

Wrestlers win final dual before regionals

By Sharon Corcoran
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The Goodland High boys won their final wrestling dual before regional competition last Friday, beating the Oakley Plainsmen 36-26 in Oakley.

The next day, the junior varsity squad was at the Bill Voss Novice tournament at Colby,

In Oakley, the Cowboys pinned three Plainsmen, won four matches by decision and received one forfeit.

Freshman Nathan Deeds pinned Michael Halblieb at 130 pounds, junior Keegan Smith pinned Brett Ringelman at 145 and senior Bob Doxon pinned Zach Riggs at heavy-weight. Junior Kade Sheldon beat Andrew Peterson 7-2 at 112, sophomore Lorenzo Delgado beat Kyle Zerr 6-4 at 135, senior A.J. Stephens beat Brad Halblieb 4-1 at 140 and junior Vance Johnson beat Ethan Jirak 2-1 at 171. Junior Fernando Martinez received a forfeit at 189.

Junior Ryan Taylor lost 5-2 to Kelly Younkin at 160, freshman Seth Miller was pinned by Jace Campbell at 119, freshman Kayler Rietcheck was pinned by Steve Samuelson at 125, junior T.J. Freeman was pinned by Cody Stewart at 152 and senior Ren Scherling lost by technical fall to Aaron Racette at 215. Freeman was filling in for Aaron Deeds, who hurt his knee in practice and sat out the dual to be ready for regionals.

"I was very pleased with our performance before regional," said Coach Joseph Sramek. "We got a good dual win against a very good Oakley team and finished our season with a dual record of 12-5."

The regional tournament will be at Clearwater High School southwest of Wichita. It will feature some of the best wrestlers in the state, Sramek said, and Colby will be the favorite going into the tournament.

"I feel that our team is prepared to compete well at regional," he said, "and with a good tournament, we could qualify several wrestlers for state."

Also competing at regional will be Andale, Buhler, Cheney, Clearwater, Haven, Hesston, Hugoton, Lindsborg-Smoky Valley, Mulvane, Nickerson, Pratt, Russell, Ulysses and Wellington.

State wrestling will be Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23, at the Salina Bicentennial Center.

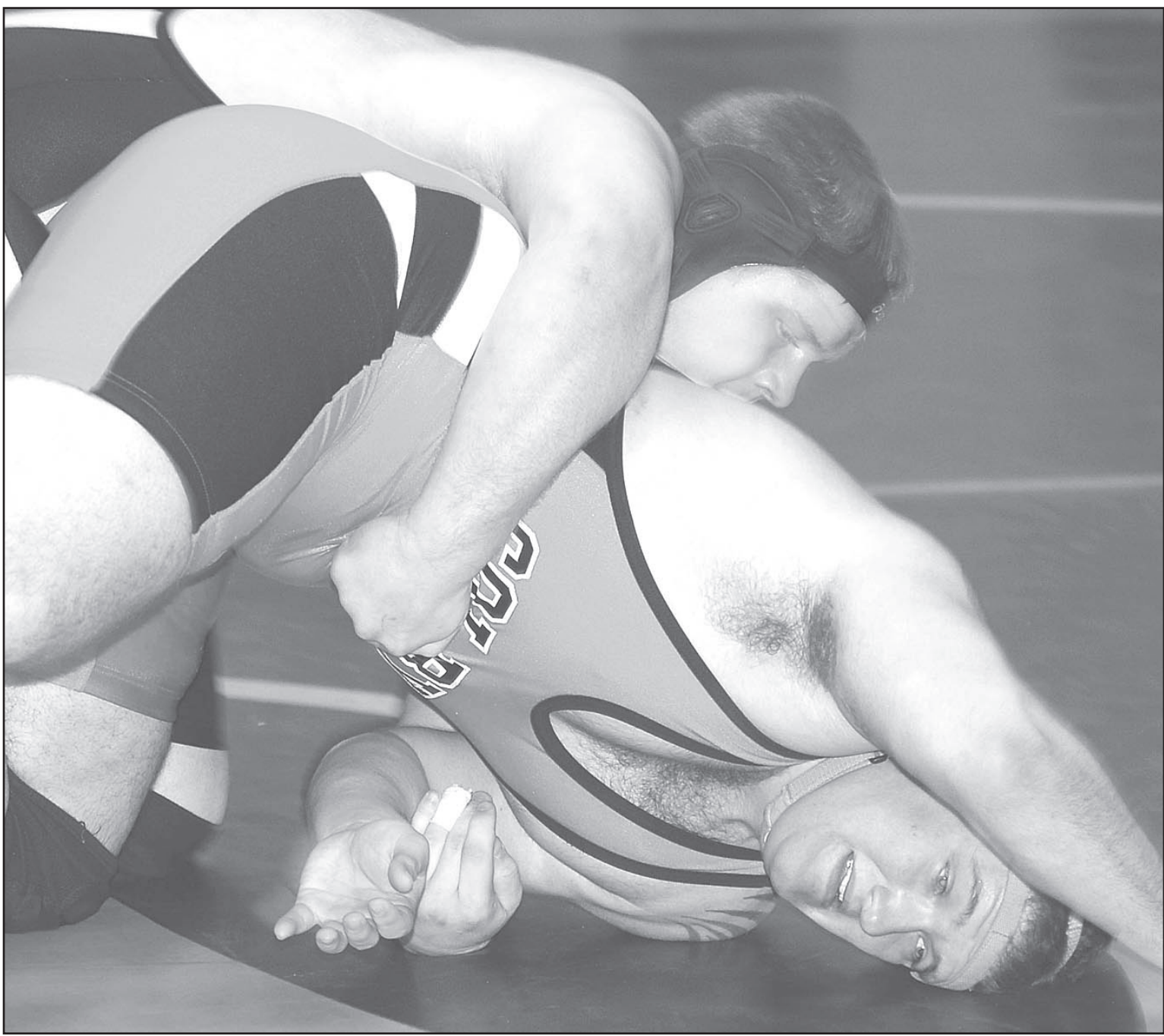
The junior varsity wrestlers finished up their season at the Colby tournament, Sramek said.

Sophomore Jay Cotter placed first at 215, sophomore Paul Starr was second at 171, junior Bryan Gray third at 145 and junior Tanner Oharra fourth at 215.

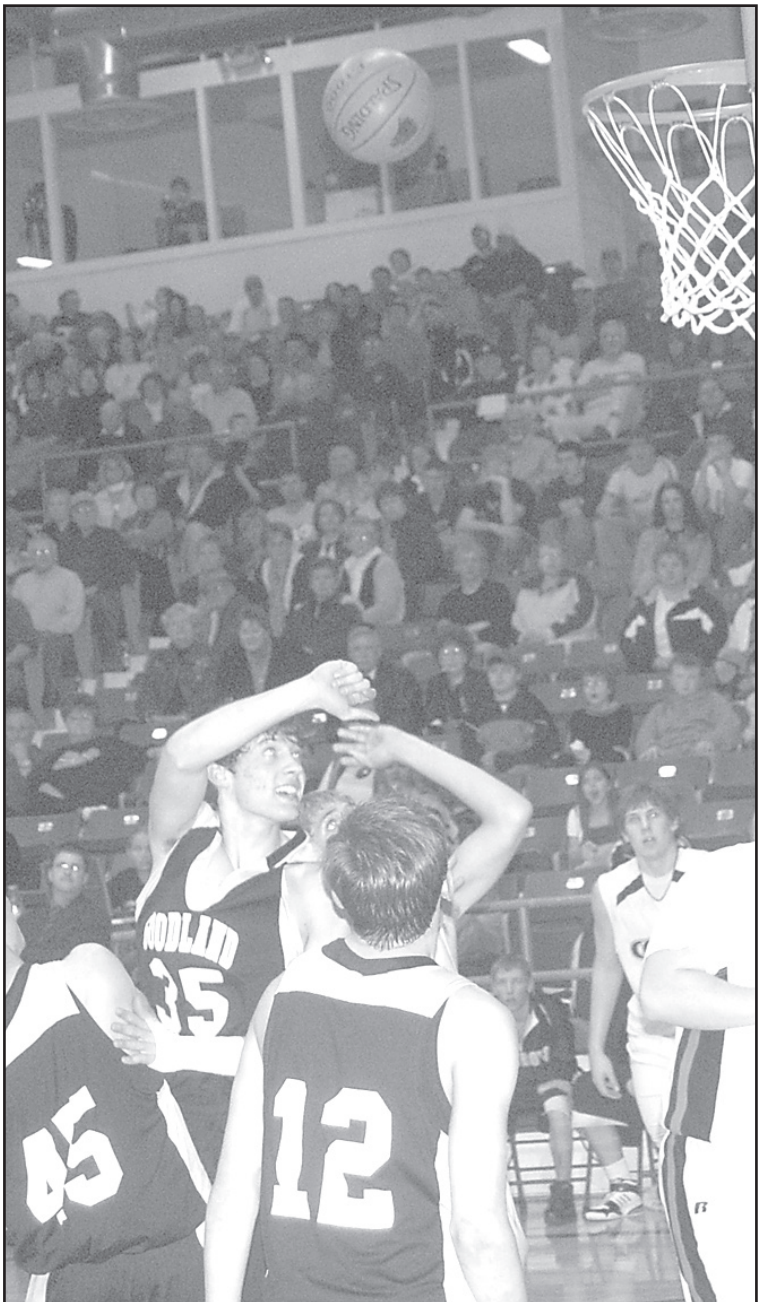
Senior Martin Stadelman, junior T.J. Freeman, sophomore Savannah Short and sophomore Hector Sarinana did not place.

"I just want to thank these kids with all hard work and effort that they put into season," Sramek said. "They did an excellent job all year and did what it took to become better at wrestling."

Senior Bob Doxon pinned Taylor Brown of Colby to win the heavyweight championship at the Northwest Kansas League wrestling tournament Jan. 27 in Colby. He pinned Zach Riggs in a dual against Oakley on Friday,



Cowboys fall to 10th ranked Colby Eagles



Cowboys senior Forrest Trachsel (35) put up a shot in the game against the Colby Eagles on Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. The Cowboys lost 65-48.

Photo by Joey Falkoff/The Colby Free Press

By Tom Betz
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The Colby Eagles clinched the Northwest Kansas League title by beating the Goodland Cowboys on Tuesday at the Colby Community Building, 65-48.

The two teams had been tied in league play before the game. The Eagles, ranked 10th in Class 4A in several statewide polls, remain undefeated in the league with a 6-0 league record and are 14-4 for the season. The Cowboys fell to 5-1 in the league and 8-11 for the season.

Tuesday, the Cowboys fell behind in the first quarter 14-4. They tied the game at 14 early in the second quarter on a 10-point run. Then the Eagles went on an 11-point run to take the lead, 25-14. The Cowboys tried again to come back with a six-point run, cutting the Eagles' lead to 31-24 at half time.

The Cowboys got within 2 points, 36-34, half way through the third quarter. The Eagles responded with another run to lead 46-36 at the end of the period.

The Cowboys cut the lead back to single digits in the first part of the fourth quarter, but the Eagles went on another run to lead 57-40 with 4:38 left. The Cowboys tried again, but the Eagles scored the last points with about two minutes left to make it 65-48, then ran the clock out.

Cowboys Coach Brad Bergsma said he thinks Colby will be the top seed in the substate, noting that the Eagles are ranked in the top 10 in

Class 4A in most polls.

"Last night they played like it," Bergsma said. "Colby players Ethan Stover and Levi Schlick are both very good high school basketball players, and we didn't do enough to slow them down."

Stover was the high scorer for Colby with 24 points, the first eight points in the first quarter. Schlick was the other Eagle in double figures with 14.

"I thought defensively that was the most hustle we've seen out of our kids all year," Bergsma said, "and I was very proud of their effort."

"Offensively, we looked good at times with our execution. However, we continue to struggle with our patience. The majority of our turnovers last night were unforced, and I felt like our shot selection could have been better."

Junior Brandon Rome led the Cowboys with 13 points and had the teams first four points in the first quarter, with the first of two baskets coming with six minutes left and the second about a minute later on a pass from junior Greg Farris.

Senior Grant Wilkens had 10 points, junior Travis Angelos 9, Farris and senior Forrest Trachsel 6 each and senior Josh Doke had 4.

The Cowboys shot 35 percent (17 for 35) and had 20 turnovers to 13 for the Eagles.

"I told the kids last night that they should be excited," Bergsma said, "because we didn't play near our

best basketball, yet were right in the game until the three-minute stretch in the fourth."

The Cowboys will be in Hoxie tonight for the last game of the regular season, and Bergsma said it will be a tough game. He said he thinks the boys can win if they correct the small mistakes that cost them against the Eagles.

"At Hoxie, we will see more of the same," Bergsma said. "We are going to continue to work on our defensive pressure, and try see how different combinations of players work together."

"It will be our last chance to evaluate schemes, sets and rotations before we head into post season play. We have talked to the kids about ending the season with a win and the importance of effort at this time of year."

The game at Hoxie is the last before substate, and Bergsma thinks the Cowboys have a good chance to play their first-round game at home

Tuesday, Feb. 26.

"Substate, whew!" he said. "Unless we've got some teams that are not reporting games to the host, it looks like we are pretty much locked into the third seed, which means a first-round home game."

"After us, it looks like anything can happen, so we are honestly up in the air with who we'll play."

He said the bracket will be set on Wednesday. The other teams in the substate will be Colby, Russell (5-12), Hugoton (5-12), Ulysses (5-11), Pratt (3-15), Nickerson (10-7), and Kingman (4-12). All have games tonight and Tuesday that could affect the seeding, Bergsma said.

Asst. Regional Director

The West Region Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is now recruiting for an **Assistant Regional Director** (Public Service Executive III) in the Community Capacity Development unit. The Regional Service Center base is negotiable within the West Region. This position serves as the leader of a team responsible for helping communities in the Region identify their own needs and helping them build capacity while designing solutions to meet their own needs. Work includes directing the development and management of the regional volunteer program and leading the addiction and prevention services work in the Region. Along with overseeing the development of capacity to provide services in communities where on-site services are not available, the position also directs the planning and development of a service delivery system in communities where there are no SRS offices. Other duties involve serving as a member of the Regional Leadership Team who develops and approves Region budgets, ensures policy distribution, and coordinates use of human resources including Agency staff, contractors, vendors, and providers.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Three years of experience in planning, organizing and directing the work of a department, program or agency. Education may be substituted for experience as determined relevant by the agency. Transcripts are required at time of application if you are substituting education for experience or wishing to have it considered for the preferred screening criteria. Criteria may include: A broad knowledge of Agency programs, successful experience in financial and human resource management, and demonstrated leadership ability at the administrative level. Knowledge of communities and community resources and service needs for the 46 counties in the West Region SRS.

For more information or to apply, contact Danna Knoll at 620-272-5975. Applications must be received on or before 5:00 PM, Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

Or apply on line at <http://www.jobs.ks.gov>

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Program Consultant I

SRS is recruiting for a **Program Consultant I** position with office location negotiable (SRS Service Centers at Colby, Dodge City, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Liberal, Phillipsburg, or Pratt).

This position is part of a performance improvement team responsible for providing quality assurance monitoring of children and family services and adult protective services. Primary functions of this position are to review case files for compliance and provide technical assistance and training to assist with performance improvement. This position also serves as the Region's liaison to adoptive families. If you have strong organizational and communication skills, are recognized for your follow-through and attention to detail, and have a desire to play a key role in strengthening supports for adoptive families then put your skills and abilities to work in an environment that is both challenging and rewarding with a team committed to making a positive difference.

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Please contact Carol Harris at 620-672-5955 x 202 for additional information and application materials. Or apply on line at www.jobs.ks.gov. Applications accepted through 5:00 PM, Friday, 2/22/08.

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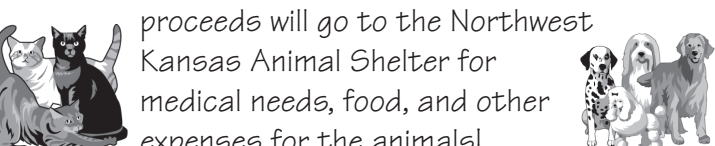
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