

# Sophomores go out on top

## Lady Trojans sweep Seward on Thursday

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby College volleyball team picked up a huge victory on Thursday at the Community Building, sweeping Seward County Community College (25-20, 33-31, 25-17) on Sophomore Night.

If Thursday's match against the Lady Saints from Liberal ends up being the team's last home game, it would be hard to draw up a better finish for the squad's sophomores.

"It was kind of the the way we wanted to go out," sophomore Tess Robben said. "With a bang!" "We finally came together," sophomore Emily Lubbers added, "Everyone did their job."

The Lady Trojans 33-31 win in the second set took the wind out of Seward's sails. The Lady Saints came out cold in the third set, falling behind 9-3 in the early going. Much to Seward's credit, the Lady Saints mounted a rally later in the set, scoring five unanswered points that cut Colby's lead to 14-12.

A spike by freshman Nichelle Erskine extended Colby's lead to 17-14. Sophomore Danqi Li and Lubbers simultaneously blocked a Lady Saints' spike attempt, giving Colby a 19-16 lead. The Lady Trojans went on to win the set 25-17.

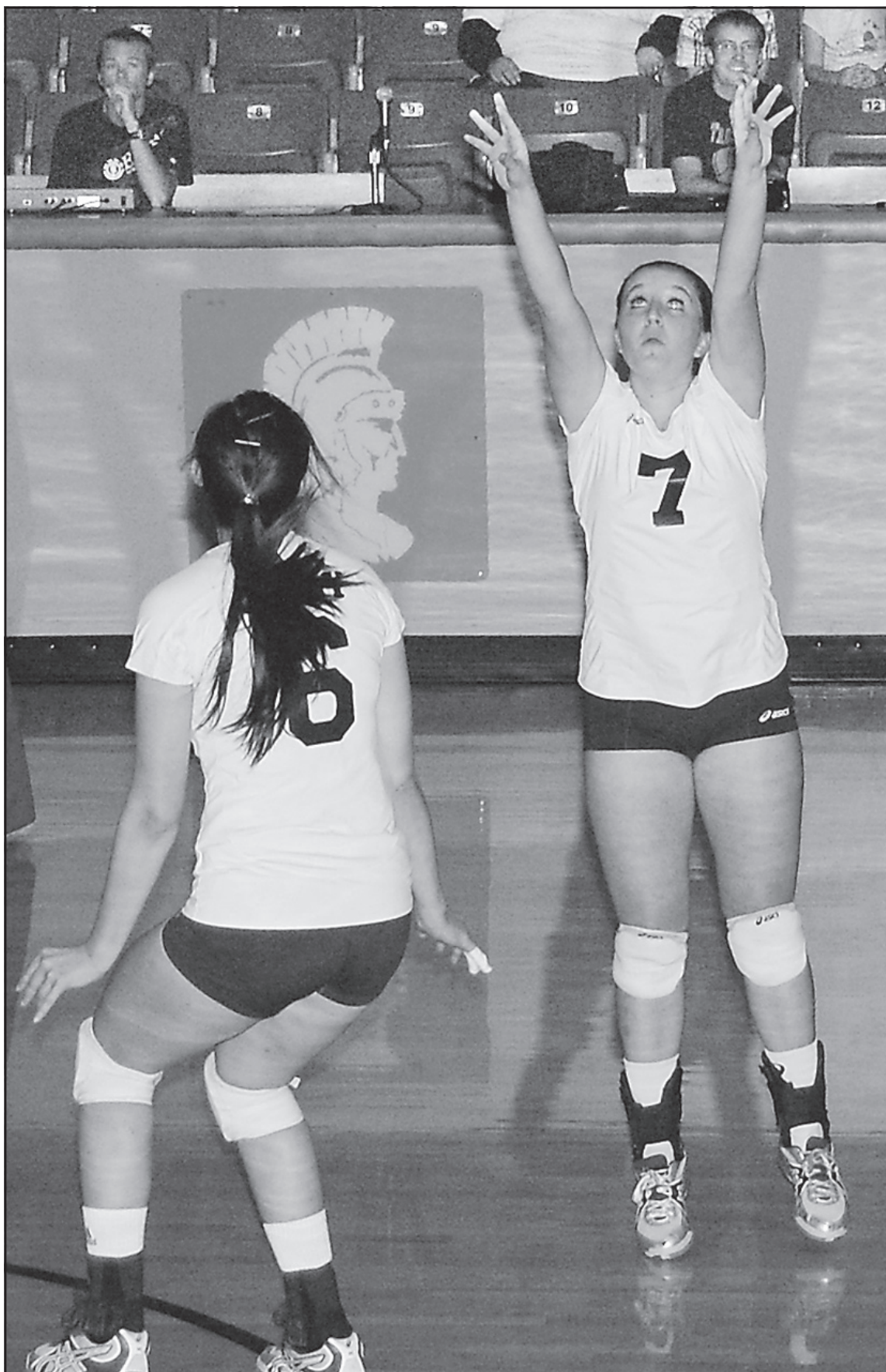
Coach Carey Jones said in close matches, her team has either lost or they have fought back and won. She said her team fought back on Thursday.

Lubbers said her coaches did a great job picking out the weaknesses of the opposing team. Jones said two of her teams goals going into the match were to shut down Seward's Sheina Fernandes and for everyone to play with heart.

Colby went up 3-0 in the first set, but the Lady Saints' responded by scoring four unanswered points. Then Erskine scored on a spike. Li scored on two consecutive spikes, extending the Trojans' lead to 8-5 a few minutes later. Sophomore Jordyn White's serve hit the top of the net and rolled over to Seward's side, extending Colby's lead to four.

Later on, an ace by Li gave Colby a 16-8 lead. Freshman Nichelle Erskine smashed a spike and sophomore Gabrielly Cardoso got an ace to make it 19-10. Seward made a comeback, cutting the Lady Saints' lead to 20-17. But Colby recovered and won the set 25-20.

Colby and the Lady Saints were tied at 23 in the second set and Seward appeared to have the momentum on its side. The Lady Saints got the next point to go up 24-23. Then freshman Ana Calito had her spike blocked at the net, but fortunately for the Lady Trojans the block went out of bounds, tying the set at 24. Seward got



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby College freshman Rachel Montgomery set the ball during the second set of the Lady Trojans' match against Seward Community College on Thursday at the Community Building.

the next point to make it 25-24. But the Lady Saints couldn't put Colby away as the Lady Trojans were able to score and tie the set. The action continued in this manner with neither team able to gain the two-point lead necessary to win the set.

The Lady Trojans trailed 30-29 when Calito scored on a spike. Seward scored the next point, but Calito answered by scoring on a tip shot. Then the freshman scored on two straight spikes to give her team a 33-31 win.

Colby's record stands at 26-13 and 8-5 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference

The win moved the Lady Trojans into fourth place, a half game ahead of Seward in the standings. Colby has one game remaining at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Pratt, while Seward plays against Barton County and Hutchinson.

If the Lady Trojans win against Pratt, they will lock up a first-round home match. If they lose, then Seward would need to lose one of their final two matches in order for the Lady Trojans to host a game.

A packed house of Colby volleyball fans adorned in pink shirts, was not enough to get the Lady Trojans a victory over Barton County Community College on Tuesday in the community building

The women's team was swept by the Lady Cougars from Great Bend in three sets (25-22, 25-21, 25-22) on Dig Pink Night – a night where the Lady Trojans helped raise money and awareness about breast cancer. Dig Pink was started by the Side-Out Foundation. The foundation awards grants to medical research organizations and entities dedicated to provid-

ing support to cancer patients and their families.

The Lady Trojans raised money for the Side-Out Foundation and the Northwest Foundation for HOPE by holding a silent auction, doing prize giveaways and donating half of the admission fees to the two organizations.

The Northwest Kansas Foundation for HOPE was founded by nine women in Thomas County who had been touched by cancer, either personally or through a loved one. The organization gives a \$500 grant to cancer patients to help pay for wigs, medical bills, medical equipment and lodging. HOPE stands for Help Offset Patient Expenses. Hope supports cancer patients and their families in Thomas, Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman and Wallace Counties

# Eighth grade football team ends season

The Colby eighth grade football team finished its season with a 3-4 record.

"We had to overcome some adversity this year and I was very proud of the effort the team gave every game," coach Todd Murdock said.

The coach noted that two of his team's losses were by only two points, a 14-12 loss in overtime to Holcomb and 20-18 loss to Scott City. He said there was only one game this season where the young

Eagles were out of the picture and even in that game his team kept fighting and working hard until the final whistle.

Murdock said his favorite game was his team's 16-12 win over rival Grant Middle School in Goodland. He said the game got close at the end of the game, but his team kept Grant from scoring again.

"We had some young men who grew up a lot this year," Murdock said. "They learned that hard work wouldn't kill them and they

learned to never give up."

The coach said the players who came out for football for the first time this year helped his team tremendously. He said the Eagles wouldn't have been able to field a

team at the end of the season if it wasn't for their rookies.

"We were very thankful they decided to give football a try and hope they stay with it," the coach said.

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# Bulldogs lose close game 50-44

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains High Bulldogs football team lost to Sharon Springs 50-44 in an exciting game on Friday.

The game started well. The boys got on the scoreboard early in the first quarter after receiving the kickoff to start the game. They moved the ball downfield through a series of first downs to get within first and goal, then junior Tyler Stevenson ran in for a touchdown. Junior Kalyn Weber ran in two-point conversion to give the Bulldogs an 8-0 lead three minutes into the game.

Junior Cole Christensen stopped the Sharon Springs' runner on the kickoff return. The Wildcats continued to struggle as the Bulldog defense stopped them play after play, with senior Devinn Ritter stopping them just short of the goal on a second-down situation.

Christensen stopped the Wildcats' offense on third down, but they were just inches from the end zone and made it over the goal line on fourth down. Sharon Springs' pass fell incomplete, but a penalty on the Bulldogs gave them a second chance. This time, they got into the end zone on a run, tying the game at 8.

Later on, the Bulldogs stopped several plays before Sharon Springs' Dalton Davis broke loose up the middle for a touchdown. Sharon Springs' Tad Adams caught the two-point conversion, giving the Wildcats a 16-8 lead.

The Bulldogs moved the ball for several first downs on their next possession but a pitch from Spresser to Weber was fumbled and Sharon Springs recovered on their own 29 as the quarter came to an end. Early in the second quarter, the Wildcats fumbled the ball and the Bulldogs' Devinn Ritter recovered. Weber gained four yards on the first down, then Sharon Springs was whistled for a holding penalty on the next play, giving Golden Plains a first down. Weber then broke through the line and ran all the way to the end zone. Christensen caught a pass, tying the game at 16.

The Bulldog defense played tough, bringing down runner after runner, but the Wildcats managed to continue to make first downs before completing a touchdown pass. The extra-point attempt failed.

Weber returned the kickoff, then Preston caught a pass for the first down. Later, Weber took a handoff and ran it up the middle for a touchdown. Then Weber ran it around the outside for the two-point conversion, giving the Bulldogs' a 24-22 lead with 1:41 left in the half.

Both teams played strong to start off the third quarter, with Bulldogs' junior Ethan Walter deflecting a pass by the Wildcats and bringing down runners with teammate Luna.

Later in the third, Preston caught a pass to give the Bulldogs a first and goal. Spresser fumbled the ball and it rolled around on the ground until Christensen fell on it in the end zone for a Bulldog touchdown. Spresser completed a pass to Preston to make it 32-22 Golden Plains.

Still in the third, the Wildcats' Gavin Mote ran up the middle and made a Sharon Springs' touchdown. The Wildcats' quarterback went back to pass, but decided to run instead, making it across the goal line to close the score to 32-30.

If anyone left early, they missed an exciting fourth quarter. Stevenson ran in for a touchdown, scoring the first points of the period. The two-point conversion try was no good. Later on, Dalton Davis ran in a Sharon Springs' touchdown. The Wildcats' Tad Andrews caught pass, tying the game at 38.

Preston returned the kickoff and the Bulldogs started drive at midfield. Christensen caught a long pass from Spresser before being brought down at the 14. Golden Plains was unable to score, however, turning the ball over on downs.

Gavin Mote scored a touchdown, giving the Wildcats a 44-38 lead. Stevenson and Ritter stopped the extra point attempt. Weber returned the kickoff to the 20. On a fourth down, Spresser found Weber with a pass and he ran it into the end zone, tying the game at 44. The two-point conversion attempt failed and with only 43 seconds left, the game looked like it was heading into overtime.

A Sharon Springs' player returned the kickoff and the game was in the hands of the Bulldogs' defense. Walter broke up the first pass attempt before the Wildcats ran in a touchdown with only 25 seconds left, giving the Wildcats a 50-44 lead. After an incomplete pass on the two-point conversion, Golden Plains didn't have much time to make a comeback.

On the last play, Spresser threw a hook-and-ladder to Christensen, who pitched it off to Weber, but Weber was brought down and the clock ran out.

The Bulldogs fell to 2-5 overall, 2-4 in the Western Kansas Liberty League and 2-3 in District 7. They have one more district game this week against Wheatland/Grinnell at 7 p.m. Friday at Grainfield, before finishing the season against Logan at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in Rexford.

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