to be portions of hose (socks) dropping away was the skin of the whole bottom surface of his feet.

Dr. Smith was telephoned early in the excitement and arrived there not more than 15 minutes after the call, followed by Dr. Gulick. The burned men had been carried into the hotel and placed on cots. What clothing had not been burned off had been torn off by the rescuers and for a few moments lay naked, their bodies disfigured with red burns and forming blisters. Their faces had suffered badly and the hair on their heads was singed, and their eyebrows burned over and the skin

even slipped from its position on the brows and covered their eyes.

The Terrible Agony

The injured were in awful agony. The men who were earliest at the tragedy said Welch had been almost entirely dressed, and as a consequence the fire had burned him the worst, and when first seen Rogers declared the flames shot two feet above his head. The covering of lard on their burns and the injections of morphine abated the pain little, and until the end they never ceased to moan and utter piteous cries.

Welch and Fleet were kept apart at first and each kept inquiring about the welfare of the other, but later both were taken into the parlor of the hotel, where Welch died at 2:47 in the morning. They were conscious for about two hours after the accident, and spoke familiarly to those they knew. Welch burdened his mind that he was to blame. He kept saying to those around him, "It's all my fault. We were cleaning our clothes with gasoline and I lit a match to smoke a cigarette, and our clothes took fire. I know I am gone. Send a telegram to my father in Savana, Ill." (To be continued)

Fleet, 20 years old, had been using an alias and issued a "death bed confession" before his passing. More of this tragic story will follow in the next article of "From the Vault."

matters of record

Sherman County Bastille

The following people were booked into the Sherman County Bastille:

Feb. 21 — 1:49 p.m., Eric Scott Schultz, 26 of Oakley. Arrested by deputy sheriff for burglary, theft of more than \$500 and less than \$2,500 and criminal damage to property. Court pending.

3:14 p.m., David Glenn Roeder, 37 of Goodland. Arrested by deputy sheriff for failure to appear. Bond supplied.

7:39 p.m., Kim Rae Duell, 50 of Goodland. Arrested by deputy sheriff for driving under influence, first conviction. Bond supplied.

Feb. 22 — 4 p.m., Chandra L. Witzel, 28 of Kanorado. Arrested by sheriff deputy for driving under influence, third conviction. Court pending.

Feb. 24 — 9 p.m., Marcus Warren Binger, 16 of Goodland. Arrested by deputy sheriff for driving under influence and liquor purchase by minor. Other release.

9:45 p.m. — Adren Duane Schneider, 19 of Goodland. Arrested by deputy sheriff for liquor purchase by minor and furnishing alcohol to a minor. Court pending.

Feb. 26 — 8:45 a.m., Jeremiah Joseph Maley, 20 of Goodland. Arrested by city police for driving while suspended, first conviction. Court pending.

8:25 a.m., Jeffrey A. Maley, 23 of Goodland. Arrested by city police for warrant arrest. Court pending.

Feb. 28 — 4:55 p.m., Jesse R. Pollard, 23 of Oakley. Arrested by city police for criminal threat with intent to terrorize, criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct. Court pending.

Feb. 29 — 7:54 a.m., Domingo Perez, Jr., 37 of Kanorado. Arrested by city police for driving while suspended, first conviction. Bond supplied.

3:32 p.m., Jerry DeWayne Blake, 47 of Goodland. Arrested by sheriff for driving under influence, first conviction. Court pending.

March 1 — 6:05 p.m., Domingo Perez, 63 of Kanorado. Arrested by deputy sheriff for driving under influence, fourth or subsequent conviction and transporting open container. Court pending.

7:13 p.m., Tammy M. Kindall, 38 of Goodland. Arrested by deputy sheriff for failure to appear. Bond supplied.

March 2 — 12:21 p.m., Anthony Keith Blanks, 47 of Denver. Arrested by Wallace County deputy sheriff for theft over \$500 and under \$2,500 and burglary. Court pending.

March 3 — 4 p.m., Bradley Lynn Guenther, 35 of Shawnee. Previously arrested for driving under influence, second conviction. Sentenced to serve time in bastille.

March 4 — 3:20 p.m., Corbin Huffman, 42 of Goodland. Arrested by city police for theft under \$500. Court pending.

4:06 p.m., Nicholas E. Slusher, 19 of Goodland. Arrested by city police for theft of unknown value. Court pending.

March 6 — 8:03 p.m., Justin Shane Beckner, 27 of Goodland. Arrested by city police for domestic battery. Court pending.

11:36 p.m., Frank A. Welker, 57 of McDonald. Arrested by Cheyenne County sheriff deputy for driving under influence, second conviction. Court pending.

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of the ticket.

Jan. 22, 2007: Roger A. Verdeyen, 37, Troy, Ill., \$156 for improper parking.

Jan. 24, 2007: Mark W. Walmesley, 49, Cypress, Texas, \$126 for improper parking.

Sept. 21: Keith L. Powell, 27, Monroe, La., \$120 for speeding, 84/70.

Sept. 27: Shara L. Pyle, 31, Goodland, \$1,091 for driving under

the influence of alcohol or drugs, second conviction.

Oct. 27: Reymundo Roman, 33, Thornton, Colo., \$176 for unlawful acts with vehicles.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

Calendar for March 11 to March 17

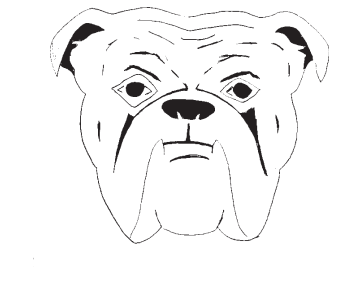
Thursday: 2 p.m., high school forensics.

Monday: 7 p.m., board of education meeting.



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Crossword Puzzle

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CLUES ACROSS

- In bed
- In a way, assists
- Wild leek
- 87732
- Reactivating button
- Assoc. of Licensed Aircraft Engineers (abbr.)
- 5 high Afghan lakes: Band-e
- Slang for backward
- Disposed
- Twain hero
- Came up
- Japanese apricot
- Elephant driver
- Physically disturbed
- Margarines
- Synagogue
- Before
- Least bright
- Middle ears
- The smallest whole number
- Foot digits
- Tripod
- Aquatic mammal order
- The lowest form
- Young canine
- Football kick
- Long time soap opera
- ____fication: cleansing
- Homer epic
- Tear down
- Breezed through
- From a time
- Fencing sword
- "Match Point" actor Jonathan ____ Meyers
- Brought to a conclusion
- Grocery bag
- Far East female domestic
- Central Africa river
- ____ Clapton, musician
- A room in which photographs are developed
- Take a criminal into custody
- Charles William ____ , Am. naturalist
- This (Spanish) ____itory: region
- In an inclement way
- Palm tree leaf fibers
- Jai ____, sport
- A very large body of water
- Sean ____, actor
- Unethical & undeserving person
- Thus far
- NE corner CA county
- Arrange to be straight
- 92543 - 92546
- Exclamation of surprise
- No glory without it
- Annoy persistently
- Sea eagles
- Apportioned cards
- Greek porch
- Proceeding in small stages
- Implied
- Grazing areas
- 1/2 the width of an em
- Plant louses
- Prompting signal
- In a way, developed
- Topographic point
- Three-banded armadillo
- Extreme in degree or quality
- Card in a deck having three spots
- C. ____ Ball: canning scientist
- Hard outer food layer
- ____ Nui, Easter Island
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- Try to locate

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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