Eagles football team faces Smoky Valley

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press

aheintz@nwkansas.com The Colby High football team will

play at 7 p.m. Friday against Smoky Valley High at the Bethany College football stadium in Lindsborg, the Eagles' second district game of the season.

Last year's game was the first time ju-

an injury during the team's 22-14 loss at fective offensive threat last season. Concordia the week before.

Arnberger played a solid game, but Coach Chris Gardner played it safe on offense and only allowed him to throw four passes. The Vikings will face Arnberger again today, but they'll soon see that he's not the same player he was last year.

The Eagles' quarterback has become a The Vikings (3-4) will be looking for running and passing threat this year. Last revenge after being demolished 40-0 by week, he ran for two of the team's three the Eagles (5-2) last season at Dennen touchdowns in a 22-14 victory against Concordia. Arnberger has tossed four touchdown passes this season and avernior quarterback Kalen Arnberger started ages 90 passing yards per game. He has under center in a varsity game. Regular done a commendable job at replacing Stequarterback Heath Stephens had suffered phens, the team's most dangerous and ef-

Unfortunately for Arnberger, he will not be able to throw to his favorite target

Junior Corbin Stephens has a torn meniscus in his knee and won't suit up Friday. He didn't play in Concordia. He has been a go-to guy for the Eagles this season and his loss robs the team of one of its most dangerous threats.

Arnberger will need sophomore wide receiver Dalton Snyder and sophomore tight end Ryan Parker to step up.

Ethan Stickel had a whale of a game against Smoky Valley last season, running for 163 yards, scoring two touchdowns and accumulating 17 tackles.

leading tacklers on Friday, including defensive tackle Adam Weber, junior defensive end Rocque Russell and this season's leading tackler, junior linebacker Andrew

One of the keys to Colby's success in last year's game was a fast start. The Eagles put 8 points on the scoreboard in the first quarter and lead 20-0 at the end of the half.

insight about what next week's home Street. game against Larned will be like. The Vikings eeked out a 40-38 victory at Larned

If Colby's offensive line is able to open

He will need help from the team's other up holes for Stickel, Flanagin and Weber and the defense is able to prevent Smoky Valley from making too many big plays,

then the boys should pull out a victory. Take Interstate 70 east toward Salina for 196 miles, then take I-135 south (Exitt 250A) toward Wichita. Go about 18 miles before taking Exit 78 for Business U.S.

81 toward Lindsborg. Turn right and go four miles to Olsson Street and run right (west). After a couple This week's game also may offer some of blocks, turn right (north) at Kansas

> When you reach Swenson Avenue, the parking lot by the stadium will be on the

Golfers compete at state; coach pleased with season

Two young Colby High golfers, sophomore Kaylee Keck and Monday were windy and the his team as a whole will do betfreshman Karly Kriss, played in course was harder than the one in ter at regionals next fall. Keck was the Class 4A state tournament Monday at Highlands Country Club in Hutchinson.

Keck shot a 108 and Kriss finished with a 134. Neither girl placed high enough to earn a med-

Coach Rick Williams said the last medal when to a player who

The coach said the conditions tourney last October.

Williams said the course had narrow fairways and lots of un- had a really good season. playable gunk off to the side. He said the girls will be more ready for state next year because they will be more experienced.

"You can't practice pressure,"

Williams also said he thought Cheney where they held the state the only player this year who had

competed in regionals before. Williams said he felt his team

Some high points for the Lady Eagles this season included taking first in the Oakley Quad and snaring second in their home meet at the Meadow Lake Golf Course and Lounge.

Big 12 basketball nears parity

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - Kansas hasn't won State. Texas A&M lost Takia Starks and Danielle a conference title in 12 years, hasn't won more than six Big 12 games in coach Bonnie Henrickson's five seasons, yet was picked to finish second by the

Recognition of how far the Jayhawks have come? Certainly. Kansas is more talented and deeper than it's been in years and has one of the country's best players in Danielle McCray.

But it's also a nod to the parity that's come to the conference. No longer just Baylor, Oklahoma, Texas and the rest, the Big 12 is as deep and talented as it's

Some of it comes from the players who left.

Oklahoma lost Ashley and Courtney Paris. Marlies Gipson and Shalee Lehning are gone at Kansas dunking ability.

Grant. Baylor is down four starters from a team that won 29 games last season.

The losses haven't necessarily weakened the conference. The Big 12 is consistently one of the strongest conferences in the country and is always going to have good players rotating in.

The talent's still there. It's just spread out a big

"There's going to be a lot of new faces, new players," Iowa State coach Bill Fennelly. "That's the way this league is. Great players leave and great players

One of those players is Baylor's Brittney Griner. The 6-foot-8 freshman has become known for her



Colby High sophomore Morgan Bell hit a forearm shot during the Lady Eagles' volleyball practice Monday. Colby lost all three matches at the Northwest Kansas League tournament Saturday at

Colby High volleyball squad gets ready for substate action

volleyball tournament Saturday in Goodland.

The tournament was divided next two 26-24 and 25-22. into two pools with four teams pool B with Hoxie, Oakley and St. 2A, took first.

then the two best teams advanced to the semifinals.

Francis.

Colby fell to Hoxie (25-16, 28sets (25-23, 26-24), then put up U.S. 281 and Business U.S. 40 at

team lost all three of its matches in three hotly contested sets. The at the Northwest Kansas League Lady Eagles won the opening set against the Lady Indians 25-23 but St. Francis recovered and took the

The powerful Oberlin team, in each. The Lady Eagles were in ranked first in the state in Class

The girls will play in the Class The teams in both pools faced 4A substate against Smoky Valley everyone else in their pool once, at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Russell High School gym.

To get to the school, take Interstate 70 east past Salina. Go 131 26), lost to Oakley in two close miles before taking exit 184 for

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The Colby High girls volleyball a good fight against St. Francis Russell. Turn left and take U.S. 281 north into town for a little more than two miles. Take a right at East Eighth Street and go east. Eighth turns into State; go a couple of blocks to the school at 565 E. State St.



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