

Trojans win in McPherson by one point

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
colby.sports@nwkansas.com

The Colby Community College men's and women's cross country teams competed at the McPherson Lakeside Shoot-out on Saturday, and both had some much needed success. The men took first place as a team and the women took eighth.

The men won by the smallest margin over Southwestern College (Winfield) with a team score of 41 to take first place while Southwestern finished with 42 points to take second. Southwestern is ranked No. 17 in the nation for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Butler Community College, which is ranked No. 16 in the National Junior College Athletic Association, took third place.

Edward Limo (Kenya) won the men's title with a time of 25:38.10. Juan Pacheco Orozco (Mexico) finished next for Colby in eighth place with 26:40.50, followed

by Jonathan Burgess (Australia) in ninth with 26:44.30. Raymond Velazquez (San Antonio, Texas) came in 11th place with 27:13.30, James Leonard (Crosby, Texas) took 16th with 27:39.60, and Tim Cude (Bridge City, Texas) landed in 21st place with 27:50.00. Damarius Lowery (Houston, Texas) finished in 29th with 28:16.10 for the Trojans, Hansel Ibarra (Mission, Texas) came in 47th with 29:12.80, and Devon McCormick (Colorado Springs, Colo.) rounded out the team in 51st place with 29:21.90.

"We went back to our roots and went back to team running," Head Coach James Ortiz said. "Our guys got excited at OSU two weeks ago and let the excitement get the best of them."

Ortiz said this meet was the perfect lead-in to regionals.

"This is what we needed to fix before region," he said. "It was a great confidence builder and its nice to be back on the winning track."

Last season, the men's team finished

second in conference and third at region. Ortiz said both are the highest places at the conference/region meet in the schools Division I history, which is since 2004.

On Wednesday, the National Junior College Athletic Association released the Division I cross country rankings for week 7 of competition and the Trojan men have dropped to No. 6 nationally.

"We have won three out of four races this season and beat three nationally ranked junior colleges last week," Ortiz said. "I don't know what more we can do, so we will just keep winning and not worry about the rankings."

The team was ranked No. 2 in the nation until week 5 of competition when it dropped to the No. 4 spot. The next week, the Trojans dropped to the No. 5 spot after racing just once in the four weeks prior to the ranking.

"I understand the drop," Ortiz said of the week 6 ranking. "We had only raced once in the past four weeks and it wasn't a good one for us. I think they (the vot-

ers) forgot about us already. They forget we have already beaten Garden City this year."

There are currently five other ranked teams in the region; Garden City is No. 1, Johnson County sits in the No. 9 spot, Butler is ranked No. 16, Allen is No. 20, and Hutchinson is No. 21.

For the women's cross country team, runner Melissa Collins (Guyana) grabbed second place in the meet with 19:29.10, right behind men's assistant coach and massage therapy instructor at Colby, Tenley Determan, who ran unattached. She had a time of 18:52.30.

"Melissa Collins ran very good today, she finished first out of the seven region teams that we competed against today," Head Coach Crystal Berndt said. "She still holds the second best time in the Region."

The women's team had a team score of 196 for eighth place, but the top finishers were Cowley Community College in first place with 57 points, Butler Com-

munity College in second with 71, and Southwestern College in third place with 72 points.

Prisca Roys-Dossou (France) took 34th place with 21:36.80 for the Lady Trojans. Mikarla Swann (Bahamas) finished in 46th with 22:21.50, and Vanessa Loya (El Paso, Texas) came in 73rd place with 24:59.10. Emily Sheets (Oakley) also competed for Colby, landing in 81st place with 27:27.40, Alyssa Wagenhals (Paradise Valley, Ariz.) took 84th with 32:18.70 and Afton Macias (Omaha, Neb.) ended up in 85th place with 32:45.20.

Berndt also said that Roys-Dossou ran her best time of the season beating her old time by 45 seconds, and Loya and Macias both ran their personal best times of the season, beating them by a minute.

Both the men and women will have the next two weeks off and will compete at Regionals in Garden City on Monday, Oct. 31 at 10:45 a.m.

Bulldogs defeated in flag football game

By Koi Wessel
Golden Plains Middle School

Last Thursday, the Golden Plains Middle School football team traveled to Heartland Christian in Colby to play a six-man flag game against the combined team of Heartland-Healy. The Bulldogs tried hard but lost 12-54.

The game started out with Golden Plains in charge of the ball. They got the first down and then punted. The Crusaders took the ball down the field and scored, making the score 0-6. The first quarter ended with the Bulldogs trailing 0-24.

In the second quarter, the Bulldogs finally got on the scoreboard when Bodie Sauvage ran in the first touchdown of the season. The Crusaders scored twice more to make it 6-36 at halftime.

The Bulldogs scored again when Cole Ziegelmeier ran in the second touchdown making the score 12-36. The Bulldogs held the Crusaders on the next defensive series forcing them to turn the ball over on downs. Although they had good field position, they failed to put the ball in the end zone.

In the fourth quarter, the Crusaders scored three more times, making the score 12-54 when the

final buzzer sounded.

"We tried hard and gave it our all scoring twice and made them turn the ball over on downs," said Koi Wessel.

"The boys showed improvement with our first two scores of the season," Austin Rivera added. "Next week, I hope we improve even more against Tribune so we can come onto that field with some enthusiasm and more excitement than we have all year and we get a win."

The middle school football team will play their last game of the season Thursday against the Greeley County Panthers in Tribune.



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
A Heartland-Healy player tried to catch a Golden Plains player last Thursday during a six-man flag football game at Heartland Christian School. The Crusaders dominated the game, winning 54-12.

Special teams special indeed for No. 12 Kansas State 'Cats

MANHATTAN (AP) — Nobody is too special to play special teams at Kansas State.

If quarterback Collin Klein covered punts better than anyone else, coach Bill Snyder mused this week, he would be on the punt coverage team. Snyder paused and tilted his head slightly, appearing to contemplate that idea and then allowing a subtle smile.

"That might be a stretch," he admitted, "but you get the picture."

The picture of No. 12 Kansas State's 41-34 win last Saturday included the kick return team springing Tyler Lockett for a patient, zig-zagging 100-yard touchdown return, Raphael Guidry blocking two field goal attempts, and the kick return coverage team limiting Texas Tech to an average starting field position of its own 21-yard line.

While the quarterback may not play on special teams, plenty of others do, including wide receivers Tramaime Thompson and Chris Harper, and defensive backs David Garrett and Tysyn Hartman. It's risky to put key components of the offense and defense in that position, but Sny-

der understands the value of it.

And the players have bought into it as the Wildcats head into Saturday's game at rival Kansas.

"It's a main part of the game," defensive end Jordan Voelker said, "and putting your best athletes out there on that helps change the game a little bit because they are, they can be big game changers. They can change the game in an instant."

Every day, practices begin with special teams work, and more of it takes place later on. After the Texas Tech game, that aspect was the first thing that Snyder addressed in the locker room.

This focus on special teams is hardly a new concept.

Over the years, Snyder gained a reputation for having excellent special teams units. Kansas State's 79 non-offensive touchdowns since 1999, the second-most in the nation behind Virginia Tech's 82, illustrate how the extra attention pays off. The list of special teams standouts who have gone on to the NFL is just as lengthy — Darren Sproles, Martin Gramatica, Terence Newman, Andre Coleman, Aaron Lockett, David Allen and Jamie

Rheem, among many others.

Sean Snyder fits into that category, too.

An All-American punter when he played for his dad in the early 1990s, Sean Snyder has been a member of the football staff for 17 years. But much of that time was spent in football operations, and later as associate head coach. This is his first season in full-time coaching, and he's the guy who is most responsible for the special teams.

Sean Snyder has observed and absorbed the way special teams have been coached for many years. Of course, he also went through that coaching firsthand. Lockett, who ranks second in career punt return yardage at Kansas State and is the uncle of freshman Tyler Lockett, thinks that personal experience and long-time proximity to the program makes him well qualified for the job.

With all the special teams players the Wildcats have had earn All-American status, or graduate to the NFL, it's natural to wonder how much of that is the system and how much of that should be attributed to some talented athletes.

Colby golfer takes eighth at women's state tourney

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
colby.sports@nwkansas.com

The Colby High School girls golf team took two girls to the State Golf Tournament at the Topeka Country Club on Monday, after they had qualified at the Regional Golf Tournament on Oct. 10.

At regionals, senior Kaylee Keck took second place and junior Karly Kriss took seventh. The team placed fourth, so they didn't qualify as a team to go to state (the top three teams and next best five individuals qualify). The tournament was played at Bentwood Golf Course in Ulysses.

At state, Keck shot a 92 and took eighth place. Kriss missed a medal by one spot since she finished in 21st place with a 102 and they only give 20 medals.

Keck became the first state medalist in Colby High School girls' golf history last year when she tied for 15th at last year's state tournament. She is now the first top 10 state medalist in Colby girls' golf history as well. She finishes her high school golf career as a three-time state qualifier and a two-time state medalist. Keck was also the individual league cham-

pion this year.

Head Coach Rick Williams said Keck has been a major factor in the girls' golf program and should be proud of her high school career.

"Kaylee Keck wrapped up a very successful high school golf career," Williams said. "She leaves our program as the most decorated girls' golfer in CHS history. She should be very proud of what she has accomplished personally and for the CHS girls' golf program. She played a solid round to end her high school career with and will be missed next year."

Kriss was just 2 strokes out of a medal at state. She is also a three-time state qualifier.

Williams said he hopes Kriss will use this close call to help her next season.

"Karly will hopefully use this as motivation to have a good offseason and set a goal to be a state medalist next year," he said. "It is difficult to be so close to medaling and just miss out!"

Overall, Williams said both girls did a great job of handling the tournament in spite of weather and course obstacles.

"The course was very difficult and the scores were a little higher than last year," Williams said. "I think this course and the conditions were a lot tougher than last year and that resulted in overall higher scores. Kaylee did a great job of battling the conditions and a tough course to climb the medal stand. Karly battled, she was in contention for a medal, but came up just short."

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