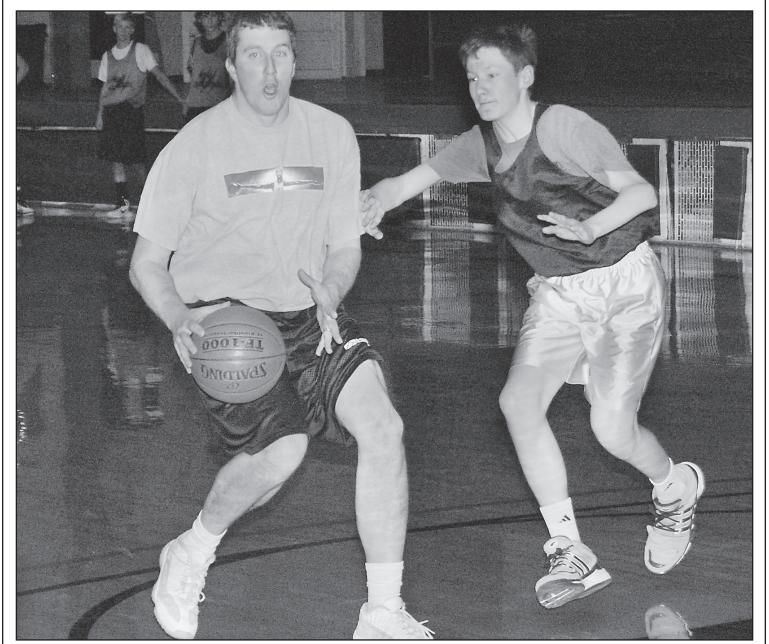
Old school teaches new school



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High assistant coach Brent Brooks dribbled into the Community Building. Brooks and coach Jerad Johnson both lane during the Eagles' basketball practice on Thursday at the participated in the 3-on-2 fast break drill.

Golden Plans High School boys finish third in league tournament

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School judy@usd316.org

The Bulldogs bested Dighton 49-44 to capture third place in the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament at Goodland.

Rilee Spresser scored the first ten points of the game on Jan. 15 to give the Bulldogs a 10-0 each and led 14-6 at the end of the quarter.

The Bulldogs continued to play aggressively, adding another 12 points to their score while the Coyotes scored 12 off four three-pointers from four different players. The Bulldogs led 26-18 at the half.

The Hornets continued to rely on the three in the second half and tied it up at 32 with 10 seconds remaining in the third. A free-throw shot from Christensen gave Golden Plains a 33-32 lead at the end of the quarter.

In an electrifying final quarter of play, the Hornets quickly added a basket to gain the despite the short time left to play, but strong

lead. After a Dighton player fouled out with Bulldog defense led to a Dighton player being his fifth foul, Ritter made the free throw to tie called for a travel with 17.2 seconds left. The the game back up at 34. Later in the quarter, Spresser drilled a three, giving the Bulldogs a 39-36 lead.

Dighton answered with two threes of their own to go up 42-39 with 2:22 left. Christensen hit two free throws, narrowing the gap to 42-41. Then Christensen blocked a shot attempt lead early in the quarter. Dighton got its first and stole the ball. Dighton committed yet anbuckets with 3 minutes left in the quarter. Tate other foul and Tyler Stevenson made both free maintain our momentum," Spresser said. Preston and Cole Christensen added a bucket throws to put the Bulldogs ahead 43-42 before the Bulldogs committed their first foul of the second half.

A basket by Dighton had the 'Dogs trailing by one once again. With 50 seconds left, the Bulldog determination held strong and Spresser hit a shot to get the 'Dogs ahead by one. After committing a couple of fouls to break the Hornet's momentum, Preston stole the ball and scored on a fast break while drawing contact from a defender. He made his free throw, giving the 'Dogs a 48-44 lead.

The Hornets were not about to give up,

Hornets eventually regained possession only to have it stolen by Stevenson. He made a pass that bounced off a Dighton player and went out of bounds. Spresser got fouled and hit one of two free throws. Dighton missed a three at the buzzer and Golden Plains prevailed 49-44. "Tate's steal at the end of the game followed

by the layup to give us the lead helped us to

Spresser finished with 22 points and Preston and Christensen each had 10. Rounding out the scoring were Devinn Ritter with 5, and Stevenson, 2.

Christensen had four blocks, one assist, and nine rebounds. Ritter had three steals and eight rebounds; Preston, one steal, six assists, and two rebounds; and Spresser had one block and five rebounds.

"Throughout the tournament, we shot fairly well and played strong defense," Spresser said. "Even though we were seeded fifth, we worked well together, and finished third."

Bulldogs beat Healy in first round game

By Judy Rogers

semifinals.

Golden Plains High School

judy@usd316.org The Golden Plains Bulldogs won one of their first two games

League tournament game. The boys picked up a 68-53 victory at Healy, but they lost to No. 1 seeded Weskan 38-26 in the

in the Western Kansas Liberty

gave all they had in the first quarter on Jan. 11. The score remained 15 at the end of the quarter. The game stayed close in the second. The teams were tied at 30 with 30 seconds left in the quarter when the Bulldogs' Tyler Stevenson posted up and scored.

With ten seconds remaining in 28 free throws. the half, Tate Preston stripped the ball from an Eagles' player and went down the floor for a layup. He missed, but he got fouled. He made 1 of 2 free throws, giving Golden Plains a 33-30 lead at the

The Bulldogs extended their lead and were up 50-43 at the end of the third.

The fourth quarter was all Both the Bulldogs and Healy Golden Plains as Preston and Rilee Spresser took control of the contest, making their free throws close and both teams were tied at and a few other buckets. Golden Plains went on to win 68-53.

Preston and Spresser led the scoring with 26 and 25 points a piece. Christensen added 8 points, Stevenson, 7; and Devinn Ritter, finished 1. The boys made 18 of

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"We played really good defense against Healy," Christensen said. Golden Plains fell to the Weskan Coyotes 38-26 in the semifinals on Jan. 14 in the semifinals

of the tourney. The ball was turned over several times in a defensive battle before Stevenson finally got a shot to fall to give the 'Dogs a 2-0 lead in the first. The Coyotes finally got on the scoreboard with a free throw.

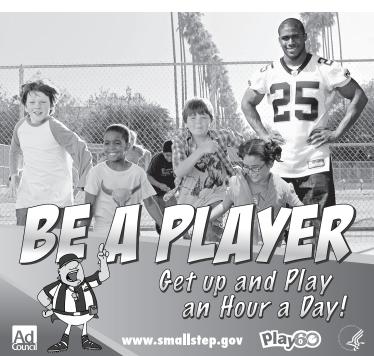
Several quick buckets put Weskan up 7-2. The Coyotes led 14-6 by the end of the quarter.

The Bulldogs played strong defense in the second quarter, forcing the Coyotes to commit several

turnovers. Christensen scored the first bucket of the second quarter for either team with 5:22 left.

The Bulldogs' defense didn't give up a point in the entire quarter. Ritter made a hook shot and Golden Plains trailed 14-10 at the

The Coyotes put in 9 points in the third, all scored by Mark Kurkendall. Spresser hit a threepointer and made a field goal and Christensen added two more points in the third. The Coyotes led 23-17 at the end of the quarter. Weskan continued to push the ball throughout the fourth as they held the Bulldogs to 9 and picked up a 38-26 victory.



College men lose heartbreaker

team was unable to sustain a the half. They hit 7 of 14 threes 13-point halftime lead in a heart- in the first half and were 8 of 19 breaking 65-64 loss to Barton County Community College in Great Bend.

The Trojans had some chances to win it at the end of the game, but they couldn't get over the hump. Barton County got to the free-throw line, trailing 64-63 with 16 seconds left. The Cougars Jalen Boyd made both free throws to make it 65-64. Colby College freshman Hurley Johnson was whistled for charging with 10 seconds left. Mike Marzoff of Barton County Community College, in a press release on Thursday, said the Cougars' Storm Sanders was called for traveling after getting trapped on the sideline with 8 seconds left. Then he said Johnson was stripped of the ball while driving into lane, allowing Adam Young of Barton County to toss the ball to the other end of the court as time expired.

Coach Dustin Pfeifer said there were six lead changes in the last four minutes. The coach said the team had a good first half, leading by as many as 15 at one point.

Both teams got off to a slow start offensively in the first half and the Cougars led 11-4 at one point. Marzoff said the Trojans drilled four three-pointers in the next four minutes and took an 18- Pratt Community College.

The Trojan men's basketball 14 lead. The Trojans led 40-27 at

Marzoff said Colby only scored 1 point in the first seven minutes of the second half. He said an offensive rebound and bucket by Young cut the Trojans' lead to 41-40 with 13:26 left. Young tied the game at 43 with a three and a three by Sanders gave the Cougars a 46-45 lead with 12 minutes left, said Marzoff.

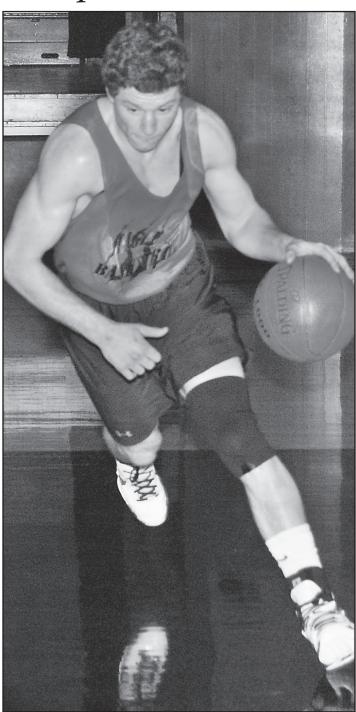
Freshman Carson Konrade was the Trojan's high point man, finishing with 18, including 4 three pointers. Konrade went 6 for 6 from the free-throw line.

Johnson added 16, including 3 three-pointers. Sophomore Michael Morris was the team's leading rebounder, finishing with 15 boards. He also had 8 points and a team-high 3 steals. Colby shot about 40 percent on 21 of 53 shooting and went 14 for 20 from the line. The Trojans were outrebounded 46-25.

Barton County shot about 37 percent from the field on 22 of 59 shooting and they went 15 for 27 at the line.

With the loss, Colby dropped to 10-12 and 1-7 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division. They will play at 8 p.m. Wednesday at

Full speed ahead



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press Colby High senior Corbin Stephens dribbled around a pair of

Eagles' defenders during the boys' practice on Thursday at the Community Building.



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