

Colby Eagles ready to take on Scott City in season opener

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Colby High School Eagles open their basketball season Friday. And for the first time, both the boys and girls teams will have the same head coach.

Coach Derek Bissitt said both teams are ready to take on visiting Scott City, and both teams have been preparing for their first game for more than two weeks.

On the boys side, he said they've worked very hard.

"I'm pleased with their attitude and work ethic so far," Bissitt said.

He has a young team that lost seven seniors last year to graduation. Twenty-three players are out, and he said they'll be taking on a tough Scott City team.

"It's down a little from last year but we have a large freshman class to make up for it. It's a tough challenge facing us in the opener," Bissitt said.

For the Lady Eagles, Bissitt said they've also done an outstanding job in practice. They've had to learn a new system, but have caught on quickly.

He said they have a lot of experi-

ence offer, because 10 of the 12 top players from last year return.

"They're still a young team," Bissitt said, adding there are 20 players out.

Because he is head coach for both teams, he had to make an adjustment to running practices.

Bissitt has run an early and late practice, alternating which team practices early and late each week. The early practice is from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the late practice is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"I think they've went really well," he said. "We've seen a lot of improvement in both teams these first two and a half weeks."

His assistant coaches have helped everything run smoothly, and Bissitt added they've had some intense practices the first couple of weeks of the season.

And, he said, running both programs hasn't been as difficult as people might think.

The players have worked hard, and his assistants have been "outstanding."

It's meant long hours but things have gone well.

"I've had a blast," Bissitt said.



Aubrette Stephens listened to head basketball coach Derek Bissitt explain a play during a recent practice.

The Eagles will begin their season on Friday at home against the Scott City Beavers.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs have four returning players

By Parker Christensen

Golden Plains coach

The Golden Plains girls basketball team returns four starters and four letterwinners as they open the season Friday against Greeley County. The Lady Bulldogs will look to build off of last season's strong finish as they won 13 in a row

before falling to Victoria in sub-state play to finish with a record of 17-6.

Three all-league performers will look to lead the squad early this season. Katelyn Spresser, 5'7" junior guard, pumped in a team best 15 points a game last year. Seniors Valerie Broeckelman and Jessica

Shaw netted 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Shaw, 6'1" forward, pulled down nine rebounds per contest while Spresser and Broeckelman grabbed six and five boards each.

Ashley Albers also returns her four points and three rebounds to the starting lineup.

Junior center Megan Juenemann, 6'1", chipped in six points and five rebounds off the bench for the Lady Bulldogs last year. Juniors Liz Staats and Stephanie Juenemann and sophomore Brittany Ritter will look to be important contributors for Golden Plains.

This season, 5'4" freshman

Kendra Spresser will also look to get varsity minutes on this year's squad. Golden Plains plays Northern Valley Saturday, Dec. 3, at Almena. Golden Plains will travel to Brewster to play in the Sagebrush Shootout Tuesday. The Lady Bulldogs will tangle with Idalia, Colo., in the first round.

Lady Wildcats cruise to easy victory over Delaware

MANHATTAN — Kimberly Dietz scored 18 points to help the Kansas State University Lady Wildcats race to an easy 78-30 victory over Delaware State on Wednesday night.

The Wildcats, who were picked to finish in the bottom half of the Big 12 in the preseason, have won their first four games by an average of 31 points.

Freshman Marlies Gipson had a career-high 11 points and Twiggy McIntyre also scored 11 for the Wildcats, who held an opponent to 40 points or less for the eighth time since 2001.

The Hornets (3-1) have won 20 or more games in two of the past three years and had been allowing 54.6 points per game this season. Kansas State eclipsed that total with

9:44 remaining.

Ashlee Burbage had 10 points and seven rebounds to lead Delaware State, which shot only 23 percent from the field, committed 21 turnovers and was outrebounded 43-24.

Kansas State led 10-8 after the first five minutes, but went on a 25-4 run over the rest of the half to build a commanding 35-12 lead at the

break.

The Hornets hit only 4-of-22 field goals in the first half and at one point went nearly seven minutes without a basket. After a slow start to the second half, Gipson scored eight points in a span of three minutes during a 15-0 run by the Wildcats to put the game away early.

The team is now 4-0 on the season.

Detroit's Fischer hospitalized again

Red Wings defenseman Jiri Fischer had another abnormal heartbeat and returned to the hospital for treatment.

He is to undergo further testing at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Fischer last week collapsed in convulsions during a game against Nashville.

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