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(Neb.)-Eagles hold first practice Monday



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 08/12/2013 08:32 PM

CHADRON – The Chadron State College football team had a successful opening day of practice Monday in Chadron as 141 student-athletes practiced for the first time together in 2013.

"It's exciting to come up to the practice fields and see the guys playing football again," second-year head coach Jay Long said. "I still get a great feeling when I come up here and see guys competing."

The Eagles, who reported to fall camp Sunday afternoon, opened Monday with an offensive and defensive walk through, a variety of physical tests and position meetings before trekking to the practice field south of campus. For the remainder of the year, the team will have to walk west on 12th Street because of the vast construction happening behind Armstrong Gymnasium for its renovation.

The Eagles, who wore helmets Monday, will also wear helmets Tuesday before going half-rack Wednesday and Thursday. Their first full-pad practice is Friday and they'll also have 11-on-11 drills during Saturday's practice at 10 a.m.

"Since camp is only a week this season, we really have to maintain our focus," Long said. "We want to find out what we do well, improve on that and find our identity."

The Eagles, who went 9-3 in 2012 and qualified for the NCAA Division II Playoffs, open their season Thursday, Sept. 5 at Missouri Science and Technology.