

Injured Colby player undergoes surgery in Kearney, Neb. hospital

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

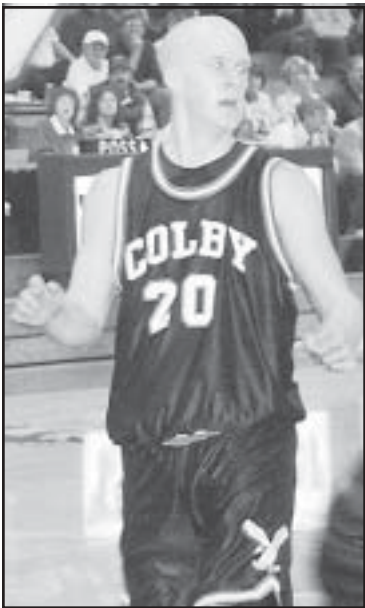
Shane Stover, outstanding Colby Eagle basketball player, was injured during Tuesday night's game at Norton while trying to recover the ball in the fourth quarter.

A stunned group of fans on both sides of the court watched as Stover hit the glass window of the gymnasium doors, exiting into the lobby, with less than five minutes left in the ball game.

Following the incident, Stover received immediate help from medical personnel in the stands, but within minutes Norton emergency medical service personnel had him ready to transport.

Jeff Quenzer, activities director and assistant principal at Colby High School, said today that Stover was taken by ambulance to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

The injury resulted in trauma to the left arm with surgeons operating earlier today to repair the damage caused by the broken glass.



Shane Stover

Quenzer said that Shane's father, Lynn Stover, told him that his son was doing well under the circumstances and that the doctor was pleased with the outcome of the surgery.

According to Mr. Stover, in his conversation with Quenzer, the surgeon said that Shane did "remarkably well," and that he was "a very lucky young man."

During school today, Quenzer said the faculty and administration put together a statement offering factual information to students about Shane's condition.

It was also noted in talks with students that Shane could be back home in Colby possibly by tonight, if he continues improving and gets the okay from the doctor in Kearney.

As for students at Tuesday night's game, Quenzer said the faculty is encouraging any of them having difficulty with this situation to talk with someone.

"I think the best thing we can do after something like this happens is to try and get back to normal as soon as possible," he said.

Even though it was difficult for Shane's team members to continue with the last few minutes of the basketball game, they did so by winning 56-37.

It is very important to help everyone by keeping in a routine, Quenzer said with regard to having both teams finish Tuesday night's basketball game.

1A Regional

The stage is set for the semi-final round of Class 1A Regional basketball action, hosted by Brewster High School, with remaining games at Max Jones Fieldhouse at Goodland.

In first round action on Monday involving boys, Herndon received a bye, Golden Plains defeated Grinnell 45-37, Jennings upended Cheylin 73-24 and Brewster bombed Atwood 69-35.

Boys' semi-final games Thursday in Goodland will find Herndon battling Golden Plains at 6 p.m. and Brewster tangling with Jennings at 7:30.

Tuesday's ladies' schedule went this way: Grinnell bye; Atwood over Cheylin 56-44; Brewster bye; and Golden Plains bye.

Friday's semi-final games at Goodland pits Grinnell against Atwood at 6 p.m. and Brewster testing Golden Plains at 7:30.

The girls' championship game is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday at The Max in Goodland with the boys' championship game to follow around 7:30.

In the Brewster-Atwood boys' game on Monday, here are the scorers:

Brewster — Paul Flanders 16, Heath Baird 13, Jonathan Collett 8, Josh Ryan 7, Jarrett Carpenter 7, Karman Selby 6, Jake Long 6, Branson Gilley 3 and Mark Luckert 3.

For Atwood — Green 9, Brown 3, Warta 4, Fikan 3, Chessmore 3, Sondgrass 7, Grafel 1 and Finely 5.

Sports notes to (fax) 785 462-7749

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Another big game tonight



Brian Ostermann

●Keeping in Touch

Our final regular season home game is tonight against the hottest team in the Jayhawk West — Dodge City. Stop by the the Community Building after dinner or after attending Ash Wednesday church services. We need your support for our final Jayhawk West contest. Dodge City has won five straight games and will be very tough. We are both in a three-way tie for second place in the west and stand 9-5 in conference play. Dodge defeated us in the first contest in Dodge City in a close game. We had a tie score with 48 seconds remaining and missed two free throws. Dodge went on to make the plays in order to win the game.

We will acknowledge our sophomore players. This class has already won 49 games in two seasons — the most wins of any recruiting class in school history. Our sophomores are E.J. Drayton, Justin Williams, Dillion Sneed, Brandon Miller, Sam Jackson, K.J. Wilkens and Zane Davis.

Our crowd last Saturday vs. Hutch was the best in our school's basketball history. Thank you to everyone who attended. It was a tough game and we certainly wished we could have come out on top. Our kids played very hard and gave everything they had. The main factor in the loss was in our inability to rebound. Certainly not having Justin Williams (broken big toe) at full strength really hurts us on the glass. We did have our chances for victory and now we can only hope we get another crack at the Hutch Blue Dragons in the Region VI tournament.

Jottings
Several boosters have joined forces and ordered the popular "thunder sticks!" The first 500-700 fans will receive a set of "thunder sticks" at tonight's game. Be sure to make as much noise as possible all

game long. I would like to thank Bryce and Amber Barton for there work on the "thunder sticks!"

The Lady Trojans are 25-3 and ranked #8 in this year's final junior college poll. The school record for the ladies is 24-8. This is the best women's team in Colby Community College history. The Ladies have locked up a home playoff game for the second straight year and will be the #2 team in the Jayhawk West.

The men are 23-5 and ranked #15 in the final NJCAA Division I poll. We started the season ranked #7 in the pre-season poll and climbed as high as #2 on Dec. 14.

Dodge City enters tonight's contest on a five-game winning streak.

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

Tonight's game sponsor is Culligan of Colby.

If both the men and women host a home playoff game it will be on Wednesday March 3 at the Colby Community Building.

The Trojan Dunk-O-Meter is at 95 after 28 games. Justin Williams is the team leader with 57 slams! Last season the Trojans recorded 107 dunks. Colby Canvas sponsors the Dunk-O-Meter!

All Trojan basketball games can be heard on 100.3 FM. Also, via Internet at j-rmarketing.net, thanks to the voice of the Trojans Rich Epp. If you didn't get to hear the broadcasts, you can read about the games in the *Colby Free Press*.

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

Garcia pulls big surprise at regional

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

It's all about attitude.

For Colby's Cole Garcia, his match at the 4A Regional Wrestling Tournament at Abilene last weekend against three-time state champion Jake Kriegbaum was just like any other.

Garcia ended the 100-plus winning streak of the Abilene senior at the tournament. Kriegbaum is ranked first in the state in the 130-pound class and second in the nation.

"He (Kriegbaum) hasn't lost since his freshman year," said Colby wrestling coach Mitch Beims. "It was a big deal. Everybody in the place was surprised. No one expected it."

Beims said Cole lost 10-0 to Kriegbaum in a match earlier this season. But at regionals, he told Cole to try to keep the match closer.

"You never know what will happen," Beims said, adding Cole wrestled more defensively which helped force overtime and a 4-2 win for Garcia.

Cole said he used his signature move to end the match — a headlock. He said it was a move he used all the time in kid wrestling but once he moved into the high school ranks, he stopped using it so much.

He said most opponents are too

strong or will anticipate the move so it can't be used effectively.

Cole said he knew Kriegbaum was a good wrestler but went into the match treating it like he would any other. In the first period, he said he tried to stay away from his opponent and not give him the opportunity to score or turn on his back.

In the second, Cole said he got too high and in the third he tried to get a reversal but instead forced overtime. In the overtime period, he continued his tactics from the first period. Cole said he held up and got Kriegbaum in a headlock.

Kriegbaum was one of his toughest opponents, he said, but he didn't let it intimidate him.

Cole is looking forward to state and hopes to improve on last year's performance. He said he was beaten in his first two matches last year.

"I hope to do a lot better," he said.

Cole got into wrestling when he was 5-years-old. He said he and his mom used to watch WWF wrestling and his dad helped him get into kid wrestling. He said former coach Brian Luedke was someone who helped him along on the sport.

He's been wrestling 11 years and has racked up quite a record. His father, Joe Garcia, said Cole has wrestled on the national level.

In 1998, he finished first in freestyle wrestling and third in greco wrestling. In 1999, Cole reversed those placings.



Cole Garcia

"Cole's got it in him to do what he wants to do," Joe said. "He's definitely a quality wrestler. I'm extremely proud of him."

He said his son has a very hard work ethic that has served him well in the sport.

"He loves wrestling and practices hard," he said.

Beims is looking forward to seeing what Cole does at state, along with Daniel Tibbles, Taylor Finley, Schuyler Sharpe, Tucker Olsen and Theo Kleinsorge, the other five wrestlers who qualified for state.

"I think we did pretty well," Beims said, adding the six who qualified have been the core of the team all year. "They're excited and they all want to bring home some hardware."

State starts Friday at the Kansas Coliseum in Wichita.

Sub-state play is next

Eagle boys close season with win

The Colby Eagle varsity basketball boys closed out their regular season's action at Norton Tuesday night with a 56-37 win. Their record heading into 4A sub-state play next week is 15-5.

The Eagles took an 18-12 first quarter lead, 36-21 at half-time and 47-28 at the end of three.

The Eagles were 27 of 45 from the field (including 0 for 2 from 3-point range) for 60 percent shooting. They connected on 2 of 5 charity tosses for 40 percent.

Norton was 44.7 percent from the field (17 of 38 including 0 for 3 from 3-point land), and 3 of 5 free throws for 60 percent.

Colby cleared the boards 16 times — 4 offensively and 12 defen-

sively. Shane Stover led the way for Colby with 19 points, followed by Brian Sulzmann with 10, Irvin Dinkel with 9, Matt Augustine 8, Bruce Arnberger with 6 and Jordon Cranston with 4.

Vs. Atwood

The Colby Eagle varsity boys pinned an 88-27 loss on the Atwood Buffaloes in the Colby Community Building last Friday night. The win improved the Eagles' record to 14-5.

There's not much commentary to attach to such a lopsided result, except: too much Eagle, not enough Buffalo.

Colby outscored the visitors in each period: 27-8, 25-8, 26-10, 10-1.

Colby was 42 of 61 from the field for 68.9 percent and 4 of 5 from the free throw line for 80 percent. For Atwood, it was 11 of 32 from the field (including 2-6 from 3-point land) for 34.4 percent and 3-4 from the line for 75 percent.

The Eagles cleared the glass 30 times, 16 offensively and 14 defensively.

Scoring for the Eagles were Shane Stover 23, Irvin Dinkel 17, Chris Finley 14, Matt Augustine 10, Jordon Cranston 10, Derek Elliott 6, Jordan Sharp 4 and Sean Mengel 4.

Holste was Atwood's top point-maker with 14, while Green added 2, Brown 6, Warta 2, Snodgrass 2 and Finely 1.

Jayvee boys slip past Norton 48-47

The Colby Eagle junior varsity basketball boys closed out the 2003-2004 season with a one-point, 48-47 victory over Norton there Tuesday night.

The win gives the Eagles a 14-5 overall season's record.

Scoring for the Eagles were: Chris Finley 20; Sean Mengel 12; Dustin Quenzer 10; Jordan Sharp 4; and Stuart Aiken 2. Vincent led the way for Norton with 16 points.

By quarters:

Colby — 20-28-41-48

Norton — 14-24-36-47

Vs. Atwood

The Eagles defeated the Atwood Buffaloes (Feb. 20) at home, 48-40.

Scoring for Colby: Trey Barnett 12; Nick Howard 9; Jeremy Dietz 7; Tanner Matzek 6; Joey Melnyk 4; Trevor Siebert 4; Brett Wilson 3; Stuart Aiken 2; and Heath Bieker 1.

Ryan Bergling led the way for Atwood with 10 points.

By quarters:

Colby — 11-27-32-48

Atwood — 7-17-24-40

C-team gets two victories

The Colby High C-team basketball boys improved their record to 14-4 with a 49-30 win over the Scott City Beavers at Scott City.

Scoring for Colby: JD Donn 12; RJ Ladenburger 10; Javier Galaviz 9; Trevor Siebert 6; Trey Barnett 6; Ryan White 5; and Anthony Rohr 1.

"The guys shot 85 percent from

the free throw line," said coach Jack Elliott.

Vs. Atwood

Colby beat Atwood in two quarters of play, 22-15. The Eagles trailed 11-4 after the first period.

Colby scorers were: Donn 11; Barnett 5; and White, Siebert and Scott Blanton, 2 each.

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