

Time to play ball



Brian Ostermann

●Keeping in Touch

We open up the tough Jayhawk West Conference schedule with a road game to El Dorado. We face the soon-to-be 11-3 Butler County Grizzlies. Winners in 10 of their last 11 games. This is a very solid team that is very tough at home. We recorded our first ever win at Butler last season in an overtime thriller. Butler only lost two conference games a year ago, Barton County was the other team to win in El Dorado.

We resumed practice on Sunday evening and will depart on Friday morning for El Dorado. The players are rested, healthy, and anxious to get the conference season underway. Hopefully we will not be too rusty. We all know that a long lay-off means it will be a little rough with our timing.

We return home for our conference opener vs. rival Garden City (11-3) on Wednesday Jan. 7.

Have a Happy New Year!

Jottings

The Trojan men are 14-0 and currently ranked 3rd in the nation.

The nine Jayhawk West teams have a combined record of 94-27. Once again our league is among the best in the country and will be very tough every night.

We could not be successful without the support of all our fans and sponsors. Our business sponsors this year are Stephens Construction, S&T Communications, Western Sprinklers, Pepsi of Colby, Culligan of Colby, Taco John's of Colby, Thomas Canyon Feeders and Gambino's.

On Saturday Jan. 31 prior to our game vs. Butler County we will honor each of our corporate sponsors for the 2003-2004 season. We will present each with an honorary plaque. The Trojan Dunk-O-Meter is at 58 after 14 games. Justin Williams is the team leader with 34 slams! Last season the Trojans recorded 107 dunks. Colby Canvas sponsors the Dunk-O-Meter.

Jayhawk West Conference

12-28-03 non-conf.
1. Colby (#2 in NJCAA) 14-0
2. Hutchinson (#8 in NJCAA) 13-0

3. Barton County 12-2
4. Garden City 11-3
5. Cloud County 11-3
6. Butler County 10-3
7. Dodge City 8-5
8. Pratt 7-5
9. Seward County 8-6

Jayhawk West Games

Saturday, Jan 3 (M-men, W-women)

Seward County (W-M) at Barton County, 6&8 p.m.,
Colby (W-M) at Butler County, 2&4

Hutchinson (W-M) at Dodge City, 6&8

Cloud County (W-M) at Garden City, 6&8

Pratt (M) at Three Rivers Classic, 5

Wednesday, Jan 7

Butler County (W-M) at Cloud County, 6&8

Garden City (W-M) at Colby, 6&8

Barton County (W-M) at Pratt, 6&8

Dodge City (W-M) at Seward County, 6&8

Saturday, Jan 10

Garden City (W-M) Barton County, 6&8

Seward County (W-M) at Butler County, 6&8

Colby (W-M) at Cloud County, 6&8

Pratt (W-M) at Hutchinson, 6&8

Monday, Jan 12

Barton County (W-M) at Colby, 6&8

Cloud County (W-M) at Dodge City, 6&8

Hutchinson (W-M) at Garden City, 6&8

Pratt (W-M) at Seward County, 6&8

Ostermann is the men's head coach at Colby College.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School's Corey Reed and David Voss are getting prepared for the resumption of the season following the holiday break. The wrestlers have their next match on Thursday, Jan. 8 at Goodland, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Now it's back to the real thing

By TOM A.DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve.

Jan. 1 — New Year's Day.

Jan. 2 — Resumption of the winter sports season.

One game is on the schedule for Friday, and that involves the Golden Plains Bulldogs hosting Weskan at 6:30 and 8 p.m., girls, boys respectively.

On Saturday, the Colby High basketball Eagles entertain the St.

Francis Indians at the high school and community building, with action at 4:45 p.m., 6:30 and 8:00.

Saturday also finds the Colby Community College Trojan basketball men and women at Butler County Community College, El Dorado, with games at 2 and 4 p.m.

Through mid-week, here are scheduled activities:

• Tuesday, Jan. 6 — Colby High Eagles basketball vs. TMP-Marian/Hays at the high school and com-

munity building, action starts at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. at both sites; Brewster basketball Bulldogs host Herndon at 6:30 and 8 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 7 — Colby Community College Trojan basketball men and women vs. Garden City at the community building at 6 and 8 p.m.; Colby College wrestlers vs. Lincoln (Ill.) College in dual action at Hoxie High School, 6:30 p.m.

More updates later.

Last-second free throws down WSU

WICHITA (AP) — Freshman Ken Tutt hit three-of-four free throws in the final seconds Tuesday to lead Oral Roberts past Wichita State 76-73.

The score was tied at 73 when

Wichita State (8-3) guard Fridge Holman fouled Tutt with two seconds left. Holman, frustrated with the call, took off his head band and threw it down the court, drawing a technical foul.

Tutt sank two free throws on the technical foul to give Oral Roberts (7-4) a 75-73 lead, then hit the second of two free throws on the personal foul. He finished the game with 25 points.

Coach says team needs the break

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Dick Vermeil does not count himself among those coaches who fret about their team's losing its rhythm when they take off the first week of the postseason.

For one thing, his Kansas City Chiefs may be completely healthy for the first time in several weeks by the time they host a second-round game.

"We've already played 21 games, including the Hall of Fame game as a fifth preseason. I think the players appreciate and need the break," Vermeil said Tuesday.

The Chiefs plan a very light week, with the players doing only conditioning work until Saturday's sole full practice.

"I think the bye is an advantage," Vermeil said. "We've earned the right. It might also allow us to suit up our complete starting lineup for the first time in a number of weeks."

The Chiefs have been amazingly healthy while going 13-3 in the regular season, tying a team record for wins. The entire offensive line has started the same five men for 32 games in a row — the longest streak by that position group in the NFL in 30 years. Offensive stars such as running back Priest Holmes, tight end Tony Gonzalez and quarterback Trent Green have not missed a start either.

But the defense has been weakened the past six weeks by the absence of linebacker Mike Maslowski, who's been nursing a knee injury. In addition, left cornerback Eric Warfield missed the regular-season finale with a back injury.

"Maz has a pretty good chance of being back, and I think Warfield will be back," Vermeil said.

Monty Beisel, a backup linebacker and special teams ace, should also be ready by the time the Chiefs host a second-round AFC game.

The light work week is a departure from the way Vermeil has approached bye weeks with other playoff teams.

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