

Lady Eagle runner to compete at state

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
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Colby High School cross country runner Emilea Finley finished in second place at the Great West Activities Conference Regional meet on Saturday at Concordia, earning her the silver medal and a spot at the State meet in Wamego on Saturday.

"She had an outstanding season and we look for her to do well at State," Head Coach Bob Mannebach said.

Finley had a time of 16 minutes, 10 seconds.

The girls varsity team had four other runners compete as well and

finished in 10th place with 253 team points. Concordia took first place with 46 points, Wamego came in second with 66, and Buhler grabbed third place with 92 team points.

Taylor Lemman took 61st place for Colby with 19:34, Christina Ostmeyer followed in 62nd place with 19:35, Julia Hutfles came in 81st place with 21:46, and Gabby Browne finished in 84th with 22:51. There was a total of 85 runners in the race.

The boys varsity also had several runners compete at the Regional meet and took 11th place with 280 team points. Wamego took first place with 47 points, Hiawatha came in second with 100, and

McPherson finished in third place with 106 team points.

The first finishers for the team were John Faber, who took 31st place with a time of 19:07, and Reed Stephens, who came in 34th with 19:11.

"John Faber and Reed Stephens ran a nice race," Mannebach said. "It was a challenging course with good competition."

Aaron Faber was next for the Eagles, finishing in 62nd place with 20:11, Brady Rose landed in 77th with 20:53, Blake McNinch took 79th place with 20:57, Wiatt Binder came in 82nd with 21:14, and Matt Dickman finished in 88th place with 21:45. There were 100 runners in the race.

Seventh grade team finishes season at 5-2

By Daren Organ
Colby Middle School
Seventh Grade Football Coach

The Colby Middle School seventh grade football team played its last game of the season on Oct. 3 and the Eagles finished the year with a 5-2 record.

The team of 21 young men started the year against a combined seventh/eighth grade team from St. Francis and took it on the chin. They forgot the basics of football that they were taught and got beat by a better team that day with a score of 0-36.

With a good bounce back win against Oakley (36-0), and forfeit win against Goodland, the Eagles were improving their football skills week to week, which is what you are looking for at any level of football. Colby just ran into a pretty good football team at Holcomb

and didn't play the football that I know these kids can play. They lost with a score of 18-44.

After that loss, this team ran over and through Burlington (38-6), setting up a battle with Scott City. The seventh graders played the best disciplined defense that I have seen and continued to fight hard until the end. They ended up winning in double overtime 20-12.

I couldn't have been more proud of these kids after this game, being that they haven't beat Scott City in the last five years I have been coaching here. You couldn't ask for a better effort and these young men played great defense on that day.

Carrying that momentum, these football players went into Norton, who they haven't beat in youth football in the past, and dominated Norton 30-6.

All the football players in this class have continued to learn the sport through the basics that have been taught to them. They have grown so much from the first day of practice and first game of the season. They all have been challenged and every one of these young men and their attitudes about getting better and never saying never.

These young men will need to continue to grow each day to continue to have the success and also face the failures that have made them into football players. They know that they need everyone, from top to bottom, on this team to continue with their future success.

The Colby Free Press encourages coaches, players and fans to submit articles. Send submissions to colby.sports@nwkansas.com.



MICHELE WERTH/Brewster Schools

Three Bulldogs qualify for state



Three students from Brewster Schools, have qualified to attend the state cross country meet in Wamego on Saturday. Coach Danny Traub reports that Brewster will be represented by Layton Werth (above), Ben Baird (above), and C.J. Felzien (left). Qualifying times were Werth, who took 10th place with 19:46, Baird who came in 11th place with 20:01, and Felzien, who finished in 16th place with 21:00. The three cross country runners have enjoyed a very successful season, and are looking forward to the state competition on Saturday.

Big 12 approves West Virginia University

By Ralph D. Russo
AP College Football Writer

The Big 12 has a replacement lined up for Missouri before it even leaves the conference.

The Big East, meanwhile, is in danger of losing another school before replacing the three that already have bailed on the league.

Acting quickly to make sure it maintains a 10-member lineup, the Big 12 approved bringing in West Virginia to replace Missouri when the Tigers complete their move to the Southeastern Conference, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Big 12 had not announced that the conference board of directors on Monday unanimously approved inviting West Virginia when Missouri's spot comes open.

The move is another step toward stabilizing a Big 12 that seemed on the verge of collapse about a month ago when Texas and Oklahoma were pondering a move to the Pac-12.

On the other side, West Virginia's pending departure from the Big East, which has lost two

members and one member-to-be in the last six weeks, leaves the embattled conference facing another crisis.

The Big East is trying to reconfigure as a 12-team football league and has been courting Boise State, Navy and Air Force as football-only members and Central Florida, SMU and Houston for all sports. Commissioner John Marinatto met with officials from some of those schools Sunday in Washington.

Because there is no timetable for Missouri to complete its expected departure from the Big 12 - and the league's board of directors expressed "a strong desire" for Missouri to stay - there is no timetable for West Virginia to receive a formal invitation, the person said.

But West Virginia will accept an invitation from the Big 12 once it is offered, the person said.

During an interview Tuesday with KFRU-AM in Columbia, Mo., Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton said it would be "days" or "a week or two" before the school announced its decision.

Interim Big 12 Commissioner Chuck Neinas has said he expects Missouri to compete in the Big

12 in 2012, though Deaton has said that if Missouri does make a move, he'd like the Tigers to be playing in their new conference next fall.

Missouri would become the SEC's 14th member and join Texas A&M, which made its move from the Big 12 official earlier this month.

A report reviewed by Missouri officials and obtained by the AP earlier this month stated a move to the SEC from the Big 12 could net the school as much as an extra \$12 million in revenue a year.

West Virginia also likely would make more money by moving from the Big East to the Big 12. The Big 12 distributed \$139 million to its members in 2010 and in April signed a 13-year TV deal with Fox worth \$1.17 billion that kicks in next year. The conference also recently agreed to start sharing TV revenue equally.

"Everybody was talking about how the Big 12 was going to be the biggest loser and if we add West Virginia, we're going to end up being the biggest winner because we're not just adding, we're adding quality," Kansas State basketball coach Frank Martin said.

The Big East distributed \$113

million to its 16 all-sports members last year and has yet to ink a new TV deal. Its separate deals for football and basketball expire in 2013.

It's also a step up in competition for the Mountaineers - at least in football. No. 25 West Virginia is one of two Big East teams ranked in the AP Top 25, along with No. 24 Cincinnati.

The Big 12 has five teams ranked in this week's poll, including No. 3 Oklahoma State, and not including perennial power Texas.

Geographically, West Virginia will be by far the easternmost school in the Big 12, 870 miles away from the closest Big 12 school, Iowa State.

West Virginia has been the Big East's most successful football program since the league lost Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College to the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2004 and 2005. The Mountaineers have been to a bowl game every season since and won two BCS games.

Without West Virginia, only one of the original eight schools that made up the Big East's football conference when it began in 1991 will remain: Rutgers.

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OCTOBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH



EMILEA FINLEY

Parents: Mike & Sondra Finley

Emilea, a senior at Colby High School, is Colby Rotary Club's Student of the Month for October 2011.

Emilea's school and community activities include Cross Country, Volleyball, Track & Field, Basketball, Young Humanitarians, C-Club, National Honor Society, Cosmic Crayon, Colby Swim Club, CYO, Sacred Heart Carnival, Drive One 4UR School, Colby Comets 4-H, Yearbook Staff, and Piano.

Emilea's special honors include Academic Honor Roll, US Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award, Various Placings at State High School Track & Field and Cross Country, 2010 Cross Country Coach's National Youth Championship (4th place).

Emilea's academic emphasis has been the State Scholars Curriculum. She plans to pursue an education and career in health and wellness while participating in collegiate track & field and cross country.

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