

Rec hoops draws near

Colby Recreation Youth Basketball is right around the corner with registration now open for all kids from first through sixth grades.

Games begin on Jan. 18 and continue every Saturday. Registration fee is \$35 per player.

The Colby Recreation Department would like to receive all registrations by Friday so teams can be set up by the end of December.

All Colby elementary schools should have received registration forms.

Any that did not receive a form should visit the Recreation office or can register on-line at www.colbyrec.jigsy.com.

Call 460-4440 if needing other information.

The Colby Recreation adult volleyball season is also well underway, and watch for updates in future editions of the *Free Press*.

Colby can win Cowboy title tonight

What better way to follow up a win over Goodland than taking home the Cowboys' own basketball tournament title?

The Colby High junior varsity boys will take aim at a championship tonight when they challenge Garden City in this Goodland JV tournament championship game.

Opening tip is set for 8:30 p.m. The Eagles earned their shot thanks to a thrilling 42-41 conquest of Goodland Monday afternoon.

Colby couldn't break away during a 9-9 first quarter, but the Eagles suddenly soared ahead 21-15 by intermission.

Yet the Cowboys suddenly caught fire, scoring 18 third-quarter points to surpass their entire first half. They turned up the pressure on Colby only to see those Eagles maintain a narrow advantage of 34-33.

A one-point lead which survived through the fourth period as both teams tallied eight more points.

Freshman Nolan Deeds delivered 13 points for Goodland on

five-for-nine shooting. However, terrific Colby defense held the other Cowboys to just nine baskets in 53 attempts (17 percent).

Garden City beat Burlington, Colo., on Monday to set up tonight's championship showdown. Meanwhile, the Colby High junior varsity girls play a 4 p.m. third-place game today against Burlington.

The Colby teams aren't finished with their pre-holiday schedule. Both JV teams will join the varsity for games in Hugoton Friday evening.

A glance at other upcoming sports activity:

Tonight
College wrestling: Labette at Colby, 7 p.m.

Junior high basketball: Northern Valley at Golden Plains, 4 p.m.

Friday
Girls/boys basketball: Triplains-Brewster at Healy, TBA

Girls/boys basketball: Weskan at Golden Plains, TBA

Junior high basketball: Triplains-Brewster at Healy, TBA



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Goodland Star-News

The Colby High junior varsity basketball teams are busy at a Goodland tournament this week. At left, freshman Jordan O'Malley (10 in black) looked for the best path to points while sophomore MaKayla Hoffman (12) moved behind a Goodland defender on Monday. At right, the Colby boys are focused in on playing tonight's tourney championship game against Garden City.

Coyotes await after Bulldogs' first win

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High boys claimed their first win of the season at the Castle Rock Tournament last weekend.

The Bulldogs played Rawlins County in a first-round game on Dec. 10.

The Buffaloes from Atwood jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter 14-5, but the Bulldogs fought back in the second adding 12 points in to make the halftime score 27-17 in favor of the Buffaloes.

Both teams played evenly in the third with nine points apiece and the Bulldogs added another 15 in the fourth.

However, they sent the Buffaloes to the free throw line allowing them to hold on to their lead for the 54-41 win.

Tristan Schwarz led the Golden Plains offense with 18 points, including a trio of three-pointers. Shane Ryburn added nine, Grant Spreser eight, Benny Martinez three, Koi Wessel two and Kade Wessel scored one point.

"This was a fun, friendly game," Schwarz said.

During the second round on Fri-

day, the Bulldogs captured the win over the Cheylin Cougars, 46-41.

It took most of the first quarter before the Cougars scored first. Schwarz answered to tie it up for the Bulldogs and Ryburn gained the lead. The Cougars answered with a basket and a three to lead 7-6 at the end of the quarter.

Ryburn hit a three in the second quarter along with buckets from Grant Spreser, Schwarz, Kade Wessel and Zach Spreser to lead 21-13 toward the end of the second, but Cheylin sank a three at the buzzer for the 21-16 halftime score.

The Cougars fought back in the third chipping away at the Golden Plains lead, finally tying the game 30-30 with 1:22 left in the quarter. Another three-point shot gave the Cougars the lead at the buzzer.

The Bulldogs were determined in the fourth. Nine points from Grant Spreser, some crucial free throws from Schwarz and a final basket from Ryburn regained the Bulldog lead and the 46-41 win.

"It was nice to get our first win before the break," Schwarz observed.

The Bulldogs headed back to Quinter on Saturday for the final game of the tournament against



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Zach Spreser won this battle for a loose basketball, and the Golden Plains High boys also topped Cheylin during Castle Rock tournament play last weekend for their first win this season.

the hometown Quinter Bulldogs.

Quinter jumped to a 19-7 lead at the end of the first quarter with all seven Golden Plains points coming from Schwarz. Golden Plains only scored eight in the second, allowing Quinter to put in 23 for a 42-15 lead at the half.

Golden Plains' seniors were determined and stepped behind the

arc to sink two three-pointers each from Grant Spreser and Schwarz. Ryburn added a basket for 14 points in the third.

Their defense held Quinter to seven in the third, but Quinter came back for 10 in the fourth. Seven more from Golden Plains' Grant Spreser, Ryburn and Cole Ziegelmeier ended the game with

a 59-36 win for Quinter.

"We need more mental focus during the games," Zach Spreser said.

Golden Plains returns to action Friday night in Rexford against the Weskan Coyotes.

"We anticipate a good showing for the team on our home floor," Grant Spreser concluded.

Trojans hope 2014 renews momentum

By Rusty Grafel
Colby Community College

With Christmas right around the corner, the Colby Community College men's basketball team went on its break and won't play again until Tuesday, Jan. 7.

We didn't finish the semester the way we would have liked. We finished the first half of our season 9-6 with one non conference game left before we start conference games on Saturday, Jan. 11.

This team has done a good job of working to get better but at this point we still need to correct the

little things in order to be ready for conference play.

The guys took off on Tuesday and will be back on Dec. 26 where we will start practice back up and prepare for the Jan. 7 Trinidad State game in Colby..

Merry Christmas and a happy new year. More athletics will be kicking off their season this next semester and it will be an exciting second semester for Colby Community College.

Until next time, go Trojans!

Editor's note: Grafel is the men's basketball coach who provides insight about Trojan sports.

Trojan wrestlers are home again tonight

Fresh off pounding Pratt College 38-7 last weekend, the No. 20 nationally-ranked Colby Community College wrestlers have invited Labette College for a dual tonight starting at 7 p.m.

Labette received Top 20 votes this week from the National Junior College Association voters.

The Cardinals clearly show some confidence in their team photo at www.labette.edu, where every wrestler is wearing a shirt with "The Beast" emblazoned upon it.

Colby wrestled like beasts Saturday night against Pratt, beginning with Hunter Price's 13-0 lead and eventual pin of that opening match.

The Trojans went on to win every showdown except two.

Colby High alums Beau Brown and Konnor Kriss both scored victories.

Kriss, a sophomore, dominated his match 11-2 while Brown battled to the 6-3 victory.

Both former Eagles will likely be on the mat tonight along with perhaps fellow Colby alum Quade Woofter.

Woofter didn't wrestle the 184-pound varsity spot on Saturday, as teammate Rakim Dean scored a pin against Pratt.

Like every other Colby Community College team, the Trojan wrestlers will be taking a holiday break after tonight's dual.

However, they will make another home appearance against Western Wyoming College when their dual season resumes Jan. 3.

'Cats get leader back for bowl game

MANHATTAN (AP) — For Ty Zimmerman, history appears to be repeating itself.

The Kansas State senior safety is expected to trade in crutches for football pads and play in Kansas State's bowl game for the second straight year.

In both instances, Zimmerman suffered an apparent ankle injury while trying to make a tackle against TCU. He then watched K-State's final two games from the sideline. Last year, Zimmerman recovered in time to practice for, and play in, the Fiesta Bowl. He is following the same path leading up to the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl against Michigan on Dec. 28.

"He is doing well," K-State coach Bill Snyder said Tuesday,

"and I anticipate he will play."

That will come as good news to K-State's secondary, which looks to Zimmerman for impact plays and steady leadership.

Zimmerman is a captain who has received all-conference honors of some kind in four straight seasons, and was named Associated Press third-team All-American on Wednesday.

As a senior, he has made 69 tackles and three interceptions in 10 games.

The Wildcats managed without him, thanks to solid play from backup Dylan Schellenberg, but they are glad to have Zimmerman back.

"What he means to our team is so much more than you see on tape," receiver Curry Sexton

said. "The leadership he provides for the team and for our defense is huge. He makes all the calls and gets our defense lined up. He is one of the best safeties in the country."

Perhaps the largest plus: big plays.

This season, he returned two interceptions for touchdowns. Last season, he was often the catalyst when turnovers occurred. He has combined his football knowledge and his athleticism to become a staple of K-State's defense.

"There is a reason why Ty is an All-American and our defensive MVP," senior linebacker Blake Slaughter said. "There are a lot of intangibles he brings to the table."

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