



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Eagle Trey Barnett tried to get past an Oakley player during their game Friday at the Colby Community Building. The varsity boys lost 57-48 to the Plainsman. The Eagles will take on St. Francis at home Tuesday. Action starts at 6:30 p.m. with the girls varsity game, followed by the boys varsity game at the Colby Community Building.

Colby boys lose in Colorado Saturday

By Chris Staley

Colby Free Press

Although Burlington, Colo., had size inside, it was perimeter shooting that cost Colby in a 76-66 loss Saturday at Burlington.

"They are a ranked team in Colorado and tall, with a 6-7 and a 6-6 player, but they shot outside," said Colby coach Derek Bissitt.

Trevor Siebert led Colby with 27 points. He missed one of 16 free throw shots. R.J. Ladenburger scored 13 points.

The Colby Eagles hosted the Oakley Plainsmen Friday and suffered their fourth straight loss, 48-57. The Eagles got off to a slow start, but picked up the pace down the stretch.

"We dug ourselves a hole early in the game with free throws, but played hard in the second half," Bissitt said.

The first half ended with Colby down by 10, but Bissitt noted their brief lead in the third quarter as a positive sign. He, and the players,

are remaining positive about improvements.

"There were things I could've done better, but we did better as a team," Nick Howard said.

Trey Barnett was the top scorer of the game with 17 points. Howard scored five.

Anthony Rohr pulled down seven rebounds and Howard had five.

"The young team is in need of experience and growth which could be painful," Bissitt said.

Bissitt said he appreciates the good, home crowd that gets loud every time a player goes down the court. Howard agreed with that sentiment.

"It's definitely helpful to be at home and have them there to support us," he said.

Colby (0-5) will host the St. Francis Indians in the community building Tuesday.

Eagle girls win over Burlington

By Diana McAdams

Colby Free Press

Five Colby Eagles scoring in double-digits helped Colby win 87-51 Saturday at Burlington, Colo.

Colby coach Derek Bissitt said the Colby offense was highly productive which gave them the advantage throughout the game. The Eagles scored 26 first-quarter points and had a 17 point lead at halftime.

Lissa Maaznec led Colby with 32 points. Zanae Baird scored 16 points and Paige Stephens added 14 points. Jessica Stephens scored 12 points and Ashley Barnes scored 11 points.

Colby Lady Eagles are becoming accustomed to overcoming adversity. Friday night was no exception. Trailing by one at the end of the first quarter to Oakley and pulling even at the end of the first half, the Lady Eagles managed a 49-35 victory by outscoring Oakley 32-18 in the second half.

ond half.

"We realized at the end of the first half we had to pick up intensity and play hard. We all pulled it together and pulled it out. When things are not going as well as you would like, you have to come together as a team. That's what we did," Zanae Baird said.

The Eagles started out with a full-court press and continued it for the rest of the game but didn't get on the board until 6:48 in the first quarter, when sophomore Lissa Mazanec drained a jump shot.

Thirty seconds into the second quarter, the Colby took the lead. Both teams struggled to come up with any offense with Oakley scoring nine points and Colby scoring 10.

Oakley hit a jump shot at the end of the half to pull to a 17-17 tie. The Lady Eagles shot 36.8 percent from the field in the first half. Mazanec had nine of the Lady Eagle's first

half points.

With 3:12 left in the quarter, junior Tasha Wagoner hit a three-pointer to put the Lady Eagles up 30-23 and contributed to a Colby run of 11 unanswered points. Oakley was outscored 23-11 in the third quarter.

Going into the final quarter, Colby was determined not to let their 12-point lead fade away. Leading the way for the Eagles was Mazanec, who scored 19 points and had seven rebounds.

"We came out slow and it wasn't our best performance, but we got another chance against Burlington to show how well we can play," Mazanec said.

Other scorers for the Eagles were Tasha Wagoner with 11 points, Baird with eight, Aubrette Stephens, three, Paige Stephens, six, and Barnes with two.

Colby plays St. Francis Tuesday in the community building.

Golden Plains girls move to 6-0

Golden Plains girls won their sixth game in a row Friday as they upended Brewster 48-42 in WKLL action in Brewster.

The win was the second in a week against state-ranked Brewster. Senior Jessica Shaw scored a career high 26 points and pulled down 15

rebounds to lead Golden Plains.

Katelyn Spresser drilled 10-12 free throws in the final quarter and finished with 12 points.

Megan Juenemann chipped in with eight points and grabbed nine boards.

Neither team shot the ball well

with Golden Plains shooting only 41 percent (17-42). Brewster shot 30 percent (18-61). Golden Plains outrebounded Brewster 38-24. Golden Plains turned the ball over 11 times while Brewster only had nine miscues. Golden Plains will face the Triplains Jan. 3 in Winona.

Lady Crusaders split Dec. 10 games

The Heartland Christian School Lady Crusaders basketball team pulled off a 1-1 performance Dec. 10 playing their junior high team

supplemented by two high school girls against high school teams in Syracuse.

Heartland beat the Liberal Christian School Lady Wildcats 44-26 and lost to the South Central Wild-

cats, a home school group from Medicine Lodge, 79-16.

Brittany Sowers led the scoring against Liberal with 18 points, followed by Randi Donley with eight. Kasey Donley and Mysti Rothfuss each had six and Mary Beth Myers had four. Rachel Myers had two.

Rachel also led in steals with nine, followed by Sowers with five

and Kasey Donley with four. Mazanec, Mary Beth Myers and Randi Donley each had two and Cheyanne Sowers had one.

Rothfuss led in rebounds with seven. Randy Donley and Rachel Myers had six each and Ariel Regier and Sowers each had three.

Sowers led the scoring against a disciplined South Central team with seven points, followed by Mazanec, four, Randi Donley, three and Mary Beth Myers with two.

Regier led in rebounds with three. Rachel Myers and Randi Donley had two each. Mazanec, Rothfuss and Brittany Sowers each had one.

Donley had two steals. Kasey Donley, Mary Beth Myers and Sowers had one each.

SportsLine

Eagle basketball at home on Tuesday

The Colby High School "C," junior varsity and varsity teams will play at home against St. Francis on Tuesday. "C" team action begins at 4:30 p.m. The varsity girls will play at 6:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building, followed by the boys varsity game immediately after.

Basketball tournament planned

The 15th annual "MAC Attack" youth basketball tournament will be held in McCook, Neb. the weekend of Jan. 21 and 22. Sponsored by the McCook Optimist club, the event is open to boys and girls in grades fourth through eighth. Deadline for entering is Monday, Jan. 9. Entry forms are available online at www.geocities.com/macattackbbb. Completed forms should be returned to McCook Optimist Club, 402 Park Ave., McCook, Neb. 69001. For information, contact Greg Larson at (308) 345-5185.

Basketball camp applications accepted

Applications are being accepted and evaluated for the Ten Star All Star summer basketball camp.

The camp is by invitation-only and boys and girls from 10- to 19-years-old are eligible to apply. Camp location for the area will be Sterling, Colo. For information, call (704) 373-0873.

Broncos clinch playoff berth with win over Bills

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Leave it to the sure-handed Rod Smith to help the Denver Broncos clinch a playoff berth.

Smith had 11 catches for 137 yards — both season-highs — and a touchdown, leading the Broncos to a 28-17 win over the Buffalo Bills on Saturday night.

The win clinched Denver (11-3) its third straight playoff berth, and the team can claim the AFC West title if San Diego loses to Indianapolis on Sunday. The Broncos have also won 11 games for the first time since 2000.

Jake Plummer went 20-of-37 for 259 yards and two touchdowns. Rookie tight end Wesley Duke, with his first career catch, scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 1-yard reception early in the third quarter. Mike Anderson sealed the win with 11- and 6-yard touchdown runs in the final 16 minutes, and finished with 97 yards rushing.

Smith, however, was the story for Denver, emerging as the team's only first-half threat when his 119 yards receiving made up more than half of the Broncos 210 yards offense.

Smith's 3-yard touchdown reception came on a busted play, tying the game at 7 at the end of the second quarter. Smith scored when he out-jumped safety Troy Vincent, coming down with the ball just inside the end line after Plummer's pass was tipped by linebacker London Fletcher.

The Bills (4-10) closed their home schedule with their fifth straight loss. They have dropped

seven of their last eight.

Willis McGahee scored on a 1-yard run on the Bills' opening drive, but was limited the rest of the game — finishing with 40 yards on five carries — after he hurt his left arm. Joe Burns also scored on a 19-yard catch in the final minutes.

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