

Colby wins first round at Salina

By Joey Falkoff

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The last time the Colby Lady Eagles took the Bicentennial Floor, they went on to capture their first state championship in school history.

A year later, it appears the magic never left.

Instead of the nervous stomachs and heart palpitations the Lady Eagles provided fans in their 63-53 double-overtime win over Columbus in last year's first round, Colby took control early in the second quarter and kept on rolling as they trounced No. 8 seed Andale 70-41 Wednesday in Salina.

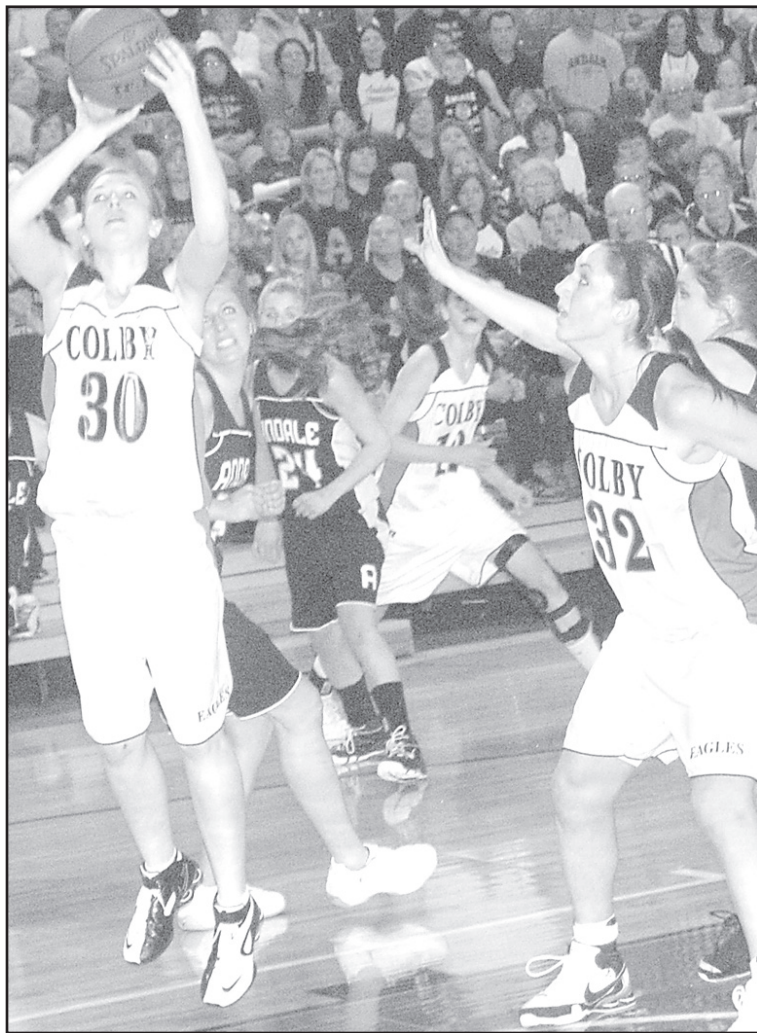
Colby improved to 24-0 and advanced to the state semifinals, where they will take on Holton at 2 p.m. today. Holton defeated Basehor-Linwood 55-51 Wednesday. Andale finished their season 15-9.

"This was definitely a lot better than last year," said senior Paige Stephens, who was one of four Lady Eagles in double-figures with 11 points. "It's nice to get that first win out of the way."

All of Stephens' points came in the first half, which saw the Lady Eagles turn a 15-13 lead after the first quarter into a 37-23 lead at the break. Andale never got within nine points in the second half, and Colby led by as many as 30.

"Paige got a lot of confidence going for us," said Lady Eagle head coach Parker McKee, who was coaching in his first state tournament game. "She set the tone for everything."

"It's fair to say the girls were



Taylor Young of Colby went up for a shot against the Andale Indians Wednesday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. The Lady Eagles trounced the Indians 70-41 in the first round of the state tournament and advanced to play Holton at 2 p.m. today.

Photo by Joey Falkoff/The Colby Free Press

focused and determined to get at least one win."

It's one even he had to be impressed with.

After being taken to the brink Saturday in the substate finals by an underdog Ulysses team (36-35), Colby responded by playing one of their most complete games of the year.

The Lady Eagles shot 57.8 percent (26 of 45) from the floor and added to it with a 89.5 percent (17 of 19) effort from the free throw line, including hitting all 15 attempts in the second half.

On the defensive end, Colby held Andale to just over 30 percent shooting for the game, including 28 percent in the first half. The Lady Eagles also won the battle on the boards 33-18.

"The difference between today and Saturday was the focus of our girls," said McKee. "We played to win instead of not to lose. It makes a big difference when we are the aggressive team."

That aggressiveness, Stephens said, was a byproduct of the confidence they had from playing in this environment last year.

"It felt a lot smaller than last year," said Stephens. "We were a little more used to it after playing here three times."

Andale head coach Mark Kerschen agreed the Lady Eagles looked pretty comfortable in what's becoming their home away from home.

"Their experience showed more than our inexperience," said Kerschen, whose team features just one senior. "They were calm, cool. You could tell they've played a few games here before."

No two Lady Eagles found the

setting more inviting than April Gee and Lissa Mazanec.

Gee led the Lady Eagles with 21 points and 13 rebounds on just 7-9 shooting. She had 15 of her 21 points in the second half and was also 7-7 at the free throw line.

Mazanec finished with 18 points on 8-13 shooting.

The Indians, who don't have one player taller than 5' 11", had no answer for either girl inside.

Colby started quick and led 15-7 late in the first quarter, but Andale closed the quarter with a 6-0 run and appeared to have the momentum.

Sensing that very thing, McKee switched to a 2-3 zone defense at the start of the second quarter, and it threw the Indians out of whack.

Colby was able to run off nine straight points and open up a 24-13 lead.

"We played more zone than we have all year," said McKee. "We had some foul trouble early on, and we knew they had only hit 6 of 36 three-pointers. They had a hard time adjusting to our zone because it was so unpredictable."

Andale got as close as 37-28 early in the third quarter, but the Lady Eagles closed the quarter with a 17-5 spurt to lead 54-33. Gee had 11 of her 21 points in the third period.

In a stacked field that includes two other undefeated teams in Andover Central and Abilene, the Lady Eagles sent an early message that someone still has to take the trophy away from them.

"We're just trying to get some business done," said Stephens.

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Area teams compete at state

Although Goodland didn't make it into the state Class 4A basketball tournament, the Colby Lady Eagles (24-0) won their first round of the state tournament in spectacular fashion, and a few other area teams are competing this week as well.

The Colby girls beat Andale 70-41 Wednesday at the Salina Bicentennial Center and go on to face Holton (23-1) at 2 p.m. today.

If Colby wins they will face the winner of the Andover Central and Abilene teams (both 24-0) in the championship game at 3 p.m. on Saturday. If Colby loses today they will play for third place at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

In Class 4A boys the Colby Eagles (18-5) were to face Hesston (21-2) in the first round Thursday, and if Colby won they would face the winner of Topeka-Hayden (22-1) vs. Wamego (16-7) at 3:45 p.m. today. The winner of today's game will advance to the championship game at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, and the loser will play for third place at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

In Class 1A, the Weskan girls (22-3), coached by Andy Scheopner of Goodland, were to face Dexter (22-3) Thursday at Fort Hays State University. The winner will face the winner of Olpe (25-0) vs. Wheatland-Grinnell (18-6) today.

In the Class 1A boys bracket,

the Sharon Springs Wildcats (20-4) faced Hanover (23-2) Wednesday at Fort Hays State. The Wildcats lost 52-47. Hanover will face Olpe, who beat Natoma (20-4) 58-47.

Also competing in Class 1A were the Greensburg boys, whose town and school were destroyed by a tornado less than a year ago. They lost 56-30 in the first round to Colony-Crest.

In Class 3A, the Norton Lady Blue Jays (16-7) were to face Wichita-Collegiate (20-3) at the Hutchinson Sports Arena. The winner will face the winner of Cimarron (22-1) vs. Allen-Northern Heights (15-8) today.



The Goodland Star-News

& The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce

and the area Ambassadors welcome Crop Production Services.

In an effort to highlight businesses correctly, The Goodland Star-News apologizes for the former errors that were printed regarding this company.

With its headquarters located in Garden City, Kansas, Crop Production Services has facilities located across the United States, and now they have added Goodland, KS, as another location.

Crop Production Services offers custom-blended fertilizers, seed, agricultural chemicals and custom applications. Crop Production Services' main goal is to help provide quality products to area farmers, so that the farmers can have the best possible crops year after year.

Manager J.B. Renteria seems to have the perfect vision. "We want to get involved in the community and be proactive" he explained. Crop Production Services wants to be a part of building vibrant communities.

Other employees at Crop Production Services include Jay O'Brien, Jose Dominguez, John Farmer, Alvaro Sandoval and Joyce Fisher. Jay deals with the sales aspect of the company; Jose handles the safety of the employees within the company, John and Alvaro are rig operators and Joyce is the Administrative Coordinator, or "glorified bookkeeper" as she affectionately calls it!

With crop prices being where they are right now, Crop Production Services is hoping to have a busy year helping area farmers. They can be reached at 1723 Wyoming or 785-899-3636 as they share an office space with ADM Grain Company.

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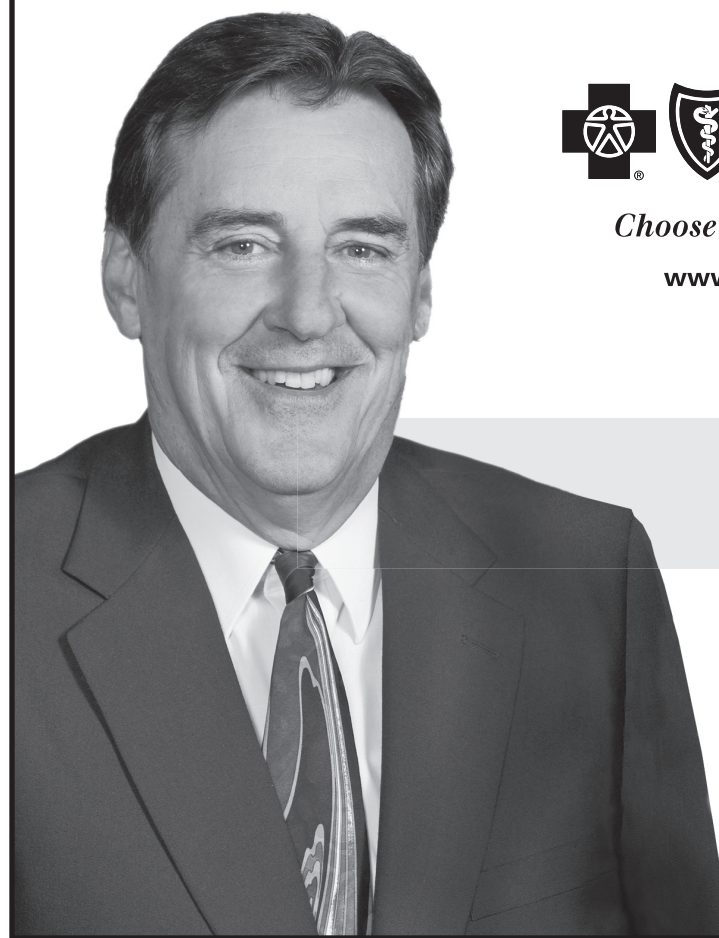
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