

Eagles football loses to Ulysses at home

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High School football team has fallen to 1-4 on the season after a conference loss to the Ulysses Tigers on Friday at Dennen Field.

The Eagles couldn't get their offense started on many of their drives, leading them to punt the ball away most of the game.

The Tigers (5-0) however, capitalized on almost every opportunity. By the end of the first quarter, Ulysses had already scored 4 touchdowns and 4 extra point kicks to make the score 0-28. Two of the touchdowns came off of Colby mistakes, such as the interception on quarterback Luke Cox that was run in by the defense for a score, and the fumble by Cox that led the Tigers to an 80-yard pass for a touchdown on the very next play.

"You don't give Ulysses short field," said Head Coach Chris Gardener. "I thought we came out with a nice first defensive series, got them off the field, throw the ball a little bit offensively, then

just had some miscues like fumbling the snaps. What I told those guys over there is that these next four weeks are gonna define us as a team."

The Eagles did get 6 points on the board after Ulysses scored 2 more touchdowns. Colby scored a passing touchdown and tried for a two-point conversion, but it failed, leaving the score at 6-41.

"Luke Cox threw his first varsity touchdown tonight," Gardener said. "You know, sophomore; he's doing fine, he's doing great, he's progressing well, we're happy with him. But not only Luke Cox, we're happy with all the guys on the team and what they're doing, we just got to tighten up some little things."

On their first drive after half-time, the Tigers scored one more time on a 60-yard run. They attempted a two-point conversion, but it failed, bringing the score to 6-47.

Colby kept fighting to put more points on the board, and tight end and defensive lineman Trek Keck recovered a fumble late in the third quarter. The turnover did not lead to any points, though.

"The effort was great. These kids give us great effort at practice, these kids give us great effort on the field," Gardener said. "It's just some little things that we've got to put with that effort and that's my job as a coach to make sure that I can fit those puzzle pieces in right, to make sure the effort counts for something. Some of those mistakes we made were effort mistakes, you know fumbling the snap."

The Eagles did get a safety towards the end of the game when they blocked a punt and fell on it in the end zone to make it 8-47.

Colby's next game is against long-time rival Goodland, who is 2-3 and is coming off of a win against Lakin.

"We know about Goodland, we love to play Goodland," Gardener said. "These regular season games are over now, these next four weeks are where and what we've got to get after. And you know, we got Goodland at home."

"We don't play the season for the first five games, we play the season for the last four games in the playoffs. So that's what we're gonna focus on."



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
Junior Zane Winger matched up against a Ulysses defender Friday at the Colby High School varsity football game at Dennen Field. The Eagles lost the game 8-47.

Chiefs draw up critical win over Minnesota Vikings, 22-17

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — On a playground, Dwayne Bowe's instructions might have sounded something like this: Take off like you're heading deep, do a little hitch at the parked car, and then sprint to the oak tree that marks the end zone.

Except the play that Kansas City Chiefs coach Todd Haley drew up on the sideline Sunday happened to be at Arrowhead Stadium, in the fourth quarter of a critical game against the Minnesota Vikings.

After seeing the defense sneaking toward the line of scrimmage, Haley designed a play for his Pro Bowl wide receiver on the fly. Bowe headed straight down the sideline, shook cornerback Cedric Griffin and caught Matt Cassel's pass in stride for a 52-yard touchdown reception.

Just like Haley dreamed it up. Kansas City held on down the stretch for a 22-17 victory, its first of the season, keeping Minnesota without a win through four games for the first time since 2002.

"It was a great adjustment by our coaching staff," Cassel said. "They saw that they were jumping some of those routes, intermediate routes, so we thought we had an opportunity. We didn't have it in the game plan. We put it in on the sideline."

"So I pumped him, and sure enough it opened up just like they thought it would."

Bowe said that Haley had confidence he would make the play.

"It was a simple play, a simple hitch-and-go route," he said. "Coach told me, 'If I call this, will you score?' And I told him, 'Coach, all you have to do is put it in my hands and I'll do my best to come down with the touchdown.' He believed in me. Matt made a perfect throw; the offensive line held up and voila — there you have

it."

Voila, indeed.

The Vikings answered with a 13-play drive that Donovan McNabb capped with a short pass to Michael Jenkins for Minnesota's first second-half TD of the season. But after getting the ball back, McNabb eventually threw four straight incompletions to effectively end the game.

"We had a little momentum going. Our defense did a good job getting a three-and-out and getting us the ball back," Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said. "But they made some good plays with deflections and good coverage on fourth down."

Ryan Succop hit five field goals, including a career-best 54-yarder in the second half, to match Jan Stenerud and Nick Lowery for the single-game Chiefs record.

The defending AFC West champions lost to Buffalo 41-7 in their opener and were trounced 48-3 at Detroit, before nearly rallying in a 20-17 loss to San Diego. The miserable start had some fans calling for Haley and general manager Scott Pioli to be fired.

The heat is off them for a week. It's still squarely on Frazier.

Minnesota squandered big first-half leads in each of its first three games, but this time dug a 9-7 hole. After taking the lead on Ryan Longwell's field goal in the third quarter, the Vikings wilted down the stretch.

McNabb finished 18 of 30 for 202 yards, two touchdowns and an interception, while Adrian Peterson carried 23 times for 80 yards in another underwhelming performance.

"It's frustrating," McNabb said. "We've got to go back and do the same thing we've been doing the

last couple of weeks and try to find a solution."

Kansas City's defense set the tone early, holding the Vikings to three-and-out on their first possession, and Succop's 40-yard field goal provided the Chiefs with their first lead all season.

The Vikings answered quickly with a nine-play, 80-yard drive.

Peterson carried the load, forcing the Chiefs to stack the line of scrimmage, and McNabb made them pay when he found Devin Aromashodu streaking down the sideline. He made a diving catch in the end zone, and the touchdown was upheld after video review.

It was McNabb's 233rd TD pass, breaking a tie with Steve Young for 21st all-time.

Minnesota looked as if it would build on the 7-3 lead, marching deep into Chiefs territory early in the second quarter. But after a sack by Tamba Hali set up third-and-long, McNabb's pass was tipped by running back Toby Gerhart and intercepted by Brandon Carr.

The Chiefs struck with a 42-yard completion to Steve Breaston, but the drive fizzled when Cassel didn't see Breaston open in the end zone on second down. Cassel inexplicably chucked the ball into the ground on third down, and Succop's 24-yard field goal made it 7-6.

Cassel got an earful from Haley when he came over to the sideline, the coach clearly unhappy with the execution, but they were on the same page by the fourth quarter.

"I was proud of the way our guys responded," Cassel said. "The beginning of the season hasn't gone the way we anticipated it going, but today was a step in the right direction."

Colby volleyball teams take first in tournaments

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High School varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams had a lot of success Saturday, each going undefeated at their tournaments.

The varsity squad went to the Oakley Invitational where it finished in first place. The Lady Eagles went 4-1 at the tournament.

In pool play, the varsity girls started off by playing Scott City. They lost in two sets with scores of 18-25 and 27-29. They picked up their game, however, and beat Quinter in their next game in two sets. The first set was 25-13 and the second was 25-16. The Lady Eagles' last opponent in the pool was Thomas More Prep-Marian. Colby lost the first set 22-25, but the team battled back to win the next two sets 25-11 and 25-17.

The varsity then moved into bracket play and faced Wheatland-Grinnell and the home team, Oakley. Wheatland-Grinnell won the first set 16-25, but once again, Colby came back to win the next two sets 25-16 and 25-19. The Lady Eagles dominated in their last game and beat Oakley in two sets, 25-18 in the first and 25-16 in the second.

The varsity is now 21-6 on the season.

The junior varsity girls held a Round Robin Tournament on Saturday at the Colby Community Building and also took first place. Colby went 4-0 on the day.

The Lady Eagles first played Quinter and shut it down in two sets. The first set was 25-15 and the second was 25-14.

Colby walked away with a win after facing Oakley, winning again in two sets, but in much closer play. The first set was 25-23 and the second was 25-20.

The junior varsity then played Dighton and it took Colby three sets to get the win. The Lady Eagles won the first set 25-23, but lost the second 18-25. They finished off Dighton in the third with a score of 25-19.

Colby's final opponent of the day was Goodland, and the Lady Eagles finished them off in two sets. The first was 25-9 and the second was 25-18.

The junior varsity girls now have a record of 16-4. Both the varsity and junior varsity traveled to Hays today for a quad, and the junior varsity will return to Hays for a tournament Saturday while the varsity takes a break and resumes play in Quinter on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Golden Plains' junior varsity squad gains experience on the football field

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains junior varsity football team gained some valuable experience on the field when they traveled to Weskan on Sept. 26 for their first game.

Although the boys finished the game 0-20, sophomore Tristan Schwarz said, "We played really good defense."

"Chance (Hoeting) ran the ball hard and made good gains," sophomore quarterback Grant Spresser said about the offense.

"Jesus (Garcia) did a good job tackling, but we struggled blocking on offense," freshman Domic Luna added,

Garcia, a junior, did lead the team in tackling with 18 total tackles. Others tackling well included Tomas Ferencak with 9, Hoeting and Spresser with 8 apiece, Marshall Clapp had 7, Jaime Labrado had 5, Josh Barnhart had 3, Tom Koubec had 3, Domic Luna had 2, Tristan Schwarz had 2 and Zach Spresser had 1. Marshall Clapp also had one fumble recovery.

Offensively, Hoeting rushed

for 72 yards and Barnhart carried for 37 yards. The boys are looking forward to their next game on Monday, Oct. 10 in Grainfield when both the junior varsity Volleyball and football will have the opportunity to compete.

"We need to work in practice on our offense by learning our plays and blocking," Zach Spresser said.

"I enjoyed playing and getting on the field," Luna said. "We should see improvement in our blocking skills by the next game."

Football poll puts Alabama in No. 2 spot

By Ralph D. Russo
AP College Football Writer

Southeastern Conference rivals LSU and Alabama held the top two spots in The Associated Press college football poll after the Crimson Tide jumped past No. 3 Oklahoma and into second.

Alabama's rise gives the SEC the top two teams in the country for the 10th time in the last four seasons.

The Tide beat Florida 38-10 on Saturday night in Gainesville, then received 12 first-place votes in the media rankings released Sunday.

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