

Eagles defeat Cowboys

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

The second-ranked Colby High School Eagle wrestling team showed their mettle in a 39-25 win over no. 5 Goodland on Thursday night at the Colby High School gym.

Eagles' head coach Mitch Beims said Colby's effort was great. "We were wrestling the defending state champions, and that is always hard."

"Our senior leadership really stepped up and we got a big win from Chris Erickson."

Beims also had praise for the young Eagles, "Some of our young guys wrestled their veterans real well."

The dual was close until Zach Luedke put the Eagles up for good with a pin of Shandon Wolak at 152.

Luedke pinned Wolak in 1:48 and gave Colby a 24-22 lead.

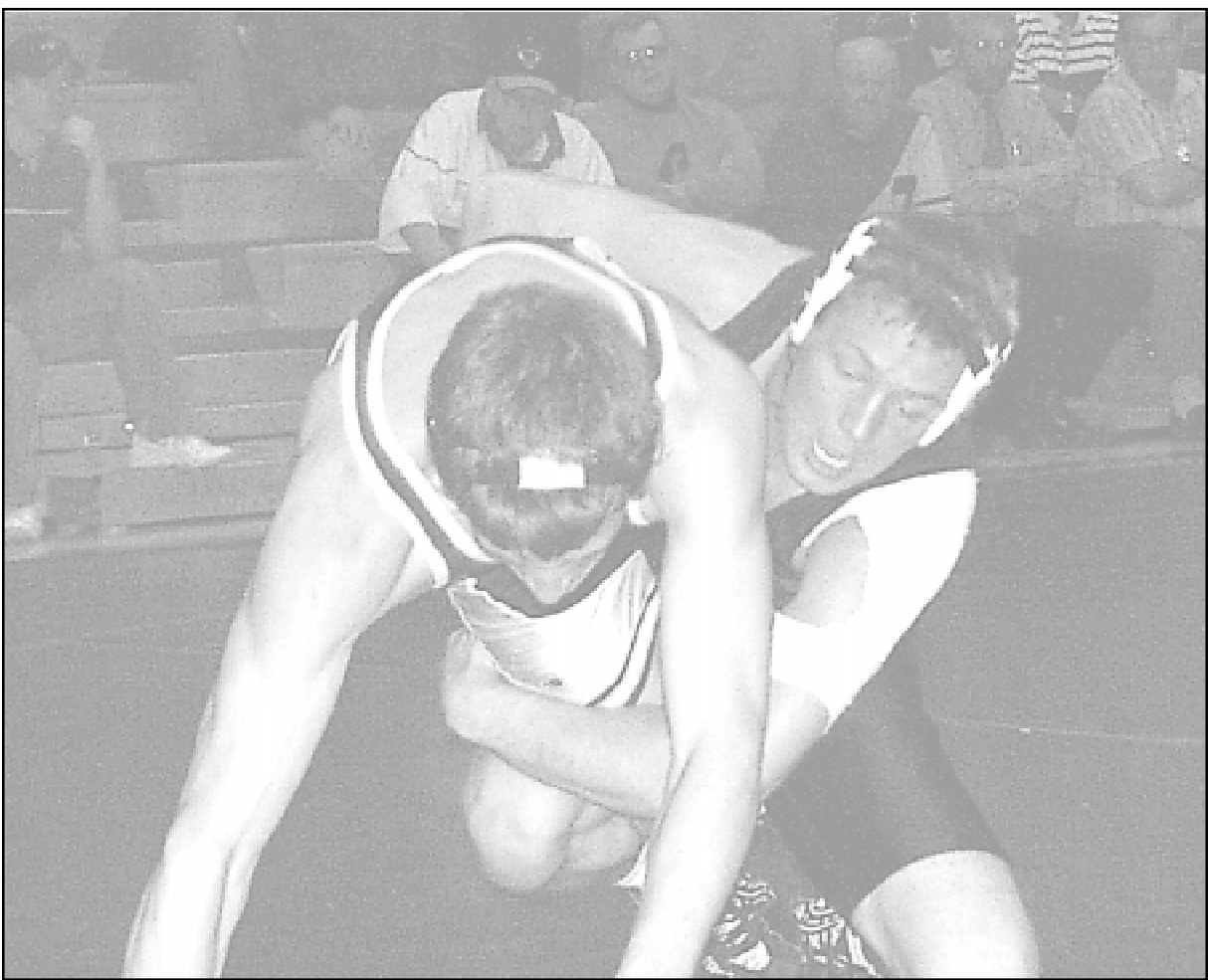
The Eagles built on their lead from then on, losing only one match, a 5-0 decision against Eric Seemann in the 275 division.

The dual started with Goodland's 103-pound Blayze Bahe pinning Doug Hurtt 20 seconds into round two, giving the Cowboys a 6-0 lead.

Eric Luedke evened things for the Eagles with a pin of Kyle Schulte in 51 seconds at 112.

A Cowboy forfeit to Danny Mainus at 119 gave the Eagles a 12-6 advantage.

Drue Herl faced Bryce Abbey at 125. Herl was down 1-4 in the first and 1-6 in the second before being



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High School wrestler Tyler Hellmuth worked for control of Goodland's Max Saint at a dual held at the Colby High School gym on Thursday night. The Colby Eagles downed the Cowboys 39-25 in a matchup of two top-five teams.

pinned with 27 seconds left in the match. The dual was tied 12-12.

Schuyler Sharpe trailed Bryce Bahe 5-0 and 9-2 before losing a major decision by a 12-2 score. The four points gave the Cowboys a 16-12 lead.

Matt Murray had control of Kyle Whisler down the entire match at 135. Leading 4-1 after the first round and 6-1 at the second.

Murray pinned Whisler at the 5:11 mark for an 18-16 Colby lead.

Brooks Wederski led Taylor Brack 2-0 at the end of one round at 140. He trailed 3-2 at the end of two and 6-3 at the end of the match, giving the Cowboys a 19-18 lead.

Tyler Hellmuth fell 7-3 to Max Saint at 145.

The match was tied at zero after one

and Hellmuth trailed 1-3 after two. The loss put the Eagles down 22-18.

Zach Luedke's pin at 152 gave the Eagles a 24-22 lead.

Chris Erickson built the lead to 27-22 with a 5-3 defeat of Chris Zimmerman at 160. Erickson led 1-0 after two rounds.

Damien Stephens downed Jordan Bedore 7-3 at 171. Stephens led 2-0 at the end of one and 4-0 after two. The win gave the Eagles a 30-22 lead.

Bo Kleinsorge made the dual score 33-22 with a 9-3 win over Thomas Tompkins. Kleinsorge led the 189-pound match 4-1 and 6-2 at the end of the first two periods.

Justin Finley, at 215, pinned Brandon Nemechek in 1:45 to give the Eagles a 39-22 advantage.

Liberty league starts tournament Monday

The Western Kansas Liberty League basketball tournament starts Monday in Brewster and Colby.

First and second round games will be played Monday and Tuesday nights in Brewster while semi-final and final round games will be played at the Community Building in Colby.

The opening round on Monday pits the Golden Plains girls against Cheylin in Brewster's south gym at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday's girls' games find Utica/Healy playing Weskan at 3 p.m. in the north gym while Grinnell and Brewster

matchup in the south gym.

Wallace County takes on the winner of the Monday game at 6 p.m. in the north gym. Greeley County will take on Triplains at the same time in the south gym.

Boys' games start Tuesday with the Golden Plains and Grinnell at 4:30 p.m. in the south gym and Weskan and Utica/Healy in the north gym.

Greeley County plays Wallace County at 7:30 p.m. in the south gym while Cheylin and Triplains battle it out in the north gym.

Football Update

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marty Schottenheimer was hired as coach of the Washington Redskins, returning to the NFL with a team that proved to be an expensive bust this season.

Schottenheimer, who took both of his previous teams to the NFL playoffs, received a four-year, \$10 million contract from the Redskins, who finished the season 8-8 and missed the playoffs despite the largest player payroll in NFL history.

He also will be the team's director of football operations.

Schottenheimer coached the Chiefs

from 1989-98, compiling a 101-58-1 record.

The 57-year-old Schottenheimer coached the Browns from 1984-88, going 46-31.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs want to hire Dick Vermeil as head coach, but the St. Louis Rams have blocked the deal for now.

The Rams, the team Vermeil led to last year's Super Bowl championship, say the Chiefs have no right to hire him because he is under contract for one more season.

Area Briefs

•Colby schools would like to remind all the senior citizens that Golden Eagle passes are still available at the high school office. Call 465-5300 for a free pass to all home events. Activities director Jeff Quenzer said the Eagles would like to take the opportunity to allow senior citizens to support the Colby High School teams at no cost.

•It isn't too late to register for the Colby Recreation spring activities. Activities offered from January through May include aerobics, water aerobics, taekwando, finger painting, fun with play-dough, tumbling, funda-

mentals of golf, baseball and softball camps, spring fling hoops festival, little cagers, little dribblers, coed softball and volleyball tournaments, 8-ball tournament and a pitch part. Call 462-4440 for more information.

•The Colby Community College basketball teams will host Cloud County Sunday, Jan. 7 in the second annual \$1 Night at the Colby Community Building. Games start at 6 p.m.

Call your sports news to the *Free Press*, 462-3963; fax 462-7749; or e-mail colbysports@nwkansas.com.

Area Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 6
Colby and Goodland High School wrestling continues at the southwest classic in Liberal at 10 a.m.

Goodland High School junior varsity wrestling at the WaKeeney tournament at 8:30 a.m.

Cheylin High School junior varsity basketball at the Wallace County tournament in Sharon Springs at 9 a.m.

Norton High School varsity wrestling tournament starts at 10 a.m.

Colby Community College Tournament of Champions continues at 10 a.m.

Indoor track at the University of Kansas Invitational in Lawrence.

Sunday, Jan. 7
Colby Community College basketball vs. Cloud County at the Community Building. Women at 6 p.m. and men at 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 8
St. Francis High School C-team basketball at Dundy County at 6 p.m.
Quinter High School C-team basketball vs. Hoxie at 6 p.m.
Western Kansas Liberty League tournament begins at Brewster and Colby. Times and games to be announced.



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