

## Colby will stay busy in Hays

The Colby Eagles tip off Hays Shootout play today and a complete girls' schedule was featured in Wednesday's Free Press.

The boys' complete tournament schedule:

Today — Colby vs. Great Bend, 3 p.m. at Hays Middle School; DeSoto vs. Newton, 4:45 at Hays High School; Garden City vs. Hays Thomas More Prep, 6:30 p.m. at Hays Middle School; Hays vs. Riley County, 8:15 p.m. at Hays High School.

Friday — Win or lose, Colby will play either Garden City or Hays Thomas More Prep at 4:45 p.m. Championship semifinals take place in Hays High School; consolation games will be played at Hays Middle School.

Saturday — seventh place, 11:45 a.m. at Hays Middle School; fifth place, 3:15 p.m. at Hays Middle School; third place, 3:15 p.m. at Hays High School; championship game, 7 p.m. at Hays High School.

# Eagles dual Dodge at home tonight

By R.B. Headley

Colby Free Press  
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Forget about holiday cheer for a few hours, because the Colby Eagles are ready to unleash some brand-new monsters against Dodge City's Demons tonight.

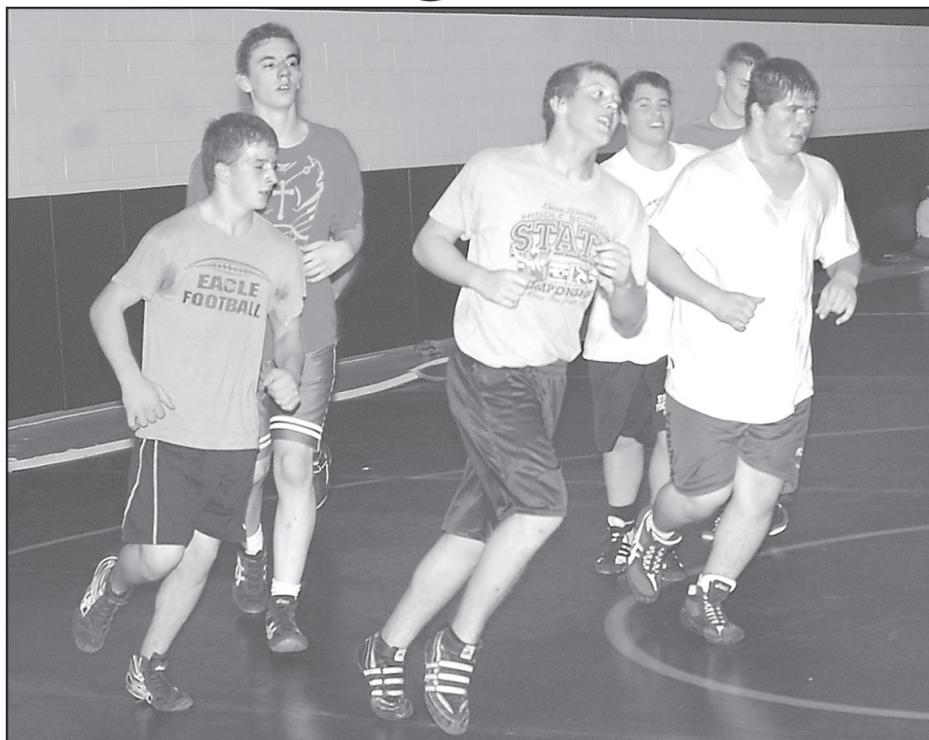
The season-opening wrestling dual begins at 6 p.m. with several junior varsity matches likely going on two mats in Colby High's gymnasium.

Coach Matt Sims will then debut his new varsity lineup featuring four freshmen and five sophomores.

In other words, underclassmen own nine of 13 varsity spots for the reigning 4A state runner-up team.

A glance at the complete Colby varsity rundown that Sims provided Wednesday afternoon:

- 106 pounds: freshman Ernie Leija.
- 113: freshman Tate Carney.
- 120: senior David Mainus.
- 126: sophomore Tanner Elias.
- 132: sophomore Alex Young.
- 138: freshman Travis Finley.
- 145: sophomore Brady Holzmeister.
- 152: junior Kyle Finley.
- 160: sophomore Matt Pieper.
- 170: soph Connor Edmundson.



The Colby High wrestlers have been running and working in preparation for tonight's season-opening home dual against Dodge City. Junior varsity matches start the action at 6 p.m.

182: senior Andrew Taylor.  
195: junior Jay Ziegelmeier.  
220: sophomore Austin Hart.  
285: freshman Ethan Jay.

Dodge City will counter with a lineup ranked No. 10 in 6A by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Individually, the Demons have 6A's No. 2-rated 126-pounder (sophomore Clay Weil) and No. 3 106-pounder (sophomore Howard Johnson). Freshman Devon Escobedo (120 pounds) and junior Jaden McRoberts (132) appear among the 6A top six.

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

## Holiday presents challenge for Colby

By Rusty Grafel

Colby Community College

Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is approaching!

The men's basketball team here at Colby Community College is now 8-3 on year with a classic this weekend at Iowa Western.

The Trojans will match up on Friday with Iowa Western Community College who is currently ranked seventh in country, then turn around and play Northeast Nebraska Community College on Saturday.

We are in our biggest road stretch of our entire season. We have five consecutive road games before we return to Colby on Dec. 12.

As guys get anxious because they will get to go home for Christmas, we as a staff have to keep them focused on the task at hand.

We have four games left until Christmas break, one of the hardest things to do when I look back to when I was playing was keeping everyone focused and all tuned into finishing the semester on a high note.

It's important for us to finish the first half of our season right because we come back and jump right into the heart of our season!

Our fifth sophomore we would like to spotlight is Branden Williams. Branden has been our most improved sophomore on this team.

He continues to get stronger in the weight room as the 6'3" freshman led our team with most gained pounds on our maxes in the preseason.

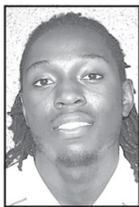
Outside of the weight room and on the court, Branden is a high-light reel waiting to happen with

his explosive jumping ability.

Branden has shown he can really score the basketball and it's something we will rely on down the stretch as a team. He comes from a great family and you can truly see it in him as an individual!



Rusty Grafel



B. Williams

Here is a little more about Branden:

Hometown: Orlando, Fla. Previous School: West Orange High School. Birthdate: March 1, 1993. Parents: Tommy Melvin and Sonja Melvin. Major: Business.

Favorite quote: "Good better best, never let it rest until your good becomes your better and your better becomes your best."

Favorite food: Shrimp.

Favorite thing about Colby Community College: the basketball court. Favorite movie: Space Jam. Favorite athlete: Michael Jordan.

Role Model: Mom. Favorite song: "Keep ya head up" by 2 Pac. Hopefully, everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday and that leads right into a great Christmas.

This is the last full week of classes before we start finals here at Colby Community College.

Good luck to the wrestling team and the women's basketball team! Once class resumes in January, more teams will start their seasons.

A reminder that we have our next men's basketball home game on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. against Air Force Prep. The Trojans would like all of you to come out and watch.

Until next time, go Trojans!

Editor's note: Grafel is the Colby Community College men's basketball coach who provides insights about Trojan athletics.

## Bulldogs take two thrillers from Titans

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Middle School boys basketball team won two close games in Winona recently against the Triplains-Brewster Titans.

The A-team won its first game of the season 27-24. They had played close with the Titans in the pre-season tournament losing by a last-second shot in double overtime. They scored four points — all free throws from A.J.

Camacho and Jeron Schutte — in the first quarter while falling behind 7-4 by the end of the quarter. Camacho put in all five points in the second as the Bulldog defense held the Titans to three, but still trailed 10-9 at the half.

The Bulldogs put in 10 points in the third including two three-pointers and two free throws from Jacob Ritter along with a basket from Camacho to nudge ahead 19-18 going into the fourth.

Camacho hit for six in the fourth and Devin Carter added a basket

to win the game 27-24.

The B team also won in a close contest. They had won over the Titans in the preseason tournament, but had to work a little harder to claim with second win of the season.

Golden Plains gained an early 6-2 lead in the first quarter. The Bulldogs added five in the second, but the Titans stayed right with them with four of their own.

The Bulldogs held strong throughout the third to add six more to their side while holding

the Titans to four. The Bulldogs led 17-10 going into the fourth.

The Titans were not about to give us as they increased the pressure on defense and posted up 10 more points in the final minutes and held the Bulldogs to four. Fortunately for the Bulldogs, their earlier lead held and they squeaked by with a 21-20 win.

The boys will be off this week as the girls travel to Damar.

They will return to the court in Rexford on Dec. 19 when they host Northern Valley.

## Will Auburn outlast old Kansas rival?

Associated Press college football expert Ralph Russo (127-32) and fumbling Free Press scribbler R.B. Headley (119-40) pick the huge games to cap this college football regular season starting tonight:

**No. 19 Louisville at Cincinnati**

Russo: Louisville 35-33. R.B.: Teddy Bridgewater's still a great name, but the Louisville quarterback's Heisman status fell faster than when I put on snowskis or ice skates. No recovery for either of us. Cincinnati 33-28.

**Friday**

**No. 16 Northern Illinois vs. Bowling Green**, MAC championship at Detroit

Russo: BCS bid on the line for Huskies, and Heisman Trophy ceremony invitation for Jordan Lynch. Northern Illinois 28-27. R.B.: Go Bowling Green 35-31.

**Saturday's main event**

**No. 2 Ohio State vs. No. 10 Michigan State**, Big Ten championship in Indianapolis

Russo: A decisive win — or a loss — by the Buckeyes would end the drama. Michigan St. 31-28. R.B.: I believe Buckeyes are national title-game worthy with a win, but it's not happening. What a run for the Spartans! Michigan

St. 27-24.

**Marquee matchups**

**No. 1 Florida State vs. No. 20 Duke**, ACC championship at Charlotte, N.C.

Russo: If Blue Devils can pull this off, forget coach of the year, David Cutcliffe gets coach of the decade. Florida State 48-14. R.B.: Flaming spears vs. Blue Devils? A Seminole fan would love to see me pick Duke since my upset specials usually mean 40 or 50-point defeats for the underdogs. Florida State 49-28.

**No. 3 Auburn vs. No. 5 Missouri**, SEC championship at Atlanta

Russo: Just admit it. It's Gus Malzahn's world. Auburn 35-28. R.B.: It's Auburn's world plus Mizzou just not good enough. Auburn 38-27.

**No. 7 Stanford at No. 11 Arizona State**, Pac-12 championship

Russo: Sun Devils can earn first Rose Bowl bid since 1996 season. Arizona State 31-27. R.B.: Stanford 27-23.

**No. 18 Oklahoma at No. 6 Oklahoma State**

Russo: Oklahoma State 28-20. R.B.: A lot has changed since I watched Mike Gundy quarterbacking Cowboys on a



Auburn magic hit a historic high when Chris Davis' 100-yard return of Alabama's missed field goal beat the No. 1 Crimson Tide last weekend. No. 3 Auburn faces No. 5 Missouri this weekend.

rainy 1986 night in Lincoln, Neb., my first Husker game witnessed in person. Big Danny Noonan sacked Gundy for safety and NFL future legend Thurman Thomas got stuffed. Gundy a lot better beating big boys since becoming

coach. Oklahoma State 34-24.

No. 23 Texas at No. 9 Baylor Russo: If Oklahoma State loses, winner here gets Big 12 title. Baylor 42-21. R.B.: Okie State's win could cause Baylor to lose interest. Texas 35-33.

## Royals make trade

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Brewers have traded outfielder Norichika Aoki to the Kansas City Royals, a move that likely means Ryan Braun will move from left to right field in 2014.

Milwaukee acquired left-hander Will Smith from Kansas City in exchange for Aoki, who hit .286 with eight homers, 37 RBIs, 20

steals and 80 runs scored last season.

Aoki would become the first Japanese-born position player to suit up for the Royals.

The Royals have also been rumored to be interested in re-acquiring veteran outfielder Carlos Beltran, who began his career with K.C. before leaving in 2004.

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