

# Eagles, area football players make all-league

By R.B. Headley  
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With 12 all-league selections, the Colby area featured elite football players at every position except kicker this fall.

The Colby Eagles (three selections), Triplains-Brewster Titans (five) and Golden Plains Bulldogs (four) all earned post-season recognition for their efforts during this 2013 season.

Colby senior Andrew Taylor made quite an impact on both sides of the ball against Great West Athletic Conference foes.

Coaches named Taylor all-conference first team at both running back and linebacker. He was Colby's leading tackler (62 solos), rusher (355 yards) and tireless leader throughout a tough 0-9 campaign.

Triplains-Brewster senior Seth Smith matched this achievement in the Western Kansas Liberty

League. Smith helped power the Titans from 2-6 last season to 6-3 this fall and just a few points from reaching the 1A state playoffs.

Another trio of area players captured all-league first-team honors: Colby junior Ben Matchell (kick returner), Golden Plains senior Grant Spreser (defensive lineman) and Bulldog junior teammate Benny Martinez (linebacker).

Matchell averaged 46 yards per kickoff return, the most memorable being a 92-yard touchdown runback on Homecoming night against visiting Ulysses.

Martinez was a Golden Plains tackling machine as he made 136 stops (61 solos, 75 assists) — an average of 17 per game.

Spreser muscled inside the trenches to finish second behind Martinez with 79 tackles (44 solos) for the 2-7 Bulldogs.

He was also an offensive force, throwing five touchdown passes and rushing to three more while

generating more than 750 total yards (450 passing, 296 rushing).

Colby versatility also impressed coaches enough to give sophomore Brady Holzmeister all-league honorable mention as an all-purpose player.

Holzmeister was truly a "five-tool" player that defined all-purpose. He caught passes (eight for 132 yards), returned kicks (eight for 139), rushed the football (27 carries, 99 yards), tackled opponents (50 total stops) and even started one game at quarterback where he completed eight passes for 137 yards.

However, all-league quarterback honorable mention went to another Colby-area player: Triplains-Brewster sophomore Ryan Gfeller.

Gfeller is the youngest area selection with those other 11 being seniors or juniors. He completed nearly 50 percent of his passes (47 for 98), threw nine touchdowns and only four interceptions.

Yet Gfeller's most dangerous talent was his Titan-leading 728 rushing yards and seven more TDs.

Triplains-Brewster seniors Nathan Jorgensen (running back) and Justin Culwell (tight end/receiver) were also named to the Western Kansas Liberty League second team.

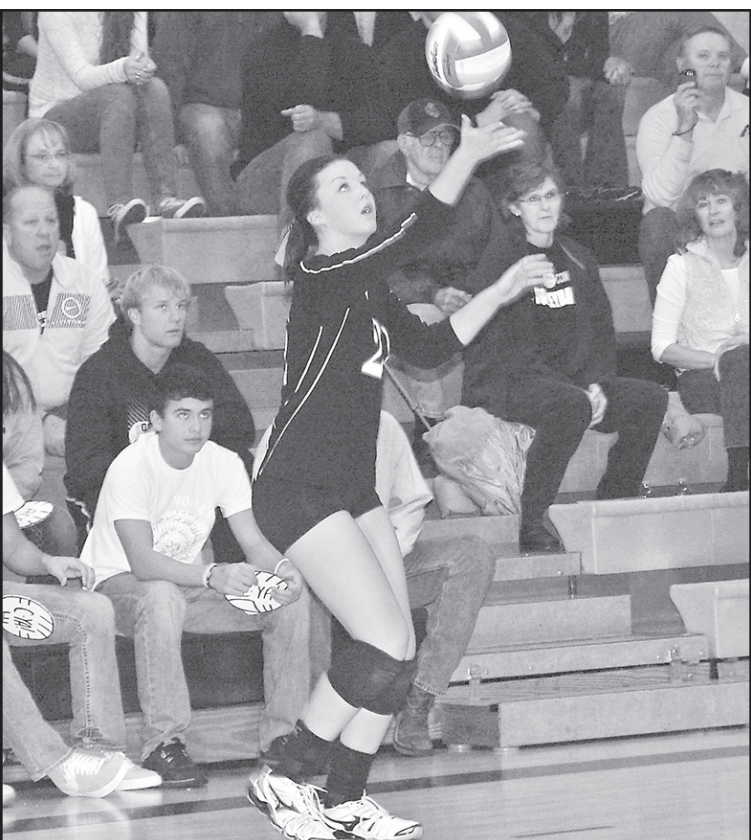
Jorgensen scored a team-high 13 rushing touchdowns and averaged more than five yards per carry. His receiving ratio was even better with nearly half of his 12 catches being TDs (five).

Culwell averaged 18 yards per catch (11 for 198) and reached the end zone twice. He often delivered key plays during the Titans' toughest victories.

Other area players earning all-league honorable mention were Triplains-Brewster junior Jace Jorgensen along with Golden Plains seniors Tristan Schwarz and Josh Barnhart (both running backs).



ROD HAXTON/Scott County Record  
Colby High junior Ben Matchell showed his breakaway kick returning skills against the powerful Scott City Beavers this fall. Matchell made the all-Great West Athletic Conference first team.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press  
Colby High senior Morgan Mengel focused on her serve during a Great West Athletic Conference tournament match against Goodland in October. Mengel made the all-league second team.

## Seniors earn spots on all-league team

An excellent eight prep volleyball players from the Colby area have earned all-league honors from coaches this fall.

The Colby Eagles and Golden Plains Bulldogs both feature three selections after reaching their sub-state tournament title matches.

It was no surprise that Eagles senior Hailiegh Shull reached the all-Great West Athletic Conference first team.

Shull was a powerful force all season whether it was hitting, digging, serving or all-out hustle.

Teammate Morgan Mengel also represents Colby's senior class by making the all-league second team.

Together, senior leadership

helped the Eagles win 19 matches last fall.

Sophomore Brenly Terrell was one of many reasons why Colby's volleyball future remains bright. She received all-Great West Athletic Conference honorable mention.

The Golden Plains were a terrific 29-9 thanks largely to their own super senior leaders. Jordan Christensen, Kylie Jones and Hailee Spreser were all honored on the all-Western Kansas Liberty League first team.

Meanwhile, league coaches took note of two all-league first-team Triplains-Brewster Titans: senior Brittany Plummer and junior Shawna Rogge.

## Bulldogs pounce on Logan

By Judy Rogers  
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Middle School girls' basketball "A" team easily won their first home game against Logan, 21-8, on Thursday.

The girls pulled ahead 4-1 in the first quarter with two shots from Jennifer Esparza.

Sierra Finlay and KayCee Miller each added a basket in the second as Logan added another free throw to hold an 8-2 lead at the half.

In the third quarter, Miller put in six points along with a free throw from Esparza to maintain a 15-4 lead going into the fourth. In the final minutes, the Lady Bulldogs added another six from Kaylie Schaben, Finlay, and Miller to win 21-8.

This is the "A" team's second win of the season.

In the "B" team's game, the Lady Bulldogs worked hard but the Logan team won 26-12.

Golden Plains points came from Tayler Lobato (three), Paris Bailey (three), Sable Finlay (two), Jaiden Koerperich (two) and Mabel Lugo (two).

Boys play close against Logan

The Golden Plains Middle School boys played two close games in their first home games against Logan-Damar Thursday.

The B team boys gained a 7-4 lead in the first quarter with baskets from Nolan Ritter, Joseph Yanez-Perez and three free throws from Dylan Spreser.

However, they were shut down in the second as Logan/Damar put in 15 points to capture the lead by halftime.

The Bulldogs put it together in the fourth as Nolan Ritter pumped in two quick three-pointers and two free throws, Dylan Spreser put in six and Colby Lathrop and Caleb each added baskets to add 18 points to the Bulldogs final score of 28.

The Trojans were not giving up easily and added eight in the



SHANIA FINLAY/Golden Plains High School  
KayCee Miller made a leaping grab for this basketball and also scored 10 points during Golden Plains Middle School's 21-8 win over Logan recently.

fourth to keep the lead and win the game, 32-28.

The A boys team also played a close game, trailing 21-16 entering the fourth. Both teams added eight in the final minutes to give

the Trojans the 29-24 win.

AJ Camacho put in 14 points for the Bulldogs followed by Dylan Spreser (three points), Caleb Korte (three), Devin Carter (two) and Jeron Schutte (two).

## Trojans triumph at tourney

Heavyweight Devanti Ragland and teammate Jared Johnson both scored four wins to lead the Colby Community College wrestlers at last weekend's Nebraska-Kearney Holiday Inn Open.

Johnson scored four pins of 174-pound foes to finish 4-1 overall in a tournament filled with top NCAA Division II wrestlers.

Ragland recorded a 4-2 record while proving he could pin or win close matches. His two winning decisions features scores of 7-6 and 3-1.

James Jones earned three more wins for the Trojans while wrestling 197 pounds. Ronald Wells finished 3-1 at 133 which included two major-decision victories.

Sebastian Niehls (133), Austin Marshall (141) and Colby High alum Konnor Kriss delivered two wins apiece. Kriss scored a 17-1 tech fall and 11-4 decision.

Fellow Eagle alum Beau Brown captured one win by pin (5:27).

The Trojans are closing on a stretch of home appearances at Colby's Community Building.

They'll host duals against Neosho County Dec. 6, Pratt Dec. 14 and Labette Dec. 19.

Western Wyoming College also visits to dual the Colby Trojans team after New Year's on Jan. 3.

## Trinidad survives Trojan rally

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The comeback was fun to watch as Colby Community College's women completely erased a 16-point deficit against Trinidad (Colo.) State Tuesday night.

When Semaj Blanton finished her three-point play, Colby had caught these opposing Trojans at 42-42.

Yet the 17-7 Trinidad finish supported coach Antowin Edwards' best gameplan:

Play great from start to finish. "We're just digging too big of holes. As young as we are, it's going to be tough to come back and beat anyone," Edwards said after the 59-49 defeat.

The Colby Trojans (2-9 record) fell behind 20-4 before starting to play good basketball.

Freshman guard Sierra Green's 13 points certainly highlighted the effort.

"Sierra can score the ball. That's why I recruited her," Edwards said. "All she's really lacking is some confidence at times. But I think she learned tonight that if she plays this way, our point guard



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press  
Guard Sierra Green (2) kept the pressure on a Trinidad (Colo.) State opponent during Colby Community College's home game Tuesday evening.

will get her the ball."

Guard Deja Cato sparked the Trojans with defense and distributing that basketball.

Colby (52) — Sierra Green 13 points, Semaj Blanton 10, Ariel Hutchinson 7, Amanda Miller 5,

McKenna Ortner 5, Deandra Williams 4, Deja Cato 4, Tori Biddle 3, Cordae McKelvy 1. Three-point goals: Miller, Hutchinson, Biddle. Rebound leaders: Williams 5. Assists: Cato 3. Steals: Cato, Green, Blanton.

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