

Eagles' offense shines in win

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby High varsity football team snapped a seven-game losing streak against St. Francis with a convincing 47-22 win on the road.

"It was good win," said coach Chris Gardner. "It was good to get the monkey off our back."

Senior quarterback Kale Arnberger had a monster game, tossing four touchdown passes. Arnberger was nearly flawless, scampering for first downs and picking apart the Indians' defense by making tough completions on the run.

"That's the thing about Kale, he's a pretty good passer and runner," the coach said.

Arnberger completed 11 of 17 passes for 221 yards, 9 of 11 in the first half.

Senior tailback Andrew Flanagan ran for two touchdowns, caught a short pass that he took for a touchdown and caught a pass for a two-point conversion. He finished with 107 yards on 11 carries and he gained 50 yards on three pass receptions. Flanagan attacked the Indians' defense with an impressive mixture of speed, strength and foot work.

The Eagles' offense had 221 passing yards and ran for 177 yards. The Colby defense took advantage of the Indians' carelessness on offense, recovering five fumbles and getting one interception.

Colby recovered a fumble in St. Francis territory early in the first quarter, and the Eagles immediately capitalized on the good field position. On the next play, Arnberger found senior wide receiver Corbin Stephens with a 30-yard touchdown pass. Colby's two-point conversion attempt failed.

St. Francis quickly struck back.

The Indians' Cody Sherlock blew past the Eagles' defense and appeared to be on his way to the end zone until Arnberger made a touchdown-saving shoestring tackle. Moments later, Ty Zwegardt ran 22 yards for a touchdown with 6:42 remaining in the first quarter. Senior defensive end Josh Middleton wrapped up the St. Francis ball carrier for a loss on the Indians' two-point conversion try.

Later on, Colby strung together a 70-yard drive on offense. Arnberger started the series by running for a first down after he couldn't find anyone open downfield. Then senior fullback Ryan Parker charged through a hole up the middle for a first down at Colby's own 49.

Later, Flanagan rumbled for a first down on third and seven. Then Flanagan creased through a hole on left side of the offensive line and sped 29 yards for a touchdown.

Parker ran it up the middle for a successful two-point conversion, giving the Eagles' a 14-6 lead with under 6:26 left in the half.

Turnovers continued to haunt St. Francis. During one drive in the second quarter, the Indians' ball carrier burst through a hole in Colby's defense and sped to the Eagles' 40 before fumbling. Middleton recovered for Colby.

Moments later, Arnberger hit sophomore wide receiver Zane Winger streaking down the left sideline with a 41-yard touchdown pass.

"I did a shoulder shrug and got my defender breaking inside, and then I took off," Winger said. "It was a beautiful throw by Kale Arnberger."

The extra-point try was no good.

On the ensuing kickoff, Winger was able to pop the ball loose



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Senior fullback Ryan Parker barreled forward for an extra yard during the football game at St. Francis on Friday. The Eagles

thumped St. Francis 47-22, snapping a seven-game losing streak.

from St. Francis' return man and sophomore Todd Kane recovered it. The Eagles couldn't get anything going, however, and had to deplete on the Colby.

Later, the Indians' bolted past the Eagles' defense and took it all the way to Colby's 10 before Arnberger made another touchdown-saving tackle. Then Sherlock went for a 10-yard jaunt to make it 20-12. Zwegardt took a handoff and ran it into over the goal line, bringing his team within six.

With about 3:30 left in the half, Arnberger found Flanagan with a short screen pass and the Eagles' athletic tailback shed a few tacklers, knocking down one unfortu-

nate player with a powerful stiff arm, and slipped down the left sideline for a 33-yard touchdown. The extra point attempt was no good.

Colby's offense would get one more touchdown before halftime. Arnberger found Stephens with a 26-yard touchdown pass to make it 32-14 with less than 40 seconds left.

Arnberger lobbed a pass to Flanagan deep in the left corner of the end zone, giving the Eagles' a 34-14 lead.

Early in the third quarter, Arnberger cut through a hole and shoveled the ball to Flanagan on the left sideline. The Colby tail-

back motored down the field for a 40-yard touchdown.

Arnberger intercepted a poorly thrown pass on the Indians' next possession. Later in the quarter, Arnberger fumbled a snap that was recovered by the Indians with five seconds left in the third. St. Francis capitalized on the mistake by putting together a drive that ended with a two-yard touchdown run to make it 40-20. St. Francis made the two-point conversion.

Colby drove down the field into Indians' territory near the end of the fourth. Arnberger ran for a first down on the Indians' 13-yard line with 3:33 left. Parker then ran in a four-yard touchdown. Trek Keck

booted the extra point, extending the Eagles' lead to 47-22. No one scored after that.

Coach Gardner said he would give his offense a B+ for its performance.

Gardner said he thought Middleton, linebacker Parker and Arnberger had all played well on defense. Parker led the team with 11 tackles and two fumble recoveries. Arnberger had an interception and a fumble recovery.

Colby plays next against Hugoton at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the annual homecoming game at Denen Field.

Eighth graders begin their seasons

Two out of the three Colby Middle School eighth-grade volleyball teams were victorious in their season openers Thursday against Kennedy Middle School in Hays.

The A-team won its match in two sets 25-9, 25-21.

"Their serves were really good, and they played a major factor in the outcome of the games," coach Shirley Arnberger said. "Brooklyn Bange scored several points with her excellent serves. They did a really good job of setting the ball up and making the plays."

The C-team won its match 25-13, 25-9. The coach said serving played a major factor in the girls' victory. Megan Lees served 17 straight points during

the match. "Megan Lees did a fabulous job with her serving," Arnberger said.

The coach said the C-team struggled with returning serves, which cost a lot of points.

"I saw a lot of good things," she said, "but there are a lot of things we need to work on."

The B-team lost its match in two sets 25-22, 25-14.

"We really struggled with serve reception and communication," the coach said.

The A and B team will compete again in a round robin with Goodland, Burlington, Colo., Norton, Wray, Colo., and Scott City at 10 a.m. (Central Time) Saturday at Goodland.

This is personal.

"My mother was the cornerstone of our family. When she was diagnosed with colon cancer, it was like the whole family got cancer. She died when she was only 56. Let my heartbreak be your wake-up call."

Terrence Howard, actor/musician

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the U.S., but it is largely preventable. If you're 50 or older, please get screened. Screening finds precancerous polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. And screening finds colorectal cancer early, when treatment works best. If you're at increased risk—if you have a personal or family history of polyps or colorectal cancer, or you have inflammatory bowel disease—ask your doctor when to start screening.

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