

Titles, great wins tipped off 2013 area sports

As the transition to another new year takes place this week, the *Colby Free Press* remembers and celebrates many great area sports moments that arrived during 2013. The first two months are featured today with more 2013 highlights included in both Thursday and Friday's editions.

January

The best moment: Colby High girls routing rival Goodland, 62-39, then beginning a Friday night doubleheader sweep of Norton just three nights later.

Haileigh Shull's 16 points ignited the big rivalry victory, yet few efforts could top a seven-for-seven shooting effort from senior Karly Kriss in that 64-34 triumph over Norton.

Classmate McKenna Ortner added 15 points. Just a few months later, Ortner and Kriss would join the Colby Community College women's basketball program.

Meanwhile, the Colby High boys also delivered one of their best wins as senior Todd Kane's 21 points highlighted a 50-41 downing of those Norton Bluejays.

Current Eagles Marc Bremenkamp (13 points) and Luke Cox (10) teamed to shoot 70 percent in this victory. Both hit five of seven field-goal attempts.

Other great January moments included:

The Colby High wrestlers going 5-0 to win another Great West Athletic Conference dual team title. Colby's domination included a 78-3 thrashing of Holcomb and 58-13 triumph over those Good-



Colby Free Press Kami Miller and the Golden Plains High girls showed they were ready to play in last winter's state basketball tourney. The Bulldogs beat opening foe Hope and went on to capture a consolation title.

February

The winter fun really heated up during this month. Each date indicates when it was reported in the Free Press.

Some of the best were:

Feb. 15: Colby Community College coach James Ortiz is named Region VI Coach Of The year after his Trojan indoor track and field athletes take second in this huge meet with 104 team points.

Feb. 21: The Colby High girls stretch their win streak to five with a 57-45 win over Thomas More Prep. Senior Lauren Bell scores 15 points by hitting five three-point bombs.

Feb. 18: The Colby Community College baseball team sweeps through four early-season games in Oklahoma, scoring 32 runs while permitting just five. The Trojan women's softball team goes 3-1 during this same weekend.

Feb. 21: The Golden Plains High boys "B" team takes home a Western Kansas Liberty League tournament championship. The "A" girls are about to achieve some even greater goals.

Feb. 21: This was quite a sports day. Junior Brittany Plummer's 23 points and 18 from classmate Shawna Rogge lead a 56-53 Triplains-Brewster win over Palco. The boys later pull off a 38-36 win behind Nathan Jorgensen's 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Feb. 9: The Colby Community College wrestlers qualify for nationals.

However, the month's best moment:

Feb. 16: The Colby High wres-



Colby Free Press Colby High's Dustin Reed, right, closed in on a fantastic 47-0 season capped with another 4A state wrestling championship at Salina in February.

ters repeat their region team championship and qualify nine for 4A state. David Mainus, Reed and

Zell Bieberle all win individual titles.

Reed goes on to finish 47-0 and take home one more state championship. Again, watch for more highlights later this week.

Coach delighted despite cold 'bath'

The Wichita Eagle

TEMPE, Ariz.— Kansas State football players filled their locker room with dances, hugs and songs following a 31-14 victory over Michigan in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl late Saturday night.

And Kansas State coach Bill Snyder was in the middle of it all, in unusually high spirits and praising his seniors for their work ethic and smiling ear to ear, even though Ryan Mueller had just doused him with a tub full of cold Gatorade.

"He is going to get his, I assure you of that," Snyder joked, vowing revenge on his star defensive end for the stunt. "And (when he does) it is not going to be a water bucket."

Those surrounding him burst into laughter.

Snyder's normal all-business demeanor was nowhere to be found at a post-game interview.

Several K-State football players said they had never seen their coach in a better mood. The combination of beating Michigan, a storied program that Snyder long admired while he served as a coordinator at Iowa, and ending a five-game losing streak in bowl games that dated back to 2002 meant a great deal to him.

"Coach works his tail off and we finally got a bowl win, his first one in 11 years," junior center B.J.



philly.com Kansas State running back John Hubert held off a Michigan defender during the Wildcats' decisive Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl victory in Tempe, Ariz., Saturday night.

Finney said. "Coach is going to enjoy it. He ought to enjoy it."

The victory pushed K-State's record to 8-5 after a 2-4 start.

Now that it is complete the Wildcats head into the offseason

with momentum.

That will be a welcome change from the past decade.

"It has been such a long time," offensive coordinator Dana Dimel said. "You start to feel the need to

get a victory and we had such a great finish, you would hate to put a damper on that. Nobody wants to sit on a loss for eight months. That's just crap. We didn't want to do it again."

Chiefs-Colts begins big playoff weekend

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Football League has announced the dates and times for this weekend's wild-card games.

Shockers just keep winning

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) Cleanthony Early had 24 points and 10 rebounds to help now No. 8 nationally-ranked Wichita State to extend the best start in school history with an 81-70 victory over Davidson on Sunday.

Ron Baker had 15 points for Wichita State (13-0) while Darius Carter scored 13 and Tekele Cotton added 10.

Tyler Kalinoski had 17 points for Davidson (4-9), while Tom Dronay added 12 and De'Mon Brooks scored 10.

Wichita State was able to salt away the victory at the free throw line. The Shockers were 28 of 41 on free throws while Davidson was just 11 of 16. Three Wildcats fouled out.

Wichita State also had a significant advantage in points off turnovers, converting Davidson's 15 turnovers into 18 points. The Shockers had nine turnovers, which the Wildcats turned into seven points.

The Wildcats used a 6-0 run in less than 90 seconds on two running jumpers by Dronay and a basket by Chris Czerapowicz to cut Wichita State's lead to 45-44 with 15:34 remaining.

The Shockers stemmed the tide with a 9-2 run. Davidson shot 1 of 7 during the stretch, which was capped by a 3 by Early that made it 55-46 with 12:15 to play.

Peyton Manning and the Broncos will be the last playoff team in action this postseason.

After taking Wildcard Weekend off, the Broncos will play a second-round game on Sunday, Jan. 12.

Saturday: No. 5 Kansas City at No. 4 Indianapolis, 3:35 p.m. CST (NBC).

No. 6 New Orleans at No. 3 Philadelphia, 7 p.m. CST (NBC). Sunday: No. 6 San Diego at No. 3 Cincinnati, 12:05 p.m. CST (CBS). Regular-season result: Bengals 17, Chargers 10 at San Diego in Week 13.

No. 5 San Francisco at No. 4 Green Bay, 3:30 p.m. CST (Fox).

Which football fans will be toasting victories?

After a beautiful weekend of watching six bowl games in about 30 hours, *Free Press* relentless lounge R.B. Headley was suddenly struck with these six thoughts:.

Thought one: Never dump Gatorade on Kansas State coach Bill Snyder again except for a national championship, though he did appear happy in the above story.

Initially, It touched off the most awkward "oh no, what did we just do?" victory celebration in football history.

Thought two: I should have spent the weekend with family. More holiday cookie plates were just a few feet away back home.

Thought three: Teddy Bridgewater's the best quarterback outside of Florida State's Jameis Winston. He and the 12-1 Louisville Cardinals are a Top 10 team that everyone forgot about.

Thought four: Oh no, I forgot to vacuum during TV timeouts. I keep flipping to Big Bang Theory reruns during breaks instead. Oh well.

Thought five: Michigan would

rather be eating Buffalo Wild Wings than playing this game against K-State. Expect more Big Ten bashing, since the league's already 0-4 in bowls counting new members Maryland and Rutgers.

Thought six: I shouldn't try to come up with six thoughts on a Monday morning.

Anyhoo, R.B. and AP sportswriter Ralph Russo both finished 4-3 with picks for the bowl weekend. Only 19 more selections remain, throwing out today's Middle Tennessee-Navy game because it's already kicked off (Navy leading 10-3). Here are the contests through New Year's Day:

Today

Music City Bowl: Mississippi (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5). Russo: **Ole Miss 31-21**. R.B.: Rebels vs. Ramblin' Wreck, I can relate to both nicknames. I'll be rebel and take **Georgia Tech 27-23**.

Alamo: Oregon (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4). Russo: **Oregon 42-24**. R.B.: No reason to take Texas, thought I'd like to see coach Mack Brown finish with an upset victory. **Texas 37-34**.

Holiday: Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5). Russo: **ASU 62-35**. R.B.: Wow, 62 a lot of points though Tech did look lousy down the stretch. **ASU 52-35**.

Tuesday

Independence: Arizona (7-5) vs. Boston College (7-5). Russo: **Arizona 31-27**. R.B.: Better game than most expect, with the nation's two best running backs (B.C.'s Andrew Williams, Arizona's Kaedem Carey) on display. I'll take another upset. **Boston College 34-29**.

Sun: UCLA (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (8-4). Russo: **UCLA 23-10**. R.B.: I always enjoy watching this El Paso Bowl game between the desert hills and cliffs. Often better scenery than the actual game. **UCLA 30-17**.

Liberty: Rice (10-3) vs. Mississippi State (6-6). Russo: **MSU 24-20**. R.B.: Bowls are often about who really wants to play one more game between the holiday parties. Rice hasn't had many chances to play bowls recently. **Rice 28-24**.

Chick-Fi-La Bowl: Texas A&M (8-4) vs. Duke (10-3). Russo:

It might be more fun to watch Johnny Football ring in the New Year after the game. **Texas A&M 52-30**. R.B.: My Liberty Bowl logic means I should take studious school like Duke, but they do have to stop Johnny Football. **A&M 48-34**.

Wednesday

Heart of Dallas: North Texas (8-4) vs. UNLV (6-6). Russo: **North Texas 31-21**. R.B.: Game kicks off at 11 a.m. in Dallas, which will be 9 a.m. in Vegas. New Year's morning at 9 a.m., how many of us will be ready for anything? **North Texas 34-24**.

Gator Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4). Russo: **Georgia 35-24**. R.B.: Georgia beat Nebraska just a year ago in the Capital Bowl. I'm counting on overconfidence along with my corn-cob-based bias. **Nebraska 27-26**.

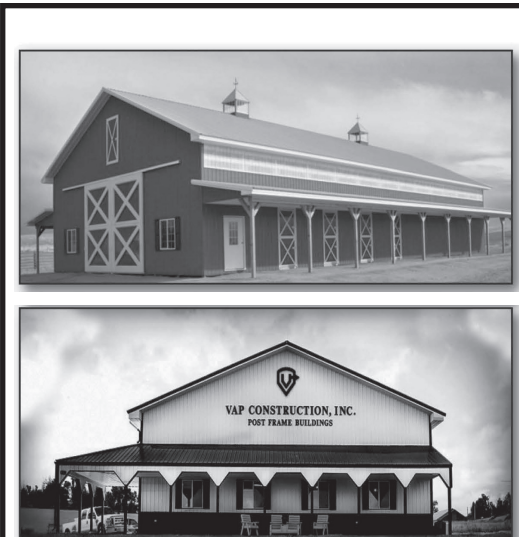
Capitol One: Wisconsin (9-3)

vs. South Carolina (10-2). Russo: **Wisconsin 27-24**. R.B.: Sorry, I like Bucky Badger, but two Big Ten wins over SEC is not too likely. **South Carolina 30-21**.

Outback: LSU (9-3) vs. Iowa (8-4). Russo: Last time these teams met, Iowa spoiled Nick Saban's final game at LSU. Could be crazy again. **LSU 24-21**. Russo: Again, Huskers and Hawkeyes both win? **LSU 33-24**.

Rose: Michigan State (12-1) vs. Stanford (11-2). Russo: **Stanford 27-21**. R.B.: Everyone agrees this will be a physical fight that could go either way, so I'll take the other way. **Michigan State 24-21**.

Fiesta: Baylor (12-1) vs. Central Florida (12-1). Russo: **Baylor 65-35**. R.B.: Central Florida beat Louisville and again, I think the Knights deserve more respect. But not enough to win this one. **Baylor: 45-34**.



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