



Suddenly inexperienced Lady Eagles complete team camp

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With the graduation of the most accomplished senior class in school history, second-year Lady Eagle head basketball coach Parker McKee faces one of the most challenging rebuilding jobs in the state next season.

That process officially got underway this week as the Lady Eagles held their annual summer team camp at the high school. The camp, which included girls entering grades 9-12, began Monday and concluded Thursday.

Anywhere from 13-19 players were on hand for the four-day session—numbers McKee said he was “satisfied” with. Even more satisfactory to the head coach was knowing what he had on his hands before the start of practice.

“I’ve already built a relationship with a lot of the girls,” said McKee. “I know what kind of people and athletes they are. That’s the biggest advantage I’ve got going.”

The girls spent the first 90 minutes of each day focusing on individual drills and the last 90 minutes working on team concepts.

“The biggest thing you can ask is for these girls to be competitive and we saw that this week,” said McKee. “The focus of our team was to continue to raise our basketball IQ offensively and defensively. It was good for them to have a refresher half-way through the summer.”

While some aspects of camp were old hat for the players, others were being learned for the first time.

“We’re changing our defense this year and our offense has been tweaked quite a bit actually,” said McKee.

Colby’s roster has been more than just tweaked since the end of last season, leaving them with a boatload of inexperience. Of the girls in camp, the only senior was Taylor Young and the only junior was Rhett Martin.

“Taylor was only there two of the four days, but she instantly took charge,” said McKee. “That’s a really good sign, because we are going to be really young.”

The one thing McKee says his younger girls do have going for them is the experience of practicing against last year’s starters on a daily basis.



FILE PHOTO
Taylor Young is the only returning senior to next year’s Colby Lady Eagle basketball team. The Lady Eagles completed their team camp Thursday at the high school.

“They’ve got a whole year of working under the best five in the state,” said McKee.

That starting five featured recently-departed seniors Lissa Mazanec, Aubrette Stephens, Paige Stephens and Tasha Wagoner, who in their final two years, won a state championship and had an overall record of 48-4.

Their absence will be tough to overcome, but the cupboard isn’t exactly bare either.

Several of the younger girls in camp were part of last year’s junior varsity team that posted a perfect 20-0 record.

“Our freshman are really skilled and already have good fundamentals,” said McKee.

The rising sophomore class, which includes Katherine and Katrina Kaus, Shelby Terrell and Kayla Hockersmith, has already made waves this summer with their performance at various team tournaments in the area.

They finished in the top 12 for their age division in Newton, which is the site of the biggest summer tournament in the United States, and placed in the top four at a tournament in Denver.

“They’ve been playing against all-star teams and holding their own,” said McKee, who was able to watch them in Denver. “They’ve developed a lot by playing against better players.”

Swim Club Results

The following results from the Colby Swim Meet are continued from Thursday’s Free Press. Colby won the meet with 272 points.

11-12 Girls
Elizabeth Tubbs placed 19th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :51.58Y; placed 14th in the 50Y Backstroke with a time of 1:06.66Y; placed 14th in the 50Y Breaststroke with a time of :58.60Y.

Tresta Urban placed 20th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :53.77Y; placed 16th in the 50Y Backstroke with a time of 1:16.65Y; placed 19th in the 50Y Breaststroke with a time of SCR Y.

11-12 Girls Relays
Colby Swim Club A placed 1st in the 200Y Freestyle Relay with the time of 2:24.46Y with the following swimmers: Lauren Bell, Katera Johnson, Maura Hansen and Madison Rogers.

Colby Swim Club B placed 3rd in the 200Y Freestyle Relay with the time of 3:15.37Y with the following swimmers: Randi Cloe, Tresta Urban, Elizabeth Tubbs and Dara Roulier.

Colby Swim Club B placed 2nd in the 200Y Medley Relay with the time of 3:46.65Y with the following swimmers: Dara Roulier, Sydney Stephens, Elizabeth Tubbs and Hannah Strange.

11-12 Boys
John Faber placed 4th in the 200Y Freestyle with a time of 3:08.40Y; placed 6th in the 50Y Backstroke with a time of :44.03Y; placed 2nd in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :32.51Y.

Kyle Finley placed 3rd in the 50Y Individual Medley with a time of 1:28.81Y; placed 4th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :32.97Y; placed 2nd in the 50Y Breaststroke with a time of :42.74Y.

Sterling Miller had a DQ in the 50Y Butterfly with a time of 1:01.02Y; placed 5th in the 50Y Backstroke with a time of :43.23Y; placed 7th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :38.17Y.

11-12 Mixed Relays
Colby Swim Club A placed 1st in the 200Y Freestyle Relay with the time of 2:29.19Y with the following swimmers: John Faber, Sterling Miller, Kyle Finley and Sydney Stephens.

Colby Swim Club A placed 1st in the 200Y Medley Relay with the time of 2:47.14Y with the following swimmers: Sterling Miller, Kyle Finley, John Faber and Katera Johnson.

13-14 Girls
Alyssa Goodheart placed 6th in the 100Y Backstroke with a time of 1:36.75Y; placed 5th in the 100Y But-

terfly with a time of 1:37.45Y; placed 14th in the 100Y Breaststroke with a time of 1:45.93Y.

Julia Hutfles placed 8th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :33.82Y; placed 8th in the 100Y Backstroke with a time of 1:44.24Y; placed 5th in the 100Y Freestyle with a time of 1:17.96Y.

Christina Ostmeyer placed 2nd in the 200Y Freestyle with a time of 2:37.68Y; placed 1st in the 100Y Backstroke with a time of 1:22.22Y; placed 2nd in the 100Y Freestyle with a time of 1:09.52Y.

Ashliegh Trail placed 16th in the 100Y Breaststroke with a time of 2:03.74Y; placed 15th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :39.18Y; placed 7th in the 100Y Butterfly with a time of 1:48.94Y.

Kayla Weber placed 4th in the 100Y Breaststroke with a time of 1:31.37Y; placed 5th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :30.96Y; placed 4th in the 100Y Backstroke with a time of 1:24.89Y.

13-14 Girls
Colby Swim Club A placed 1st in the 200Y Freestyle Relay with the time of 2:09.93Y with the following swimmers: Christina Ostmeyer, Alyssa Goodheart, Julia Hutfles and Kayla Weber.

Colby Swim Club A placed 5th in the 200Y Medley Relay with the time of 2:54.85Y with the following swimmers: Zell Bieberle, Ashliegh Trail, Alyssa Goodheart and Julia Hutfles.

13-14 Boys
Zell Bieberle placed 1st in the 200Y Freestyle with a time of 3:00.05Y; placed 1st in the 100Y Backstroke with a time of 1:24.21Y; placed 5th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :30.15Y.

Karlton Leiker placed 2nd in the 100Y Butterfly with a time of 1:27.41Y; placed 2nd in the 100Y Backstroke with a time of 1:24.23Y; placed 4th in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :29.24Y.

15-18 Girls
Jessica Leiker placed 1st in the 100Y Breaststroke with a time of 1:20.81Y; placed 1st in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :27.99Y; placed 1st in the 100Y Freestyle with a time of 1:01.59Y.

15-18 Boys
Kalen Rasmussen placed 1st in the 100Y Freestyle with a time of :53.40Y; placed 1st in the 50Y Freestyle with a time of :24.12Y; placed 1st in the 100Y Breaststroke with a time of 1:11.70Y.

15-18 Mixed Relay
Colby Swim Club A placed 1st in the 200Y Medley Relay with the time of 2:20.57Y with the following swimmers: Kalen Rasmussen, Karlton Leiker, Jessica Leiker and Kayla Weber.

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The girls have also been lifting weights four days a week throughout the summer and working in the gym with Parker’s brother, Spencer McKee. Because of state rules, Parker is not allowed to be in the gym with the team during the summer.

“It’s been good for them, because Spencer knows our system pretty well,” said Parker.

The team will continue to lift weights and participate in open gyms between now and the start of the school year before many break off to their respective fall sports.

Once they return to the hardwood for the start of practice in November, McKee expects this year’s team to compete for a third consecutive trip to state.

“We’ve got a really good chance to win league and have a good chance to go deep into the post-season,” said McKee. “We’ve just got to continue to mature.”

Note: McKee is holding open gyms the remainder of the summer for younger girls interested in working on their game. For girls entering grades 4-6, McKee will have the high school gym open Monday and Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Girls entering grades 7-8 will have the gym available from 7:30-8:30 p.m. those same nights. McKee said they will do a lot of individual work and introduce girls to the game.

Thank You!

The Colby Swim Club would like to say a very special thanks to **Buddy VanHorn** and **Colby Lumber** for providing the flat bed truck, lumber and plywood for use at the Colby Swim Meet. We appreciate the many years of support you have given our club.

Thanks from all the swimmers, parents, coaches and board members of the Colby Swim Club.



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