

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior shortstop and catcher Caitlyn Wark, pictured here catching a throw during softball practice on Tuesday at the Colby Recreation Fields, and the rest of the Lady Eagles take on No. 2 seed Basehor-Linwood (west of Kansas City, Kan.) in the first round of the Class 4A state tournament at 5 p.m. Friday at the Bill Burke Complex in Salina.

## \* Eagles softball squad heads to state tourney

By Andy Heintz

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team lived up to their No. 1 seeding in the Class 4A regionals by finishing first and advancing to the state tournament for the third time

in 11 years. The Lady Eagles, 16-7, will have their hands full when they take on No. 2 seed Basehor-Linof the state at 5 p.m. Friday at Bill

Burke Complex in Salina. Colby pitchers Skyler Mengel and freshman Kenzie Curry have played an essential role in the team's success this season with both producing memorable per-

formances. The two star pitchers looked sharp on the mound at regionals. Curry gave up five hits, while striking out an impressive 13 batters in the Lady Eagles' 5-3 vicand Mengel allowed two hits, while striking out nine in Colby's 7-1 victory over Russell in the semifinals.

Arguably this years most impressive pitching performance was when Mengel threw a no hitter in 3-0 victory against Scott

Colby Free Press on March 30. The veteran junior pitcher not only threw a no-hitter, she almost threw a perfect game. The Colby High girls softball The Lady Beavers' only base runner came when Mengel hit a batter in the first inning.

> Mengel also threw a one-hitter in a 16-1 blowout win against Ulysses on April 27 and a threehitter in Colby's 7-3 win at rival Goodland on May 6.

Curry threw a one-hitter in the wood, located west of Kansas Lady Eagles' 12-0 win over Lakin City, Kan., 21-2, in the first round on April 29 and in the team's 10-0 win at Goodland. She also gave up three hits and struck out 11 batters in the Lady Eagles' 1-0 win over Great Bend on May 3.

> The girls' offense has posted some high scores this season. These high scores include two 10 point games, two 12 point games and one 16-point effort. The Lady Eagles' offense has struggled with consistency at times, but they hit the ball well during regionals.

Junior shortstop Caitlyn Wark tory over Pratt in the in the finals has been swinging a particularly hot bat lately. She went three for four against Russell and she drove in three of the Lady Eagles' five runs with a bases loaded triple against Pratt.

> Wark has been one of the girls' steadiest hitters this season and she's arguably the Lady Eagles

City in the team's season opener most dangerous extra base hitter. Curry, Mengel and senior first baseman Keesa Wright have also had solid years at the plate. Wright will not be making the trip to Salina. Coach Jack Elliot wouldn't disclose any more about the situation. Freshman Karly Kriss will fill in for Wright at first base.

Despite a few errors here and there, the Lady Eagles' defense has performed well this year. The team's usual infield features Wright at first base, junior Bailey Koerperich, second; Wark, shortstop, junior Brittany Bange, third and senior Dani Dietz at catcher.

Kriss will play first on Friday and freshman Jenessa Williams will be a back-up for Wark at shortstop. Wark also catches and Mengel plays shortstop and first when she's not pitching.

The girls' outfielders include junior Tera Raymond, sophomore Madison Gawith, Curry, Williams, freshman Bailey Terrell and sophomore Lacy O'Neal.

Directions to the game:

Take Interstate 70 east to the I-135 exit (Exit 250A), turn south (right) and take I-135 about 3.3 miles to Exit 92, Crawford Street, in Salina. Turn left on Crawford and continue east 2.8 miles to the stadium, 1501 E. Crawford St.

## Colby student athletes honored at ceremony

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High booster club rewarded several senior student athletes for their athletic and academic achievements with scholarships and medals at the senior awards ceremony in the high school audito-

Adam Weber was named sportsman of the year. The club awarded him a \$250 scholarship, a medal and a certificate. Booster member Gary Adrian said all the kids who received awards got medals and certificates.

Weber played fullback and defensive tackle on the football team this fall, he wrestled at 215 this winter and threw the shot put and ran the 4-by-100 relay race for the Eagles' track and field squad.

Weber averaged almost 10 tackles, the second highest average on the team. He was second in rushing touchdowns with seven and third in scoring with 44 points. Weber won more than 25 matches, placed in shot put at several meets and his 4-by-100 team also placed on a regular basis.

Weber said getting his school work done early in the week had helped him juggle his sports and school responsibilities. He said the end of week was usually pretty clustered with sports events.

"You have to get work done when you have time,"

He said his scholarship money would go towards college. Weber said he will be attending Colby Community College or Garden City Community Col-

You have to have letters in three sports to be up for this award, Adrian said. He said no senior girls had the qualifications to be up for the sportsman award.

Dani Dietz and Nathan Reed won the boosters' boys and girls academic athletic scholarships. Both scholarships were worth \$250.

Reed has earned 12 letters in his four years at the high school. He is only the 11th person - eight boys, three girls – to get 12 letters in about 90 years, Adrian said. Reed runs for the cross country in the fall, wrestles in the winter and runs for the track and field team in the spring. He had his best wrestling season ever this year, finishing with a record of 37-3 in the 112-pound class and taking third in the Class 4A state tournament in Salina.

Reed said he was surprised to win the award and he hasn't decided what to do with the money. He said utilizing his seminar time at school had helped him manage both his academic and athletic duties. Reed said he also received a lot of support from his par-

Dietz plays volleyball and softball. She and the rest of the Lady Eagles' softball squad made the state championship for the third time in eleven years this season. Dietz said she was extremely surprised to win the award. She said she will put the money into a savings account for when she attends Colby Community College next year.

In order to be up for this award students have to have at least a 3.0 grade average, Adrian said. The formula the boosters used to the decide the winner takes a student's grade average times three plus the number of letters they have earned in four years. For example, if a student has a three-point grade average and nine letters, he would have 18 points. The booster club uses this point system to make athletics and academics count the same, Adrian said.

The booster club recognized five boys for playing three sports this year: Braden McKee, cross country; basketball and track and field; Torey Taylor, football and wrestling and track and field; Ethan Stickel, football, wrestling and baseball; Reed and Weber.

The club gave retiring Colby High Principal Don Krebs the Community Spirit award and the Community Booster award was given to Leroy's Printing and Marla Crumrine.

## Two Brewster High students qualify for state track meet

By Bonnie Holm

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Brewster High sophomore Kasey Hoyt and senior Spencer Holm both qualified for the state track meet at regionals on Friday in Hays. The state track meet will take place on Friday and Saturday at Cessna Stadium on the Wichita State University campus.

Hoyt took third in the 1600-meter run with a school-record breaking time of 5 minutes and 39.74 seconds. Hoyt's strong finish, just six seconds off in 5:56.47. Junior Sheena Rall placed ninth in the the second place finisher, was the key. She finished shot put with a heave of 30' 8.5" and threw the disa close race behind two competitors who were state cus 62' 6" title contenders last year. Hoyt also ran the 800, finishing ninth with 2:41.16.

Holm will be returning to state competition, after placing tenth in the high jump last year. Holm had a season-best jump this year of 6 feet, 4 inches, but

his jump of 6' 2" at regionals was not good enough to qualify. Instead, Holm will run the 110-meter high hurdles at state. He qualified by taking fourth with 17.46. Holm also placed seventh in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles with a season-best time of 44.79.

Freshmen competing in their first regional meet were Dan Brown, Michael Schmidt and Ben Baird. Brown finished 13th in the 400-meter dash with 59.70 and competed in the high jump, Schmidt finished seventh in the 3200-meter run with a seasonbest time of 11:21.96 and Baird ran the 1600-meters

Hoyt will run the 1600-meter run at 1 p.m. Saturday and Holm will run the preliminaries of the 110-meter hurdles at 2:20 Friday; finals will start at 9:50 a.m. Saturday.



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