## Eagles eye Panthers

Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

Smith Center, the Colby High Eagles' will be trying to get the football team goes on the road to take on Concordia (2-4) at 7 p.m. tonight.

The Eagles have to win at qualifying for the state playoffs. Coach Chris Gardner said he would rather his team win all three.

"Our goal is to play one playoff game at home," he said. "To do that, we must win our next three games.

"We can't worry about the playoffs until the next three games are through."

affects that would come from winning tonight's game.

next two games," said Gard-To do that, he said, Eagles'

must re-establish themselves all cylinders on offense," he as a physical team.

The Eagles have completed two-thirds of their regular season. They are tied with Oakley losing record. This bodes well for second place in the Northwest Kansas League. Other last three games they will be than last week's game against facing teams with losing rethe Redmen, the Eagles' de- cords — including Concordia. fense has played well.

Senior middle linebackers Tanner Kriss and Corey Sager both average over 14 tackles per game. Junior outside After last week's loss to linebacker Ethan Stickel averages 13. Senior defensive ends Breck Arnberger and Treat back on the right track when Bugbee average 13.4 and 11.8 respectively, and junior defensive linemen Adam Weber averages 11.4.

The team is giving up an avleast two of their next three erage of 15.3 points per game, games to have a chance at but if you don't include Smith Center, which beat Colby 40-0, make that just 10.3.

The Eagles' offense is averaging 23.2 per game this year. Senior quarterback Heath Stephens is averaging 10 points per game. Stickel has had a solid year, averaging 4.5 yards per carry.

Sophomore Adam Flanagin has been playing well recently He talked about the positive and leads the team in receptions with 28 this year.

Gardner said he wants his of-"We can set a tone for the fense to be able to pose both a running and passing threat during these last three games.

'We want to be clicking on

The Eagles have yet to lose a game this year to a team with a for them, since in two of their

# Senior golfer qualifies for state

Leiker

**Andy Heintz** 

Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

Senior Jessica Leiker will be ending her high school golf career on a high note after qualifying for the state tournament at regional competion Monday at Ulysses.

Leiker shot a 114 for 18 holes to take 12th place.

The team had to deal with some troublesome weather on the golf course.

"The conditions were really tough," Williams said. "It rained a ton the day before and the course was soaked. The winds blew over 30 mph and the high was 50 degrees.

"It took a combination of toughness and skill to get through this regional with these conditions," Coach Rick Williams said. "Jessica didn't shoot her best round, but nobody was out there setting personal bests. Jessica was able

get back to the clubhouse with a score that earned her a trip to the state tournament."

The team finished fifth out of seven at the regional. The other six teams at regionals were Ulysses, Nickerson, Russell, Pratt, Hugoton and Kingman. Only the top three teams qualify for state as a team.

Freshman Kaylee Keck came within a heartbeat of qualifying for state, shooting a 115 for 13th

and is going to do some great than her regional score last year, things on the golf course for Colby High School in the next three years," Williams said. "It would have been neat for her to cap off her impressive freshman season with a trip to the state tourney, but she will learn and grow from this experience."

Kaylee was one stroke away from being in the they competed well." next best five that go to state as individuals, said Williams.

Senior Kayla Sloan played her final round of her high school career,

shooting a 147. "She was a little disappointed in her regional score," Williams said,

"but her improvement was amazing, as her regional score from last year was 53 strokes higher .... That is some amazing improvement."

Sophomore Audra Fleming shot "Kaylee has a ton of potential a 127, which was 23 strokes lower Williams said. Junior Michelle Schroeder shot

143 and junior Heather Griggs shot a 173.

"Michelle and Heather didn't even go to regionals last year because they were not ready for this level of golf," Williams said.

"This year, they were there and

Leiker will compete at state on Monday at the Cherry Oaks Golf Course in Cheney. Her tee time

has yet to be established.

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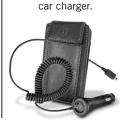


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