

Crunch time is coming



The Colby Eagles played their annual pre-season Gatorade scrimmage Thursday night at Dennen Field. Eagles displayed both some elusive running attempts (above) and pass catching skills (left) as 50 players from freshmen through seniors participated. Both black and white-jerseyed teams worked on moving downfield, though neither defense allowed many big gains. Colby's preparing for its season opener one week from tonight when a top-five rated Oakley team comes to town. Watch for more details about the Eagles next week along with a team photo and schedule in Wednesday's *Free Press* Fall Sports Preview section.

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

New talent brings more high hopes for Eagles

By R.B. Headley  
Colby Free Press  
rbheadley@nwks.com

The talent is there, now it's a matter of deciding who goes where as Colby High School's volleyball season fast approaches. "We've got to find the right pieces to put the puzzle together," coach Jerry McKee confirmed entering his second season with the Eagles volleyball season. He's coached more than 30 years overall, including multiple state championships.

So McKee knows real skill when he sees it. Colby's four seniors who graduated last May — Shelby Gardner, Lauren Bell, Kenzie Curry and Kaitlyn Flanagan — all developed into collegiate-level athletes.

Yet plenty of potential returns to build on last year's solid 24-12 season.

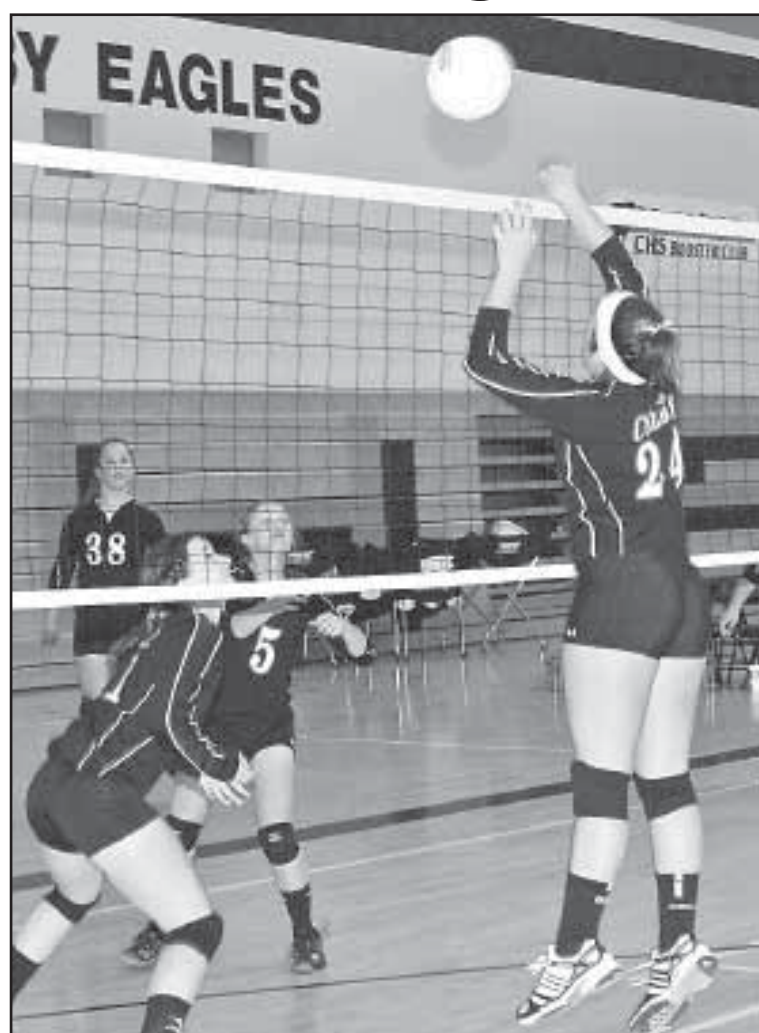
"We lost a lot of experience. We'll see how our newer players handle pressure," McKee observed. "We've got a lot of players with different specialities, so we just have to bring it all together."

The Eagles are happy to welcome back five leaders who gained plenty of varsity playing experience last season: 5'11" senior Morgan Mengel, 5'10" senior Karly Shull, 5'8" senior Haileigh Shull, 5'4" junior Brooklyn Bange and 5'4" sophomore Brielle McKee.

Karly Shull and Mengel will bring power to Colby's hitting attack, while Haileigh Shull's proven she can handle just about any key role on the court.

Brielle McKee is among the leading candidates of several competing for the starting setter position.

Other Eagles who could definitely



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Senior Tatym Rundel (24) attacks the net while Danielle Foster (5), Kaylee Rehmer (38) and another Colby Eagle get ready to make a response during Thursday's volleyball team scrimmage at Colby High School. The Eagles begin their season at Tuesday's Norton Quadrangular.

nately make a varsity impact are 5'11" senior Abby Friesen, 5'6" senior Tatym Rundel and 5'10" junior Hailey Schindler along with 5'8" sophomores Brenly Terrell and Lana Stephens.

"Plus we've got several other players who will be pushing for playing time, both varsity and ju-

nior varsity," coach McKee said while also mentioning 11 freshmen are on this year's team.

The Eagles begin their season at Tuesday's Norton Quadrangular.

Watch for complete schedules and team photo in the *Free Press* Fall Sports Preview section on Wednesday.

Bowling tourney draws closer

Colby Community College women's basketball coach Antowin Edwards has announced

the team will host the inaugural "Strikes and Sares" team bowling tournament on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Colby Bowl. The tournament will start at 1 p.m. Cost is \$200 per team.

Region champ Trojans add top talent

The Colby Community College men's track and cross-country programs have added 16 new additions to the roster for upcoming seasons.

Recruits reign from Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Florida, Bahamas and Kenya.

The Trojans were pursuing another stellar class after another historic season last year.

"We graduated some quality sophomores including a national champion, so we knew this class was important," coach James Or-

tiz stated. Last season, the Trojans finished as cross country Region VI Champions, indoor and outdoor track and field Region VI runners-up and top 10 nationally for all running sports.

"We are quickly learning that this program has reached a level where maintaining our success is a real challenge," Ortiz said. "This class should help us maintain our status as one of the best junior college programs in the nation."

A glance at four runners on this

fall's cross-country team entering their Colby Invitational next Friday:

**Noe Belmares – Rice Altair/Eagle Lake, Texas**

In Belmares' high school senior season, he was the Region IV-2A champion in the 800 meter run with a 1:57.28.

**Colin Grueber – Fort Collins/Fort Collins, Colorado**

Grueber ran a personal best of 15:59.6 at the Nike Southwest Regional in cross country as a senior.

**Adrian Guevara – Martin/Ar-**

lington, Texas

Guevara ended his senior cross country campaign at the Region I-5A Championships with a time of 16:39.40 for three miles.

**Brandon Levi – Piedra Vista/Farmington, New Mexico**

Brandon was the state runner-up at the New Mexico 4A Cross Country state championships as a senior with a 16:14.4. He ran his personal best of 16:04.3 at the Nike Southwest Regional.

More details appear next week in the Fall Sports Preview.

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