



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Quite a collision took place inches short of the goal line during Thursday's eighth-grade football game between rival Colby and Grant Junior High of Goodland. While an Eagle defender (in black) delivered the good hit, Goodland's quarterback eventually pushed into the end zone.

Rivals split football openers

Nothing like a pick six to start the football season as Jordan Schippers' interception return ignited a season-opening victory for Colby Middle School on Thursday.

Quarterback Schippers later ran to another touchdown in the Colby seventh-graders' 30-10 victory over Grant Junior High of Goodland.

Colby defense totally dominated the game when it counted most during a 24-0 first half.

The Eagles (1-0) record will aim for a 2-0 start at Oakley next Thursday (5:30 p.m.)

Grant Junior High's eighth-graders delivered some payback, though, with their own first-play touchdown run that started a 50-0 victory in Thursday's second game.

Colby eighth-graders will get some more practice time before their next game at Ulysses on Thursday, Sept. 19.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

It could have been a victory drink for the Colby Middle School seventh graders, who led 24-0 at halftime over Grant Junior High Goodland Thursday afternoon. Coaches still pointed out plenty of room for improvement, though, before Colby went on to the 30-10 triumph.

Bulldogs start with two spirited matches

By Hailee Spresser

On Tuesday, the Golden Plains High School volleyball team played their first matches of the season against Logan and Triplains-Brewster.

"We were all excited and nervous to start the season off with two tough teams," senior Leea Juenemann said. "We were definitely ready to show off how much we have improved over the past year."

The Bulldogs' first match was

against the Logan Trojans.

"We came out really strong at first," senior Jordan Christensen proclaimed. "We had a lot of energy and enthusiasm!"

The Trojans kept up with the Bulldogs through the whole set. As the set wound down, Logan and Golden Plains were neck and neck at 23-23. The Bulldogs pulled through to win the set 25-23.

Golden Plains started up a lead in the second set. Logan tied it at 9-9. The Trojans stayed in the

fight, but Golden Plains claimed the win, 25-18.

Logan and Triplains-Brewster played a match in between the Golden Plains and Triplains-Brewster game.

Logan came out on top after three sets 17-25, 25-9, 25-23.

After a short break, the Lady Bulldogs went face to face with the Triplains/Brewster Titans. Golden Plains emerged from the first set with a win 25-17.

In the second set, the Bulldogs fell short by three points, 25-22.

Colby golfer captures Hugoton Invite title

By R.B. Headley

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Senior Andrea Barton's first varsity golf tournament championship was one to remember for the Colby Eagles at Hugoton on Thursday.

Barton fired the lowest nine-hole round of her Eagle career (43), and needed every clutch shot to win by one stroke over Syracuse top golfer Kiah Rash (44).

Barton's smooth consistency was enough to overcome a dreaded eight at hole No. 6 on this par-38 Hugoton course.

She needed four strokes or less

to finish six of her holes, including just three at No. 2.

Meanwhile, Rash shot five or higher on six different holes.

Sophomore Miranda Kern (46) also earned a fourth-place finish to help Colby place second overall among nine teams.

Only defending league champion Goodland (197) played better than the Eagles (204).

Senior Haley Mengel (55) was only one stroke from a top 15 finish.

Sophomore Elisa Zerr's 60 completed the Colby team total with classmate Jenna Crampton firing 61.

Crampton cut seven strokes off

her score at the Cimarron Invitational on Tuesday.

Freshman Isabel Rosales also improved by two strokes Thursday (63) over Tuesday's performance (65).

Meanwhile, more Eagle highlights arrived in junior varsity competition. Junior Brooke Wark (71) finished fourth and Kelly Sloan shot 74.

"Both started golfing about a week-and-a-half ago," coach Rick Williams concluded.

The Colby golfers will play next in Tuesday's Goodland Invitational.

Opening tee times are scheduled for 1 p.m.

Eagles race to high places

By R.B. Headley

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Colby's Andrea Browne took second and Aaron Faber earned a top 10 finish while leading the Eagle cross-country runners at Thursday's Goodland Invitational.

Returning state qualifier Browne quickly showed she can keep pace with some of the region's best runners. Ulysses, Scott City, Oakley and Goodland all challenged the Eagles along with Ogallala, Neb.

Browne conquered the hilly course on a hot afternoon in 17:29, second behind only champion Chishom Bransum from Ulysses (17:09).

Goodland's top runners couldn't catch Brown on their home course as Lacie Siruta settled for third (17:38) and Erin Floyd placed fifth (17:51).

Browne led the Colby girls to fourth place overall with 47 team points.

Taylor Lemman's 15th place (19:46) was best among the other Eagle runners while Bridget Bickner (17th, 19:52) and Sydney Stephens (19th, 20:08) both broke into the top 20 overall.



PAT SCHIEFEN

Colby's Sydney Stephens maintains a strong pace during the Eagles' cross-country season debut at Goodland on Thursday.

Makayla Hoffman (25th, 22:43) helped complete Colby's respectable total of 47 team points.

The Colby boys tallied 91 points and also earned fourth place against these area schools.

Faber's seventh-place finish (19:45) paced the Eagles and he was only three seconds from moving up another two spots.

Ulysses' Alex Barbosa won the varsity race (19:05) by only nine seconds over Ogallala's Jaco Henning (19:14). Goodland's Jacob Gerber (19:28) and Aaron Artega (19:42) both reached the top five.

Ernie Leija led the other Colby

boys running varsity as he took 23rd overall (22:15).

Jaden Morrison (25th, 22:21), Alec Onstad (26th, 22:23) and Luke Cox (27th, 22:45) all earned letter points with some running their first varsity meets.

Most of these Eagles are gaining experience and will try to move up as this season continues, according to coach Chris Giersch.

No Colby runner was listed in the junior varsity results at Goodland.

Colby will compete again at the Quinter Invitational next Thursday (4:30 p.m.).

Colby tennis team makes debut at Hays

Colby tennis players took home both first and second-place finishes to highlight their two season debuts on Thursday.

At Scott City, Olivia Wetter and Morgan Sanguinetti proved to be "the best of the best". They took on other junior varsity No. 1 doubles teams and won the tournament championship.

Meanwhile, Colby's varsity team made its first road trip to Hays for a tourney.

The Eagles' top placer was also

their No. 1 doubles team as senior four-year player Sarah Lamm and Samantha Lindberg placed second overall.

Madison Rogers earned third place against No. 2 singles players. Colby's No. 2 duo of Tresta Urban and Rachel Browne finished fourth.

The Eagles didn't enter a player into No. 1 singles competition.

Colby now gets set to host its own invitational on Saturday at Fike Park (9 a.m. start).

Younger Colby spikers sweep home quad

The Colby C team volleyball girls followed two terrific comeback wins with a sweep of their final foe at Thursday's home quad.

Colby (3-0 record) kept its focus even though both Norton and Thomas More Prep Marian from

Hays each dropped the Eagles into a 1-0 hole.

Colby rallied to knock off Norton 21-25, 25-21, 15-5.

Thomas More Prep Marian proved tougher, winning the first set 25-17 and pushing Colby

through a thrilling third set.

Yet the Eagles prevailed again 19-25, 25-14, 17-15.

Colby turned that momentum into a decisive 25-14, 25-17 victory over Oakley in the quad finale.

Other scores featured Norton

downing Oakley 23-25, 25-14, 15-11; Thomas More Prep Marian sweeping Oakley 25-22, 25-22; and that same Hays-based team topping Norton 25-10, 25-20.

Watch for scores all season in the *Colby Free Press*.

Can 'Canes, Irish put up fight?

By Ralph Russo

AP Sports Writer

In a sense, Michigan coach Brady Hoke was right when he said Notre Dame was "chickening out" of its rivalry with the Wolverines.

As is the case with all heavy-weight programs, Notre Dame needs to manage the difficulty of its schedule and guarantee regularly playing seven home games.

Yet there's no chickening out when it comes to the battle between *Free Press* sports editor R.B. (Rude Buggar) Headley and Russo. They both posted 13-1 records and are ready to tangle again in Week 2 of this college football season.

The picks:
No. 6 South Carolina at No. 11 Michigan

Russo: Jadeveon Clowney gets chance to catch his breath ... **Georgia 27-23.** R.B.: Despite my fear of clowns or Clowneys, Georgia has UGA the Bulldog...**Geor-**

gia 28-27.

No. 14 Notre Dame at No. 17 Michigan

Russo: Under the lights, Wolverines protect the Big House ... **Michigan 23-20.** R.B.: I stood next to the Notre Dame leprechaun at a N.D.-Nebraska game years ago. Very obnoxious and his team is due for a spanking...**Michigan 30-19.**

No. 12 Florida at Miami

Russo: Fourth regular-season meeting since 1987 ... **Florida 31-21.** R.B.: I don't like either program and typically pick based on who a loss will hurt most. Also an UPSET SPECIAL. **Miami 24-20.**

Where else could they disagree? **Syracuse at No. 19 Northwestern**

Russo: Wildcats came back from California banged up. UPSET SPECIAL. **Syracuse 30-24.** R.B.: Come on, did you see Syracuse's quarterback play against Penn State last week? **Northwestern 28-16.**

That's about it as most teams

still playing early-season warmup foes.

No. 15 Texas at BYU

Russo: Cougars offense was washed away by Virginia rain, should be better at home ... **Texas 24-20.** R.B.: Still shouldn't be that close. **Texas 42-30.**

Both agree on:

No. 2 Oregon over Virginia
No. 3 Ohio State over San Diego State

No. 4 Clemson over South Carolina State

No. 5 Stanford over San Jose State

No. 7 Texas A&M over Sam Houston State. R.B.: Look out for No. 1 Alabama next week, though, with two weeks to get ready for Aggies.

No. 8 Louisville over Eastern Kentucky

No. 9 LSU over UAB

No. 16 Oklahoma over West Virginia

No. 22 Nebraska struggles past Southern Miss; and Kansas State beats Louisiana in a bonus pick.

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