

Shooting for a victory



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Lady Eagles' senior Taylor Young took a shot at practice on Wednesday. Young and the rest of the Colby High girls basketball team were scheduled to be in action tonight when the Lady Eagles take on Oakley at 6:30 p.m. at Oakley High School.

Eagles take on Plainsmen

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High boys basketball team will be looking to pick up its second straight victory when the Eagles go on the road to take on Oakley High (1-3) tonight.

Oakley did not have classes today because of the weather, but Activities Director Larry Gable, said the game would still take place.

The Eagles' record now stands at 3-2. It would be 4-1 if a couple of plays had gone Colby's way in a 58-56 loss to Hays on Dec. 9.

If senior Levi Schlick had not sidelined for much of that game with a leg injury suffered in the second quarter, the Eagles might have won. But that is all water under the bridge, and the Eagles need to stay focused on the future.

Judging by their last game, it

seems like the Eagles have put the loss to Hays behind them. Their 61-38 pummeling of St. Francis on Tuesday was the kind of game that can help a team build confidence.

The breadth of the team's scoring this season has come from Schlick and Stephen Dinkel. Schlick is averaging a little over 17 points a game and Dinkel averages 13. The team averages 53 per game while shooting 46 percent from the field. The boys are pulling down 29.5 rebounds per game; Schlick alone is averaging 12.

One area that the Eagles have shown a weakness in has been free-throw shooting. The team is shooting a mediocre 52 percent from the line.

A jump in free-throw percentage would be a big boost. Close games are often decided at the foul line. Dinkel and Cade Carter have been the team's top two assist

men. Dinkel averages eight assists a game while Carter has dished out an average of six.

The Eagles will be taking on a team tonight that has been struggling. The Plainsmen have lost their last two games by an average of 23.5 points.

But it's never smart to look past an opponent; good teams win the games they are expected to. As long as Colby stays focused, though, the Eagles should have no trouble winning tonight's game.

Play is scheduled to start about 8 p.m., right after the girls' game, at the Oakley High gym. The girls were to start at 6 p.m.

The Eagles' wrestling team is scheduled to face Oakley tonight in a dual at 6:30 p.m. at the Colby High gym.

The team should be riding a wave of momentum after winning the Eagles Invitational last weekend.

Colby junior varsity girls gain first win of the season

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The Colby High girl's junior varsity team can breathe a little easier today. The Lady Eagles picked up their first win of the season on Thursday when they trounced Goodland 37-16.

"We had a very balanced scoring and everyone played very hard," Coach Jack Elliot said. "We need to communicate better and focus the whole, but we're improving everyday whether it be practice or a game."

The Eagles received scoring from multiple sources in the game.

Kayla Weber and Kylie Reitcheck led the team in scoring with seven points each. Emilea Finley scored six and Haley Stickle added five. Alyse Dumler and Skylar Barrett had four points each. With the win the Eagles finished third in a junior varsity at Goodland.

The Lady Eagles lost a heartbreaker to St. Francis 27-26 on Tuesday.

Morgan Bell led the team with 8 points and Rhett Martin added 5.

"We got two good looks at the end, but we couldn't convert," Elliot said. "We still need to pick up our intensity and focus and we will be fine."

The Lady Eagles were defeated

by Garden City 62-42 on Monday in a junior varsity tournament at Goodland. The four teams in the tournament were Colby, Goodland, Garden City and Burlington, Colo.

"The ladies did a good at the line (30 for 42) and are improving at other parts of game," Elliot said. He said the team is still trying to find the right combinations.

"Everyone is still trying to get on the same page on offense," Elliot said.

Emilea Finley had a team-high 12 and Kylie Reitcheck added 8.

The Lady Eagles take on Oakley today at 3:45 p.m. at Oakley High School.

Bronco turns into receiving threat

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Daniel Graham is shedding his reputation, along with tacklers.

Known as a great blocking tight end, the Denver Broncos seventh-year pro is becoming one of quarterback Jay Cutler's most reliable targets, a 257-pound hulk who's tough to corral after the catch.

"I like to consider myself a small lineman and a big receiver," Graham said with a grin.

Either way, he's getting lost in the shuffle.

With Brandon Marshall, Brandon Stokley, Eddie Royal and Tony Scheffler running routes, Graham often goes unnoticed and uncovered, finding openings in the middle of the field.

He's caught 12 of his 27 passes over the last three weeks.

"I like being the sleeper," said Graham, who has four touchdown receptions this season, matching his total from the last two years combined. Cutler has noticed the same thing. Whenever he looks for Graham over the middle, there doesn't seem to be a crowd gathered around him.

So he zips a pass to the big target.

"It just kind of naturally happened," Cutler said of the tight end's increased involvement in the passing game. "It's been a nice complement."

Graham has proven quite proficient at breaking tackles once he has the ball in his hands, averaging

11.8 yards a reception. That's a stat that marvels Marshall, who's averaging not much more at 12.3 and on Tuesday was named a Pro Bowl starter.

"He's a force," Marshall said. "Me and him like to compete all the time, because I like to say I'm the King of the YAC (yards after catch). But lately it's been Daniel. They're scared to tackle him, and he punishes defenders when they come up to tackle him."

Graham appreciates his expanded role in the passing game but realizes his main task is to keep the

running game clicking and Cutler standing.

That's priority No. 1. "Blocking has always been a big part of my game," said Graham, who grew up in Denver watching his father, Tom, play for the Broncos.

"I take it personal if someone beats me."

Never has Graham seen anything like the bevy of backs the Broncos have gone through this season, placing five on injured reserve.

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Gonzalez selected for 10th pro bowl

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City's No. 88.

To maintain his place among the elite, all Tony Gonzalez had to do was overcome anger, injury, bitterness and age.

Instead of just mailing it in for a going-nowhere team that he felt had betrayed him, Gonzalez remained loyal. With two games left for a 2-12 team, he's only 59 yards

away from putting up the fourth 1,000-yard receiving season in one of the most acclaimed tight end careers in NFL history.

"The thing I kept thinking was I didn't want to disappoint my teammates or my fans, the people who have been pulling for me all these years," said Gonzalez. "It would be a disservice to them."

His season of discontent began on Sept. 28 when dozens of friends

and family and about 60,000 fans expected to see him set the all-time receiving record for tight ends in a game against Denver. A momentous achievement he'd pursued for more than a year was only 3 yards away from the Chiefs, looking to break a 12-game losing streak, went into the final minutes holding a precarious lead.

STRIKE ZONE

~ League Bowling Results ~

December 9, 2008 - Pinbusters League				December 10, 2008 - Ladies Nite Out League			
Team	Won	Lost	Place	Team	Won	Lost	Place
Roommasters	172	122	1	Strike-Outs	10	6	1
Al's Painting	162	132	2	Bop Shop Betties	10	6	2
Bargos	157	137	3	Golden Harvest Seeds	10	6	3
Colby Automotive	144	180	4	Straightline	9	7	4
Colby Bowl	141	153	5	Service Oil	8 1/2	7 1/2	5
Subway	133	161	6	Don's electric	8	8	6
Cummins Central Power	119	175	7	Twisters II	7	9	7
Corona Kids	104	64	8	Twisters	6 1/2	9 1/2	8
First high individual game: Charles Schwanke, 264				Super 8 Motel	6	10	9
First high individual series: JR Bargo, 698				Judy's Team	5	11	10
First high individual series: Missy Lippelmann, 243				First high individual series: Missy Lippelmann, 561			
December 15, 2008 - First Nighters League				December 7, 2008 - King & Queen non-smoking			
Team	Won	Lost	Place	Team	Won	Lost	Place
McKee	185	109	1	Schissler-Koehn	15	5	1
Woolter Pump & Well	182	112	2	Huff-Waddington	14	6	2
Grinnell Furniture	168	126	3	Swartz-Barnett	13	7	3
Parking Lot Maintenance	166	128	4	Barton-Reeh	13	7	3
Kansas Quick Lube	160	134	5	Norman-Mackley	11	9	4
Discount Repair of Oakley	157	137	6	Remner-Schwanke	9	11	5
Sparky's Fireworks	155	139	7	Kreutzer-Garrett-Stasser	7	13	6
NW Refrigeration	133	161	8	Pancake-Heartman-Lee	7	13	7
Frontier Ag Inc.	132	162	9	Cook-Dennis	4	16	8
Wild Ride	122	172	10	Men's First high individual game: Charles Schwanke, 206			
Pepsi	108	186	11	Men's First high individual series: Charles Schwanke, 563			
First high Men individual game: Charles Schwanke, 246				Women's First high individual game: Mandy Kreutzer, 265			
First high Men individual series: JR Bargo, 654				Women's First high individual series: Mandy Kreutzer, 510			
December 11, 2008 - King Pin League				November 30, 2008 - King & Queen smoking			
Team	Won	Lost	Place	Team	Won	Lost	Place
Colby Automotive	163	89	1	Phillips-Carmen	15	9	1
www.visitcolby.com	147	105	2	Huff-Waddington	14	10	2
5 Pony Men	140	112	3	Schmidberger-Benson	13	11	3
Colby Bowl Fun Center	132	120	4	Pancake-Heartman	13	11	4
Orschelns	121	131	5	Barnett-Schroeder	9	15	5
T.J. Tire	121	131	6	Skolout-Wagoner	8	16	6
Morgan Constuction	103	149	7	Men's First high individual game: Larry Waddington, 222			
Balls Deep	89	163	8	Men's First high individual series: Larry Waddington, 571			
FireXrikers	58	26	9	Women's First high individual game: Tohna Benson, 175			
First high individual game: Charles Schwanke, 279				Women's First high individual series: Tohna Benson, 457			
First high individual series: JR Bargo, 729							
December 9, 2008 - Early Bird Ladies League				December 12, 2008 - Ten Pin League			
Team	Won	Lost	Place	Team	Won	Lost	Place
www.strike	36	24	1	Cal Williams	38	18	1
NW Vacuum	27 1/2	32 1/2	2	Once Upon a Sign	32	24	2
Van's Merry Four	29 1/2	30 1/2	3	Colby Bowl	30	26	3
Bowlerettes	27	33	4	Farm Credit	28	28	4
First high individual game: Ann Friesen, 224				Minds in the Gutter	25	31	5
First high individual series: Dee Hovda, 577				First high individual game: Kelly Horinek, 200			
				First high individual series: Kelly Horinek, 572			

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