



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
Colby High senior Braden McKee drove to the hoop during the Eagles' game against Garden City on Tuesday at the Community Building.

# Garden City rebounding leads to Colby's downfall

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Garden City's tall, athletic squad proved to be too much for the Lady Eagles on Tuesday as the Lady Buffaloes exploited their height advantage in a 42-34 win at the Community Building.

The visitors out rebounded the Colby girls 25-14 and shot 16 more free throws.

"Rebounding and free throws are the reason we lost that game," said coach Parker McKee.

Garden City applied a full-court press at the start of the game, causing Colby to commit a couple of turnovers. The girls eventually adjusted and the score remained close throughout the first quarter. Junior Kayla Hockersmith drew a foul on a hard drive to the bucket. She made both her free throws to tie the game at 6 near the end of the period.

The second quarter was as low-scoring as the first. Hockersmith drilled a three to give the girls a 13-12 lead. Freshman Alexa Haas got open inside for a bucket to extend Colby's lead to 15-12. The Lady Buffaloes fought back and the two teams were tied at 15 at halftime.

Garden City scored five points to start the second half. Sophomore Katherine Kaus scored inside to cut the Lady Buffaloes' lead to 20-17. Later in the third, freshman

Alexa Haas hit a short jumper to narrow the gap to 22-19.

Hockersmith was active on defense, getting a steal with 2:50 left in the quarter. She missed a layup, but sophomore Morgan Bell pulled down the rebound and stuck it back in to cut the Garden City lead to 22-21. The Eagles took a 23-22 lead with 46 seconds left in the third after Morgan Bell made a short jumper inside the lane.

Garden City's Syd Sassaman scored on a nice drive down the lane past a couple Colby defenders to recapture the lead. The Lady Buffaloes' Traci Martinez drilled a three-pointer to extend that to 27-23.

Colby went through a tough stretch when they committed three straight turnovers and the Lady Buffaloes took a 31-23 lead in the fourth. The Colby girls rallied thanks to a pair of three-pointers by Hockersmith and Haas, but the Garden City made some key buckets down the stretch and won the game 42-34.

Kaus came down hard on her left ankle while battling for a rebound with less than a minute left and had to be helped off the court. McKee said she sprained her ankle and he would evaluate her condition at practice tonight.

The Lady Eagles were relentless on defense, forcing Garden City to commit 26 turnovers. Hockersmith led the team in scoring with

12 and Haas added nine. Kaus scored seven, freshmen Lauren Bell four and sophomore Emilea Finley two.

Colby will play next at 6 p.m. Thursday at Dodge City and at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Quinter.

# Eagles give up lead late, lose home game by nine

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The Eagles' basketball team just ran out of gas Tuesday at the Community Building.

Colby was playing a solid game, leading 37-29 early in the third quarter, but then Garden City took control and never let up.

The Buffaloes erased the eight-point deficit and went on to win 63-54.

Senior Ryley Haas was the catalyst for the Eagles' strong start. He hit a three-pointer that hit the front of rim and rolled to the backboard before dropping in to give his team a 3-0 lead right off. A little later in the first quarter, Haas made his presence felt on both ends of the court. After creating a turnover on defense, he drilled another three to give his team a 6-3 lead.

The Buffaloes fought back and eventually went up 9-8. Colby senior Chaz Winger scored a bucket while drawing contact from a defender to recapture the lead. He drained his free throw to give the Eagles an 11-8 lead. Moments later, Haas drilled another jumper to extend the boys' lead to 13-9.

Cody Bernbeck of Garden City found Billy Phipps with a nice bounce pass down low that Phipps laid in to narrow the gap to 13-11. Winger knocked down a jumper from the left baseline to give Col-

by a 15-11 lead at the end of the first.

Senior Braden McKee knocked down two free throws early in the second quarter to stretch the boys' lead to 17-11. He also was effective on defense getting a big block inside during the quarter.

Bernbeck nailed a three-pointer to cut Colby's lead to 17-14. The Buffaloes scored the next two points to bring the game within one. Then Haas drove down the lane and drew a foul while trying to make a layup. He sank both his free throws to give his team a 19-16 lead.

Later in the quarter, junior Corbin Stephens rebounded a missed shot by junior Kale Arnberger and stuck it back in to stretch Colby's lead to 23-16. The boys continued to control the tempo of the game during the quarter. Near the end of the half, Stephens found junior Andrew Ketchum for a baseline jumper to make it 28-20 Colby. The Eagles led 30-23 at halftime.

Things started swimmingly for the Eagles in the third quarter. Haas scored five quick points, including his third three-pointer, to extend the Eagles' lead to 37-29 early in the third. Then the pendulum swung in the other direction as the Buffaloes took control. The visitors scored 15 of the games next 20 points to take a 44-41 lead.

The Colby boys still had a little

left in the tank in the fourth. The Eagles took a 48-47 lead when a determined Stephens scored inside on his third attempt.

Garden City recaptured the lead by getting a fast-break bucket off a turnover. They stretched it to 57-50 with less than two minutes remaining. Haas knocked down a pair of free throws to cut the margin to 52-57, but Colby wouldn't get any closer as Garden City picked up a 63-54 victory.

Haas had a team-high 19 points, including hitting three of six three-pointers. Stephens added 11, Winger 10 and Braden McKee eight. Senior Brock Wagoner, Ketchum and Arnberger all had two.

The Eagles were dogged by turnovers in the game, especially in the second half. Colby ended with 25 turnovers. This led to the Buffaloes taking 13 more shots than the Eagles in the second half. Colby also had trouble dealing with Garden City's deep bench which outscored the Eagles' bench 38-4. The Buffaloes also won the battle in the paint outscoring Colby 18-8.

"They were a little deeper than us," said McKee.

With the loss, Colby dropped to 5-10 for the year. The boys will play at 8 p.m. Thursday at Dodge City and Friday at Quinter.

# Jayhawks easily handle Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Kansas gave Texas a lesson in not only what it takes to get to No. 1, but how to stay there.

It started with a big early run and a rally-killing finish as the top-ranked Jayhawks beat No. 14 Texas 80-68 on Monday night, easily handling a team that a few weeks ago was supposed to challenge them for the Big 12 title.


"Going into the season, we were ranked one and they were two," said Marcus Morris, who overcame dislocating his right ring finger in the first half to lead Kansas with 18 points. "We circled

this game on our calendars. We were ready from day one to play this game."

It showed as Kansas outmuscled and outthustled Texas in just about every way.

Kansas, No. 1 for the second straight week after three weeks out of the top spot, outrebounded a physical Texas lineup 45-34, held the Longhorns to 37 percent shooting and scored 27 points off 17 turnovers.

And when Texas finally staged a late rally, Kansas slammed the door behind senior point guard Sherron Collins, who had 15 points.



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