

Eagles open wrestling season tonight

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press
The Colby High School Eagle wrestling squad starts its season tonight, and will have a challenging week.
The season opener is in Burlington, Colo., and both the varsity and junior varsity squads will be competing. Action starts at 6:30 p.m.
Colby is ranked sixth in the state, and head coach Mitch Beims said the Eagles are facing some challenging matchups at the start of the season.
St. Francis is ranked second or third in the state in 3A and Goodland is fourth in 4A. Colby will see both teams this weekend.

Varsity lineup was set Tuesday night with tryouts. Some matches went to overtime and a few were decided with very close decisions.
He was happy with the wrestlers' performance.
The 14 varsity wrestlers for the first two weeks of the season are:
Brian Brewer, 103 lbs.
Brent Luedke, 112 lbs. (state qualifier)
Darren Sporing, 119 lbs.
Hunter Olsen, 125 lbs. (state qualifier)
Jared Flanagan, 130 lbs.
Daniel Gonzales, 135 lbs.
Jesse Hawk, 140 lbs.
Cole Garcia, 145 lbs. (state champ)
Taylor Finley, 152 lbs. (placed

third at state)
Kyle Withington, 160 lbs. (state qualifier)
David Voss, 171 lbs.
Brady Strange, 189 lbs.
Nick Kriss, 215 lbs.
Taylor Brown, 275 lbs.
Beims said varsity tryouts are held every two weeks throughout the season so all the wrestlers get a chance. The squad has worked had the first two weeks of practice and he's pleased with their progress.
"It went pretty good," Beims said, adding he has a good group of seniors and younger wrestlers that are all working hard.
"This is the first year we haven't had a freshman as a starter," Beims said. "This is probably the best

freshman class we've had, and it shows how fierce the competition was during tryouts."
Colby will head to different tournaments Saturday — the varsity squad will be at the St. Francis tournament and the junior varsity wrestlers will be in the Goodland tournament. The St. Francis tourney starts at 9:30 a.m. and the Goodland tourney begins at 10 a.m.
The Eagles will compete in a dual at home Thursday against St. Francis.
On Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9 and 10, Colby will host the Eagle Invitational, which will feature 18 teams competing.
"We jump right into it," Beims said.

Broncos' Lynch playing solid under the radar

DENVER (AP) — John Lynch has had no reason to dread the mailbox this season. He doesn't see himself repeatedly on the highlight shows.
He is playing under the radar for Denver in 2005 — still the same, hard-hitting safety he's always been — but enjoying it much more because the Broncos are winning and the NFL isn't getting in his pocket-book.
"I was making 'Jacked Up' almost every week," Lynch said of the ESPN highlight package that features the week's biggest hits. "The league celebrates it, then fines you. That bothers you. This year is better, because it's been all about winning games for me and that's what it should be about."

Afleet Alex retired

PHILADELPHIA — Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner Afleet Alex was retired because of new injuries, ending a career in which his gritty ride in the second leg of the Triple Crown was one of the highlights of the racing season.
The injuries were discovered before the horse was shipped to Gulfstream Park this week. An ankle injury has sidelined Afleet Alex since his victory in the Belmont on June 11.
Afleet Alex retires with eight wins in 12 starts and earnings of \$2,765,800, and nearly became the sport's 12th Triple Crown winner.
The colt suffered a fractured bone in his left front cannon bone earlier this year, which was surgically repaired.

Make no mistake. The Broncos signed Lynch in the summer of 2004 largely because of his reputation as a hard-hitting enforcer, a player who understands defenses _ and offenses _ and who could shore up a secondary that had seen better days.
Lynch did that last year. He made his sixth Pro Bowl and, along with Champ Bailey, he gave the Broncos a presence in the backfield that had been sorely lacking.
He made dozens of bone-jarring hits, as usual, but two of them drew fines, defined his season and put him in the headlines.
The first came in the season opener against Dante Hall of the Chiefs. Then, in the final regular season game, he knocked Dallas Clark of the Colts silly. He also missed a game after taking a questionable shot from receiver Brian Finneran of the Falcons, although nobody seemed to care much about that one.
Lynch drew a \$75,000 fine for the Clark hit, a hit Lynch thought may have actually been legal. But when he appealed, he was rejected. Lynch said the NFL told him it was the ninth time he'd been fined and had to send a message.
"Really, it was only eight fines, and I've been in the league 13 years, and a lot of them had been reduced

or thrown out," Lynch said. "It did bother me. I felt betrayed a little, but you kind of move on."
For Lynch, moving on has meant getting more comfortable with the defense and helping Denver's stable of rookie cornerbacks — Darrent Williams, Domonique Foxworth and Karl Paymah — in their remarkably quick adjustment to the league.
"The professional's professional," Foxworth calls Lynch. "We rookies take as much of his approach to the game as anything."
Lynch's stats aren't as impressive as in years past. A player who made close to or more than 100 tackles his last eight seasons in Tampa is on pace for only around 70 this year. Part of that, though, is because Lynch is a run-stopping safety and the Broncos don't face the run as much. Opposing offenses have run the ball against Denver only 231 times, fewest in the league, and are on pace for 336 total attempts, which would be nine fewer than the previous all-time low against Denver in a non-strike season.
"You say statistically that he's not having a great year," safety Nick Ferguson said. "I think he is having a great year. In this league, your numbers vary from year-to-year. Talent gets better or the defensive play calling changes. It is different."

SportsLine

Colby High School basketball season opens

The Colby High School Eagles basketball season opens Friday, Dec. 2 against Scott City. Action starts at 4:30 p.m. with the "C" teams and games will be played at the Colby Community Building and high school gym. The varsity girls will play at 6:30 p.m. at the community building, with the boys varsity game following immediately after.

Eagle basketball on Tuesday

The Colby High School girls and boys "C," junior varsity and varsity basketball teams will play at Hays High School on Tuesday. "C" team games begin at 4 p.m. Varsity play starts at 6:15 p.m.

Middle school basketball at home Thursday

The Colby Middle School seventh and eighth grade boys basketball team will play at home against Oberlin on Thursday. Games begin at 4:30 and will be played in the elementary gym.

Eagle Invitational tournament next week

The Colby High School Eagle Invitational wrestling tournament will start at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 at the elementary gym, high school gym and Colby Community Building.
Duals are scheduled in each gym for 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Action continues on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the same locations, with duals taking place at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the same locations.

Eagle basketball on Dec. 13

The Colby High School Eagles "C," junior varsity and varsity basketball teams will take on Holcomb at home on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Action starts at 4:45 for the junior varsity and varsity games will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

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Jacie Hoyt
5'7" Freshmen
Hoxie, Kansas
Jacie will not be able to play this year, she is out with ACL injury.



Coach's Comments
Coach Tom Stephens
"The upcoming JayHawk Shoot-out is going to provide some tough competition for the Lady Trojans."

Come and cheer on the Lady Trojans at these home games:
Wed., Jan. 4 - Garden City CC - 6 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 11 - Barton Co. CC - 6 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 15 - Seward Co. CC - 2 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 25 - Pratt CC - 6 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 1 - Butler Co. CC - 6 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 8 - Cloud Co. CC - 6 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 22 - Hutchinson CC - 6 p.m.
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