



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Senior Lauren Bell blocked a spike and sent it back over the net for a point Tuesday during the Colby High volleyball team's home quad at the high school gym. The Lady Eagles whipped Osborne, Norton and Holcomb to start the season 3-0.

## Colby varsity volleyball squad finishes 3-0 in home matches

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press  
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The Colby High varsity volleyball team swept its first matches of the season Tuesday, defeating all three opponents at a quad meet at the high school gym in two sets.

The Lady Eagles played host to Holcomb, Norton and Osborne, with both varsity and junior varsity squads competing.

The Colby varsity went 3-0, Holcomb's varsity was 2-1, Norton's varsity 0-3 and Osborne's varsity 1-2.

Colby's junior varsity squad was 1-2, the Holcomb junior varsity 3-0, Norton's 0-3 and Osborne's 2-1.

The varsity Lady Eagles played

Osborne in their first match. The girls won in two sets, 25-18 and 25-13.

In the next game, Colby faced Holcomb and handed the Lady Longhorns their only loss of the day. Colby again won in two, 25-18 and 25-21.

The final match for the varsity was against Norton. The Lady Eagles dominated the Lady Bluejays 25-15 and 25-20.

The Colby junior varsity squad finished 1-2, losing its first two and squeaking out a win in the last match.

The Lady Eagles played three sets against Osborne. The girls lost the first set 25-12, but rallied

back to win 27-25 in the second. In the third, the Lady Bulldogs handed Colby the loss, 15-13.

The junior varsity's second match was against Holcomb, which dominated the net. The Lady Longhorns defeated Colby in two sets, 25-18 and 25-9.

The Lady Eagles fought Norton hard in their final round, and they finished off the Lady Bluejays in two. Colby won the first 26-24 and the second 25-23.

Beginning at 4 p.m. Tuesday, the Colby varsity, junior varsity and C teams will play more home games at the high school gym. Their opponents will be Oberlin and St. Francis.

## Colby football team begins season Friday

The Colby High varsity football team will play its first game of the season at 7 p.m. Friday in Oakley.

Coach Chris Gardner said this is the first meeting between the Colby and Oakley football teams in four years.

The Eagles are looking to improve on their

record from last season, which was 2-7, and the Plainsmen are hoping to make it to the state playoffs again, where they finished the season 7-3.

The match is a nonconference game. Colby's first conference game will be at home at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, against Scott City.

## Lady Trojans team to hold tournament

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby Community College volleyball team will be holding its annual Labor Day Classic Volleyball Tournament on Friday and Saturday at the Community Building and the Colby High School gym.

Teams playing in the tourney are Colby, Eastern Wyoming College, Southeastern Community College (Iowa), Trinidad State Junior College (Colorado), Northwest College and Sheridan College (Wyoming) and North Platte Community College (Nebraska).

The tournament schedule:

**FRIDAY**  
Community Building

10 a.m. – Colby vs. Northwest.  
Noon – Eastern Wyoming vs. Sheridan.  
2 p.m. – North Platte vs. Northwest.  
4 p.m. – Eastern Wyoming vs. Southeastern.  
6 p.m. – Colby vs. Trinidad.  
8 p.m. – North Platte vs. Sheridan.

**SATURDAY**  
Community Building

9 a.m. – Colby vs. Southeastern.  
11 a.m. – Colby vs. Eastern Wyoming.  
1 p.m. – Trinidad vs. Sheridan.  
3 p.m. – Southeastern vs. Sheridan.  
**Colby High gym**  
9 a.m. – Northwest vs. Trinidad State.  
11 a.m. – Northwest vs. Southeastern.  
1 p.m. – Eastern Wyoming vs. North Platte.  
3 p.m. – Trinidad State vs. North Platte.

## New rules on kickoffs a bid to curtail injuries

By Ralph D. Russo

AP College Football Writer

When the major college football season kicks off today, those kickoffs will be 5 yards closer to midfield.

The most notable and noticeable of several rules changes made by the NCAA rules committee for this season moved the spot of kickoffs up from the 30 to the 35-yard line. Also, the kicking teams can line up no more than 5 yards from the 35 when the ball is kicked. And when a touchback does occur on a kickoff, the offense will start at the 25-yard line instead of the 20.

The reasoning is simple: More touchbacks should equal fewer injuries.

"NCAA data indicates injuries during kickoffs occur more often than in other phases of the game," the NCAA said on its website.

In addition, the receiving team

will be able to call for a fair catch on those high-bouncing, one-hop onside kicks that often result in players taking hard hits with no way to defend themselves.

Not everybody was thrilled with the change.

"No, I'm not in favor," Kansas State coach Bill Snyder said. "I'm in favor of the safety in the game, and that was the intent. I can appreciate the intent. No problem with that. Don't really like from a strategic standpoint the rule itself. You know, it doesn't completely dissolve what the issues were, depending on the strength of the leg of your kicker."

Generally, though, the changes have received a thumbs up.

"I think anything that can help with the injuries is a positive," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "Heck, the NFL is doing it. We ought to do it. Some of the big blows and the big injuries do come

with those big collisions on kickoffs and to limit some of those, I think is a good thing."

The NFL made a similar move last season, moving the spot of kickoffs up 5 yards to the 35, though touchbacks still came out to the 20, and cutting down the running starts for the coverage teams.

The result was more touchbacks, but also more kick returners taking the ball out from way back into the end zone.

Spotting the ball at the 25 should discourage that type of risk-taking by the college kids. From 5 yards deep, it'll take a 30-yard return to get to the 25. The top kick returner in the country, Purdue's Raheim Mostert, averaged 33.48 yards per return. Seven others averaged more than 30 per return.

Still, expect to see teams with elite return men be more aggressive.

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September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012  
(there will be no paper Monday, September 3)  
We will reopen for normal business hours Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>  
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