

# Short bench for Colby Eagles against Concordia tonight

**By Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*  
The Colby High School Eagles will take on a speedy Concordia team at home tonight at Dennen Field at 7 p.m.  
Colby head coach Greg Koenig said the game will be the Eagles'

first district game of the season, one of the three last games of the season. The district games, he said, determine the playoffs.  
And, Koenig said, his team still has a chance to make it into the playoffs.  
They would have to win at least

two games, but it's still feasible to make it into the postseason with just one win because of tie-breakers.  
As far as Concordia goes, he said they're a fast team that likes to throw, which the Eagles will counter with the hard-hitting physical play Koenig has been empha-

sizing all season.  
Last year, Colby had its best offensive production of the season against Concordia.  
The Eagles enter district play with a 0-6 record. Koenig said he's not making excuses, but said his team has played some "superior"

ball clubs.  
He said the past few games he's had freshman and sophomore players lining up against bigger, faster and stronger players with more experience.  
The difference in size and experience, Koenig said, has made it dif-

ficult to compete.  
The Eagles will probably have 17-18 players available this week. Koenig said Tuesday's practice had 15 players missing due to injury or illness.  
That, along with a "C" team and junior varsity football games earlier in the week are causing him to shorten his bench for tonight's game.  
He moved up several younger players in the past few weeks and looks to move up even more. Koenig said they will have to make adjustments and are thin at every position.  
"It's been pretty challenging," he said, adding he has gotten the effort he wanted from his players over the season, but not the results.  
There are seven seniors, nine juniors and 29 freshmen and sophomores on the team.  
Koenig said the team has worked and competed hard, playing physical, just as he asked.

# Successful fall sports at Colby College winding down

After a hot start head coach Pedro Gonzalez's group has cooled down somewhat. They spent the weekend in Sterling, Colo. playing in the Northeastern Junior College Tournament and fashioned a 2-2 record. With wins against McCook and Lamar, and losses against Northeastern Junior College and Casper, the girls continue to cloud the season with inconsistency. Currently the team sits in fifth place in the Jayhawk West with a 19-11 record and look to move up the standings with matches against Air Force Prep on Thursday and the Pratt Tournament on Saturday.

Freshman Ana Kokanovic's play has been mentioned before in the column but until recently when coach Gonzalez submitted the team stats to the NJCAA, it went unnoticed just how dominant she has become. At present she is ranked number one in the country in kills and kills per game. That stat alone should award her votes for "Freshman of the Year."

Combine those numbers along with her rankings of eighth in the country in hitting efficiency and 23rd in aces and Kokanovic may become coach Gonzalez's first nationally recognized player since he took over the program last year.

**Softball**  
It's only fall...it's only fall. Coach Carl Adams' softball crew has finished its fall season by going 5-0 in the Colby Tournament all the

## Matt Dickson

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while amassing a 24-4-1 record. Judging by his demeanor at our daily morning meeting in the cafeteria he cannot wait for the season to start. Standouts for the softball team have been shortstop Heather Ebert and Arapahoe transfer pitcher Amanda Bell.

**Carl's Coach Comments**  
Coach Comments: We finished the fall season strong.  
"The key with this team will be if we can carry what we learned in the fall into the spring. Am very pleased with the way the team performed this fall going 24-4-1. There were times when we went flat but still managed to win games. We have proved to ourselves that we can win close games and come from

behind. I look for very good things from this team this spring if we continue to work like we did this fall."

**Cross Country**  
The team did a flip flop this week at the Fort Hays State Invitational as the women scored as a team and the men did not. The men only had four runners finish because of a slight injury to Carlan Arthur. It was mainly a precautionary matter and he should be up and running at full strength by regionals. Denzel Ramirez continued his strong season by placing 19th and becoming the 6th fastest runner in Colby College history. Derrick Monson finished 50th and set a personal best. All of the ladies ran well and the team averaged a two-minute improvement over the previous week.  
Next week a few runners will compete in a short meet at Butler County Community College. The meet will serve as a tune up for the Regional on October 24.

**Baseball**

This weekend will be the last of our fall travel days. The team goes to McCook and Dodge City on Saturday and Denver on Sunday. Next week we will begin the tradition of the Colby World Series again.

**Things I Think:**  
1. If this rain came a month ago, Coach Adams and Coach Carter would have had the greenest fields in Kansas.  
2. The women's basketball team is about to be one of the top schools in the country. Sorry for putting pressure on you Coach Stephens but I think the girls will be tough this season.  
3. Last year's head basketball coach Brian Marso will have his

hands full when he brings Garden City here. Not only has Coach Woods improved the team but dealing with rowdy "dress like Coach Marso" fans will be tough to deal with.

**Aggravating/Enjoyable Travel Note of the Week**

This last weekend was the first time I have been to Garden City when it didn't stink. Thank goodness for being upwind.

**Stat of the Week**  
24-4-1. it's still hard for me to believe the softball team had that record this fall when they played teams mostly from their conference.

Next Week: Basketball Previews

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