

Season underway for real this weekend



Brian Ostermann
●Power Sports

We have a big weekend ahead. We host the annual Ambassador Classic. Our sponsor this year is S & T Communications. S & T is making a great impact in our community and both the men's and women's teams at Colby Community College thank S & T for supporting our programs.

Our schedule doesn't get any easier this weekend. We face two power schools from two different regions of the country. This Friday we take on Casper, Wyo., (Region IX power) and Saturday we challenge Marshalltown, Iowa (IA/MO region). Both teams are undefeated and both should be great tests for our ball club.

This past weekend we did pass our first major test of the young season. We defeated South Plains, which is currently ranked #8 in the nation, by a score of 81-76 on the road. This was a big win for our program. We played just well enough to get the job done. I thought both teams were very evenly matched. South Plains has two sophomore front court players that are signing at the University of Georgia and a guard that is signing with Hawaii. In addition, they have several other division I prospects. I was pleased with how our kids responded to the challenge. The challenge was met with a great deal of adversity. The game was supposed to have been played on Saturday evening but due to a power outage at South Plains the game was postponed until Sunday afternoon. The game was also moved from the South

Plains campus to Lubbock Christian University. We had to endure another day lying around in a hotel but the kids handled it very well and we were ready to play.

We had several players do some great things in the ball game. Dedric Spooner played very well. He not only scored but made some big passes out of being double-teamed. E.J. Drayton led us in scoring and made several big baskets. Branden Miller nailed four 3-pointers, all in the 2nd half. Eric Fowlkes was again very steady. We received excellent bench play from Stu Keltner and Joe Williams. Once again a solid overall team effort. This weekend should be fun!

JOTTINGS

Joe Williams had a birthday last Friday. He played very well at South Plains including four big free throws down the stretch.

A special thank you to all our sponsors especially S & T Communications which sponsors this weekend's Ambassador Classic.

Rich Epp made arrangements with FOX Sports to get the Nebraska-K-State football game on Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. This will enable all our local fans to attend the final game of the S & T Ambassador Classic at 8:00 p.m. Watch a little football and then come down to the community building!

It's going to be another great year of local college basketball. Get your schedule & make plans to attend all the

home games. Get there early for your best seats and let's get loud! We need all you fans if we are going to finish in the top 4 in the rugged West. A year ago we lost 4 home games by a total of 6 points. We were 10-4 at the CCB. With your support we can go 15-0 this year!

I really appreciate the support of our fans and sponsors. We hope to provide everyone with a season to remember. We now head into the meat of our non-conference schedule. It's a time when our team really needs to come together. We need to build and improve from one week to the next. We are not only playing for today but also playing for February and March. I encourage everyone to enjoy the journey.

Check out the new HOME EVENTS schedule posted downtown on the Sport Shoppe building. This is a great reminder for all you fans. This sign will list our winter home sports contests. We thank the Colby CC Backers Club, Commercial Sign, and F & M Insurance for sponsoring the sign.

Congratulations to our wrestling team on their current #1 ranking. Let's win it all!

Be sure the check out this website: <http://www.highlandcc.edu/sports/regionvi-bb/bbstnd.html>

The S & T Communications Ambassador Classic is Nov. 14 through Nov. 16. The men begin play on the 15th and the women play the 14th. The men will take on Casper, Wyo., and Marshalltown, Iowa.

The Western Sprinklers Classic will be Nov. 22 and Nov. 23. We will play New Mexico JC and Southwestern, Iowa at 8 p.m. both nights. Garden City JC will play both nights at 6 p.m. This will be a men's team only Classic.

FAST FORWARD

Next HOME GAME Friday Nov. 15 8 p.m. vs Casper, Wyo.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagle volleyball team was honored Monday night at its awards supper. Among the team members were Elaine Lamm (bumping the ball in action earlier this year), and Kassie Jacob (#29), and Stephanie Gatz (#21).

Lady Eagles hand out volleyball letters

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

The Colby Lady Eagle volleyball team, which earned a trip to the state tournament in Salina last month and finished with a 31-5 record, held its annual awards supper and recognition night Monday at the high school.

Varsity letter winners were: Jessica Bricker, Tiffany Focke, Sally

Schlick, Desiree Sharp, Summar Stephens, Sam Wolf, Lori Ziegelmeier, Whitney Adams, Bethanie Linden, Raya Mazanec, Brianna Swafford, and Cody Hatfield.

Other participants on this year's team were Angela Bennett, Shawna Cox, Stephanie Gatz, Kerri Jones, Erica Molstad, Maret Peterson, Tess Baumfalk, Katie Friesen, Jamie Fry, Christy Gerstner, Kassie Jacob, Elaine Lamm, Diana McAdams, Amanda McIlroy, Shaly Niemeyer, Janessa Rasmussen, Kendra Rogers, Sarah Redmond, Cierra Rous, Lacey Cooper, Emily Dougherty, Amy Dickman, and Morgan Stephens.

The Lady Eagle tennis team is holding its awards supper tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the high school commons area. The public is invited to attend.

Nebraska coach looking for first win against Kansas State Wildcats in Manhattan Saturday

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Nebraska football coach Frank Solich has yet to beat Kansas State on the road, but he is hopeful the third time will be a charm when his team faces the No. 11 Wildcats on Saturday.

Solich and the Cornhuskers were disappointed in their last two trips down U.S. Highway 77 to Manhattan.

In Solich's first season in 1998, Kansas State beat Nebraska 40-30 and gave the Huskers' new coach his third loss.

Two years ago, the Wildcats knocked the Huskers out of the Big 12 title hunt by only one point, 29-28.

"They're such a good program and so talented year in and year out," Solich said Monday.

While Manhattan has not been kind to Solich, his teams have always returned the hospitality when Kansas State visits Lincoln, beating the Wildcats 41-15 in 1999 and 31-21 last year.

Solich said he doesn't refer to Kan-

sas State (8-2, 4-2 Big 12) as a rival when preparing his team for the game, but he definitely treats the Wildcats like one.

"You have to make sure there is an understanding that you are playing a special team," he said. "We don't really identify rivals, but it is obvious ... you need to step it up when you face them."

Oakland spans Denver, 34-10

DENVER (AP) — Denver was determined to not let Oakland beat them deep. The Raiders didn't, but Rich Gannon sure picked the Broncos apart.

Gannon threw for 352 yards and three touchdowns, and completed 21 straight passes during one stretch as the Oakland Raiders ended a four-game losing streak with a 34-10 victory over the Denver Broncos on Monday night.

Gannon was sharp as Oakland opened the season 4-0, but struggled at times during the Raiders' losing streak.

Against Denver, he could hardly miss.

Gannon completed 29 of his first 30 passes, and his 21 straight completions in the second and third quarters broke Ken Anderson's single-game record of 20 set nearly 20 years ago.

"He takes a three-step drop and they're max-protecting him, it's hard

to get to the QB," Denver DT Lionel Dalton said. "We tried to push and get our hands up in his face, and he kept throwing it over our hands. Unfortunately, he was hot."

Denver (6-3) dropped its safeties deep in coverage and rushed Gannon with as few as two players, which Gannon used to his advantage. He repeatedly dropped off passes underneath, then threw over the top when Denver tightened its coverage.

Gannon didn't miss until his ninth pass, and that came when running back Charlie Garner was unable to come down with both feet in bounds. He threw touchdown passes of 6 and 34 yards to Jerry Rice, and was 9-for-9 for 94 yards during a third-quarter scoring drive that Jerry Porter capped a 22-yard TD reception.

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