

# Classic Eagles fan happy to join Colby

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How about three quick trivia questions for Colby High sports fans:

Who scored 10 early points to help his school get started on a run of 11 state basketball championships?

"Yeah, I was a starter on the 1972 McPherson High team. I scored 10 of our first 12 points, and then didn't hardly score again," the man revealed.

McPherson beat Garden City, 56-47, to claim that 4A title at the University of Kansas' Phog Allen Field House and has lifted a gold trophy 10 more times since.

Question number two: who was a huge Eagles fan long before he moved to Colby this year?

You might even catch him humming "Hotel California" or another of the classic rock band's hits as Colby temperatures plummet into single digits this week.

"I loved the Eagles and Steely Dan. 'Best Of My Love' is my favorite Eagles' song," he said.

A Don Henley reference sets up question No. 3: how will "Life In The Face" apply to this man's new job?

The final answer requires little investigation, though this man admits to being a big fan of about any investigative police show like NCIS, etc., etc.

He's spending a lot more time these days studying an athletic Eagles roster featuring 29 players, including 13 freshmen. They all lead to what most basketball fans love watching most: run, run and run some more.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press  
Former McPherson High state champion basketball player Kevin Brown (left) brings nearly three decades of coaching experience into the Colby High boys program this season. Colby's new head coach would love to see the Eagles run up-tempo like their practice workout (right) on Thursday at Colby High School. Brown has welcomed 29 players including 13 freshmen into the team's first week of pre-season practices.

"We'd like to play up-tempo and press," new Colby High coach Kevin Brown said. "We're looking forward to getting three guys back from (football) injuries and that will help us even more. Of course, a lot will depend on who we're playing. It will take some time to get familiar with the other teams."

Brown's certainly familiar with coaching basketball since those McPherson Bullpup playing days about four decades ago.

His career covers 27 years including a 17-season stretch at Sublette High School, where Brown believed the Larks delivered about 13 or 14 winning campaigns.

"I think the keys are to have continuity, pride and kids who really want to be good," he said.

His most recent experience at Yates Center wasn't quite as enjoyable. The school system's commitment to challenging students academically and supporting athletics were not quite what he expected.

So that's why Brown and son Cameron, a high school senior,

are happy to now be Colby Eagles as the 2013-14 basketball season draws near.

"I feel Colby is an outstanding school district. Plus the people have been very friendly and helpful," the Colby High social studies teacher said. "It's been a real good school year. But now, I'm not going home as early. We're focused in on basketball."

Pre-season practices officially began on Monday.

Colby tips off its basketball at the Hays Shootout Dec. 6 and 7.

"Sometimes, I wake up during the night thinking about basketball," Brown said. "Making adjustments with our defense and things like that. Coaching is something I've always liked to do. I started coaching younger players (on rec teams) when I was 16."

Other facts to know about Colby High's new basketball coach:

He's a Kansas City Chiefs football, Kansas City Royals baseball and Kansas Jayhawks basketball fan.

"I like Kansas State football, though. In fact, I usually root for



K-State when they're not playing Kansas," Brown explained.

His all-time favorite Royal is George Brett. Favorite Chiefs are Priest Holmes, Marcus Allen and legendary quarterback Joe Montana.

Family legends are nearby, as dad Clinton and mom Donna Brown have also moved to Colby.

"Mom spoils us all with her cooking," Brown admits as a few Eagles are probably already thinking about team dinner potential.

Son Cameron's a point guard who earned all-state honorable mention last season and owns two years of all-league recognition.

Watch for more details about the Eagles in upcoming editions.

## Trot still running Saturday

Despite a recent shift to sub-freezing weather, the City of Colby Recreation Department reported Saturday's seventh annual Turkey Trot is still to run as scheduled.

The 5K event will begin at 9 a.m., and participants can register Saturday morning. There are also maps available at the Recreation office with the race routes highlighted.

The winner will be whom-ever finishes closest to his or her predicted time. The top prize will be a 20-pound turkey to take home for Thanksgiving dinner.

Other great prizes will be awarded, according to the Recreation department.

Registration fee is \$25 per participant.

Those who pre-registered by Nov. 6 have been guaranteed a Turkey Trot race T-shirt.

## 'Cats try to recover

Kansas State University dropped a 68-61 contest to Charlotte in men's basketball action at San Juan, Puerto Rico on Thursday.

The Wildcats (2-2) try to recover against Georgetown today.

## Cougar women trample past Trojans

Western Nebraska Community College built a 39-9 halftime lead en route to trouncing the Colby Community College Trojans, 86-29, Thursday night in Scottsbluff, Neb.

The Trojan women (1-7 re-

cord) struggled with nearly as many turnovers (26) as points and couldn't climb from an early 22-3 deficit.

The Cougars improved to 7-1 with their one loss being at Colby's Ambassador Classic earlier

this month. They were ranked No. 15 among all National Junior College Athletic Association teams to begin this basketball season.

Colby High alum McKenna Ortnor's five points led a Trojan attack featuring four players who

scored four: Ariel Hutchinson, Deja Cato, Sierra Green and Loren Evans.

Amanda Miller and Cordae McKelvy added three points apiece while Deandra Williams tossed in two.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

The Colby Middle School seventh graders played intense defense against Scott City early in their "A" game Thursday.

## Eagle coverage to come

The Colby Middle School seventh and eighth-grade basketball girls both played Scott City on Thursday, but no results were available in time for today's press deadline.

Colby Middle School wrestlers

have also been competing during recent weeks, and the Free Press hopes to include results during upcoming weeks.

Thanksgiving break means a limited schedule of middle school sporting events next week.

## Can Bears win shootout with Cowboys?

The Baylor Bears haven't been a relevant college football force since linebacker Mike Singletary's wild eyes were getting ready to frighten future Chicago Bears opponents.

Singletary finished his Baylor Bears career in 1980 with a Cotton Bowl loss to Alabama, and nobody's really thought about pairing these teams for any major bowls since.

Yet now, on a weekend where traditional games like Nebraska-Penn State are barely noticed, undefeated Baylor (9-0) and No. 10 Oklahoma State (9-1) collide in Saturday's biggest showdown.

At stake will almost surely be a Big 12 title, BCS bowl berth and quite possibly for Baylor: another step to the potential national championship game if Florida State or Alabama stumbles.

Free Press reporter R.B. (Rude Bum) Headley's often a grumbly hungry bear when making these picks right before eating everything in sight for lunch.

He'll take a few moments, though, to challenge Associated Press football guru Ralph Russo, who still holds a seven-game over

Round Belly this season.

**No. 4 Baylor at No. 11 Oklahoma State**

Russo: Another Big 12 contender bites the dust ... Oklahoma State 38-35. R.B.: Not so fast, my imaginary friend! I see Baylor QB Bryce Petty (24 touchdown throws, one interception) winning a showdown with unknown Cowboy QB Clint Chelf, plus Baylor's defense is better than most realize. Go Bears, 40-34.

Other marquee matchups:

**No. 8 Missouri at No. 24 Mississippi**

Russo: Tigers need to win out to earn trip to SEC title game. Missouri 31-21. R.B.: Pack the bags for that title game, South Carolina, because an upset brews here. Mississippi 35-31.

**No. 9 Texas A&M at No. 18 LSU**

Russo: Heisman showcase for Johnny Football, and chance for Aggies to bolster BCS resume. LSU 48-45. R.B.: Johnny Football can't tackle all those Tigers running past his defensive mates. Aggies' once-fabled Wrecking Crew defense just a wreck this season. LSU 51-45.

**No. 19 Arizona State at No. 14 UCLA**

Russo: Sun Devils can lock up Pac-12 South ... UCLA 28-27. R.B.: Bruins' lack of running game a concern, and ASU never been to Pac-12 title game. Arizona State 30-28.

Both gurus agree on No. 1 Alabama over Chattanooga Choo-Choo (not the real nickname), No. 2 Florida State over Idaho and a number of other mismatches that litter the late-season schedule. They also both take No. 5 Oregon over Arizona, No. 13 Michigan State over Northwestern, No. 23 USC over Colorado, amazing No. 25 Duke over Wake Forest and most importantly to many fans: **Kansas State over Oklahoma.**

R.B.'s only other disagreement is No. 16 Wisconsin at Minnesota. Russo likes the Badgers, R.B. will take the Gophers to stay alive in their Big 10 division title chase.

NFL brings R.B. picks of Chiefs over Chargers, Giants over Cowboys, Colts over Cardinals and Patriots over Broncos.

## Sooners need strong focus on Wildcats

MANHATTAN (AP) — Oklahoma must not look past Kansas State when the two Big 12 teams face off at the Bill Snyder Family Football Stadium on Saturday.

Kansas State comes into the game on an impressive four-game winning streak, during which time the Wildcats knocked off Texas Tech, among others. With a 6-4 record (4-3 in the Big 12), this team has faced some tough opponents and won't be easily defeated.

Heading into this game, Oklahoma features an 8-2 record.

After getting hammered by Baylor to open up the month of November, the Sooners bounced back last weekend with a big 48-10 win over Iowa State, and Oklahoma State is looming to close out the season.

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