

These Eagles love to stay grounded

Can Colby match power with Hugoton?

By R.B. Headley
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Perhaps it's all a clever ploy to surprise Hugoton with 40 or 50 passes tonight — but probably not.

Because as the Colby Eagles take on another ominous rushing attack, it makes sense to counter with their own classic old-school Oklahoma Sooners gameplan:

Ground and pound.
“We are going to have to establish the run this week,” Colby coach Chris Gardner said about the 7:30 p.m. contest. “We need to get the ground game going and string together some good drives.”

Annoying roadblocks in Oakley, Scott City and Ulysses jerseys have often stopped Eagle drives through the first three games.

However, Colby's rushing attack has improved steadily since



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
The Colby Eagles' rushing defense tackled a strong challenge against visiting Ulysses last weekend. Now a Hugoton veer-formation ground attack confronts Colby tonight (7:30 p.m.) in Hugoton.

gaining only 37 yards against Oakley and 61 at Scott City.

Last week, senior Andrew Taylor delivered several promising runs and sophomore Ben Match-

ell shook loose for a huge gain on fourth down to set up a Colby touchdown.

It's been lost yards from penalties, off-target snaps and other

miscues that have often thwarted Eagle drives.

“We have been working on consistency and playing at an up-temperament this week,” Gardner explained.

Sustained drives would help Colby's defense stand up to a relentless Hugoton rushing attack.

The Tigers rumbled for 348 yards during a 52-17 victory over Guymon, Okla., last week. Ross Davis averaged more than a first down per carry en route to 138 yards (just 13 attempts).

Parker Titus needed just four runs to gain 46 yards (11.5-yard average).

Senior quarterback Yates Sutton has also topped the century-mark in a single game this season, and his one pass completion last week covered 70 yards.

“They have a good quarterback and a solid offensive line,” Gardner said. “We are going to have to play very disciplined on defense.”

While the Colby Eagles make quite a road trip to Hugoton tonight, other area teams are playing 7 p.m. Homecoming games.

Weskan (2-0 record) rumbles into Rexford to try and spoil the 1-2 Golden Plains Bulldogs' party.

TriPlains-Brewster (1-2) will crown royalty after playing 0-3 Wheatland-Grinnell in Brewster.

Heartland (2-1) travels to Western Plains-Healy.

Men play tourney on Sunday

The Colby Men's Club Championship golf tournament will be played on Sunday at Meadow Lake Golf Course.

Opening tee times are set for 10 a.m.

There will be gross and net divisions with added money for those championships.

Registrations are underway with the entry fee being \$20 per player.

A meal is also included.

Temperatures will be cooler but rain is not expected to be part of Sunday's weather.

Another upcoming event to mark on the calendar will be a Colby 4-man tournament on Sunday, Oct. 13.

It will feature a 10 a.m. shotgun and entry fee of \$50 per player. Biscuits and gravy will be served before the tournament; chili and nachos will be the post-tournament food offering.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Colby Middle School seventh-grade defenders were ready for another winning play while shutting down Goodland at Dennen Field earlier this month. They won again on Thursday.

Colby Middle School team tops Holcomb

Many Colby Middle School seventh-graders joined in the fun during a 24-6 football trouncing of Holcomb Thursday afternoon.

“A lot of different guys got to run with the football. Everyone had fun,” coach Darren Organ said about his team's second win in three games this season. “We did what we needed to do. They had a pretty good line, but we didn't give them any good field position and handled them upfront.”

The seventh-graders also gained momentum for a home game against Scott City next Thursday. Kickoff is set for 4 p.m. at Dennen Field.

Colby Middle School's eighth-graders will also play in that Thursday doubleheader and

should be fired up to get their first win this season.

Holcomb was a rough eighth-grade host, beating this Colby team 44-0.

High school

In Colby High School junior varsity sports action, the Eagles' tennis team competed at WaKeeney.

Morgan Sanguinetti placed second in No. 2 singles competition, while Colby's No. 1 duo of Natasha Besser and Makayla Brackett also took second.

Jennilee Gray earned a respectable third place among No. 1 singles players.

Colby JV golf featured junior first-year player Kelly Sloan placing third in the Holcomb tourney.

Eagles sweep Hill City

What a Thursday for Colby High cross country as both the boys and girls won Hill City Invitational team championships.

Most of the official results were not available at press time.

However, it was clear that Colby outran about eight other varsity teams participating.

Sophomore Rachel Browne's second-place finish led the Eagle girls, while Aaron Faber achieved that same place in the boys' race for champion CHS.

Sydney Stephens (seventh) and Taylor Lemman (12th) were the other Colby girls' medalists.

Jaden Morrison (eighth) joined Faber in the boys' top 10.

More results and details will likely appear next week.

Meanwhile, the Triplains-Brewster Titans made their own marks at Hill City.

Lone varsity runner Layton Werth won the boys' race with a time of 18:53. He dropped his time 10 seconds from last week's WaKeeney championship.

“He just ran better,” coach Shea Rothchild said. “Layton's running real strong, but there's a lot of room for improvement and he's a hard worker. He set his goals pretty high.”

Tekoda Turner (second) and Quin Clymer (fourth) were junior varsity medalists for Triplains-Brewster. Turner won the WaKeeney JV race last week.

Colby and Triplains-Brewster are both scheduled to run again at Tuesday's Oberlin Invitational (5 p.m. start time).



CHRIS GIERSCHE/Colby High School
Colby High's cross-country girls and boys savored the moment after both teams won championships at Hill City on Thursday.

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COLBY
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Youth football going full speed

The 2013 season for Colby Little League Football Association kicked off earlier this month.

This season, the organization has 67 boys participating from third through sixth grades.

The third-fourth grade team sports a roster of 29, fifth grade team has 21 and the sixth grade team features 17.

Home games remain for the teams during these next two Saturday at Dennen Field starting at 10:30 a.m.

Colby is a member of the Western Kansas Football League which allows the teams to participate against different communities throughout the area.

Each team participates in a six-game regular schedule followed by a league tournament with the top eight seeded league teams playing at Hays on Oct. 20 and the bottom eight seeded league teams playing in a tournament at Great Bend Oct. 19-20.

Schedule

Tonight

Football: Wheatland/Grinnell at Brewster, 7 p.m.

Football: Weskan at Golden Plains, 7 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE PRAIRIE DOG CREEK WTAP SIGN-UP OPEN

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will be accepting applications for the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) from October 1 to November 15.

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to help restore aquifers and streams in critical areas by retiring water rights. The Prairie Dog Creek Basin is significant in requirements to maintain compliance in the Republican River Compact with the State of Nebraska. The “high priority” areas of this basin in Phillips, Norton, Decatur, Sheridan and Thomas counties have been determined to be in need of stream restoration and aquifer recovery and are now closed to further water appropriations.

Applicants who are selected for WTAP grants are compensated by the department's Division of Conservation in exchange for the permanent retirement of water rights on irrigated land.

For more information, contact Steve Frost, water conservation program manager, at (785) 296-8964 or HYPERLINK “C:\Documents and Settings\sfrost\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\VB55R7VI\steve.frost@kda.ks.gov”steve.frost@kda.ks.gov. WTAP rules and regulations, applications, maps and other details are available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation website at HYPERLINK “http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation/water-conservation-programs”http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation/water-conservation-programs.

Information and assistance is also available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources field office in Stockton at (785) 425-6787 or at the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 in Colby at (785) 462-3915.

PUBLIC NOTICE NW KS GMD#4 WTAP SIGN-UP OPEN

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP). The deadline to apply is November 15.

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to help restore aquifers and streams in critical areas by retiring water rights. Six “high priority” areas in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 (GMD 4) have been designated as eligible target areas by the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources chief engineer because of significant water level declines. The six areas have been determined to be in need of aquifer recovery and are now closed to further water appropriations.

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