

Trojans pass final

The Trojan basketball program wishes everyone in Northwest Kansas a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year! We finished our first semester with an overall record of 10-3. We have one remaining non-conference game on Jan. 5 at Kansas Wesleyan.

Barring a major collapse we should complete our non-league schedule with an 11-3 mark. The 11 wins would break the record of 10 in the non-conference portion of the season.

We have improved each of my three seasons. In 1999-2000 we were 5-8, in 2000-2001 we were 9-5 and 2001-2002 we are 10-3 and better be 11-3.

Our Jayhawk Conference record improved from year one (3-13) to year two (6-10). Let's hope the trend continues.

As I look at the Jayhawk West there seems to be one clear favorite. Barton County is 11-0 and ranked #2 in the nation. Both Garden City (12-2) and Seward County (12-2) are receiving votes for the top 20 poll. Once again it will be a very tough and competitive Jayhawk West. Check out the records of all Jayhawk West teams below. Impressive!

The basketball Trojans completed their first final exam of the semester last Wednesday. We hosted Mid-Plains (North Platte, Neb.) at the Colby Community Building and won 86-68. We played very good basketball in stretches.

We jumped out to a 14-0 lead only to see the Knights come back (they had won 8 of 9 games) which I fully expected. We lead 37-33 at the break and broke the game open the final eight minutes of the game.

Keyon Williams was welcomed back to the line-up after missing three games with an ankle injury. Keyon struggled in the first half but finished strong scoring 19 in the second half to rack up a total of 25 points.

Dedric Spooner set a new school record with 10 blocks. Tony Tucker started his first game since the very beginning of the year and played very well. Mike Wolters returned to his role of coming off the bench and was outstanding (14 points, four assists). Give the Trojans an A- for their final test. The players will now focus on their academic final exams that begin today.

We finished 5-1 in games at home, 3-0 in road games (over McCook, Mid-Plains, and Casper), and 2-2 in games on a neutral court. We were 3-2 in games decided by five points or less. Our three losses have come to the hands of winning teams: Ricks, Idaho (7-2), Johnson County (11-2) and McCook, Neb. (11-6). We started the season with an impressive 6-game win streak.

I would give our ball club a B+ grade for this semester. We showed some toughness and character in fighting through a great deal of adversity (all the injuries). Each player had the opportunity to step up and most often that player did make solid contributions.

Your next chance to see the Trojans will be Jan. 9 at the Community Building as we take on Pratt. It's a Jayhawk Conference double header, the

Brian Ostermann

●Power Sports

women's game is at 6 p.m. with the men to follow. Our game sponsor is Culligan of Colby. All tickets will be just \$1. Many of our students will be out of town so we need all of you to load up the car and bring your loudest cheers! It's DOLLAR night!

Jottings

- Top Trojan performances this season. Keyon Williams (scored 34 and 39 in his first two college games and hasn't let up since. His 26.6 ppg leads the Jayhawk Conference), Billy Williams (three double-doubles and a career high 24 points against New Mexico), Dedric Spooner (a school record 10 blocks against Mid-Plains, four double-doubles and averaging 15 points and 11 rebounds per game), Tony Tucker (a 20 point, 20 rebound outing over Panola, Tex.), Stuart Keltner (back to back 16 point, five rebound games at the Jayhawk Shoot-Out), Mike Wolters (nine rebounds in win at McCook), Jason Ven John (eight point, six rebound effort in win at McCook), Brent Brooks (five 3-pointers in 91-61 throttling of Labette at the Shoot-Out). Joe Williams (14 points and six rebs in win over Labette).

- Magic Trojan moments from first semester. Eric Fowlkes hitting a 3-pointer with under 40 seconds to play in overtime giving the Trojans a 3-point lead. Stuart Keltner's 3-pointer with less than two minutes to play at Mid-Plains giving the Trojans a four point cushion. We went on to win by five.

- All I want for Christmas is a healthy basketball team! I got my two front teeth a long time ago!

- The status of suspended player Donte Hammond (conduct detrimental to the team) will be reviewed this week. He may or may not rejoin the team. Donte played in six games and averaged 12 points-per-game.

- The Lady Trojans have a 6-8 record and their non-conference schedule is complete.

- Steve Lampe once again has assembled a tough wrestling team. Matt Murray is really special and has a great chance to win a National Championship. The Tournament of Champions will be at the community building Jan. 4-5. It should be awesome!

- I want to thank Gambino's, Taco John's, Subway, and Thomas County Feeders for donating food to feed the guys!

- Our first home game of the New Year is Wednesday Jan. 9 against Pratt. It is the Jayhawk Conference opener for both teams.

- Jayhawk Western Division men's basketball standings as of Dec. 17: 1. #2 Barton County, 11-0; 2. Seward County, 12-2; 3. Garden City, 12-2; 4. Hutchinson, 9-2; 5. Colby, 10-3; 6. Butler County, 10-3; 7. Dodge City, 8-5; 8. Pratt, 7-5; 9. Cloud County, 7-5.

Setting up



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Desiree Sharp set up the Colby High School offense in a 62-25 home win over Oakley Friday night. The Lady Eagles are in Wray, Colo. tonight to finish the pre-Christmas season.

Football At-A-Glance

New Orleans not as tolerant as Cleveland

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — This time, the bottle throwing was over almost as quickly as it started. And 13 people went to jail.

A day after fans in Cleveland threw bottles and other objects to protest the overturning of a game-deciding call by replay, a section of fans got rowdy in New Orleans.

Unlike the fans in Cleveland, who caused the last 48 seconds of the Browns' loss to Jacksonville to be played a half-hour later, these fans delayed the game less than a minute.

There were 13 arrests on charges including drunk and disorderly, resisting arrest and battery. Another 15 people were ejected from the Superdome.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans Saints suspended wide receiver Albert Connell for the final four games of the season and fined him an

additional paycheck "for conduct detrimental to the team."

Browns president apologizes

CLEVELAND (AP) — With more time to reflect, Browns president Carmen Policy apologized to everyone.

Everyone, that is, except the "hooligans" who threw beer bottles at NFL officials and the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Policy said he made a mistake Sunday by not criticizing fans who hurled bottles and other debris onto the field because they were angry about a last-minute call that helped the Jaguars beat

Eagles, northwest wrestlers in poll

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Three Colby Eagles are ranked among the top 10 wrestlers in their weight classes in the last Kansas Wrestling Coaches Class 4A poll before the Christmas break.

The Eagles will have opportunity to sharpen their skills as many of the top wrestlers have come out of the northwest region.

Danny Mainus is considered the best wrestler at 112-pounds in Kansas. Mainus' competition includes Blayze Bahe, Goodland, ranked second and Brett McChesney, Norton.

Eric Luedke is second at 130-pounds, behind Goodland's Bryce Bahe. Scott City's Aaron Dirks is ranked fifth.

Adam Smith, out with a leg injury, is still ranked second at 215. Smith is a possible after Christmas, but the Eagles are taking a wait and see stance.

Here are the other northwestern Kansas wrestlers in the latest 1-4A polls:

Class 4A

103 — Dexter Deeds, Goodland, 5th
125 — Kyle Schulte, Goodland, 6th
135 — Brice Eisenhour, Scott City, 5th

140 — Eric Johnson, Norton, 1st
145 — Chase Frank, Scott City, 3rd
152 — Tim Sprigg, Norton, 1st
160 — Jon Hausserman, Norton, 2nd

Class 3-2-1A

103 — Levi Younkin, Oakley, 3rd.

112 — Charlie Ochs, Hoxie, 2nd.

119 — Tyrel Spillman, Hoxie, 1st; Brent Olson, Oberlin, 5th.

125 — Matt Gilliland, Hoxie, 1st; Matt Coleman, Oberlin, 3rd.

130 — Calvin Wood, Phillipsburg, 4th; Jay Lewis, Hoxie, 6th

135 — Jason Schippers, Hoxie, 1st; Chance Harman, Oberlin, 2nd.

140 — Tucker Reuber, Atwood, 5th.

145 — Ryan Zwegardt, St. Francis, 3rd.

152 — Scott Wise, Plainville, 1st; Bobby Dennis, Oakley, 2nd; Ty Long, St. Francis, 5th.

160 — Blake Pilkinton, Oakley, 1st; Jeremiah Wiley, St. Francis, 4th.

171 — Sean O'Brien, Oakley, 2nd; Dustin Lewis, Hoxie, 5th.

189 — Justin Cooper, Hoxie, 5th; Ben Swihart, St. Francis, 6th.

215 — T.J. Staab, Plainville, 1st; Neil Brown, Oakley, 3rd; J.P. Rice, Phillipsburg, 5th.

275 — Andrew Ubben, Phillipsburg, 1st.

Here are the team rankings for the latests poll:

Class 4A — 1. **Norton**; 2. Clay Center; 3. **Colby**; 4. Spring Hill; 5. **Scott City**; 6. Basehor-Linwood; 7. **Goodland**; 8. Fort Scott; 9. Santa Fe Trail; 10. Chanute.

Class 3-2-1A — 1. **Hoxie**; 2. Effingham; 3. **Oakley**; 4. **Phillipsburg**; 5. Minneapolis; 6. Wellsville; 7. Rossville; 8. Sabetha; 9. Royal Valley; 10. Russell, **St. Francis** (tie).9

tore part of the hamstring loose from the bone during a 15-14 loss to the New York Jets.

Washington legend to return for 20th season.

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — The farewell tour is over. Darrell Green plans to come back for a 20th NFL season.

The 41-year-old Washington Redskins cornerback said he no longer intends to retire after the season, a change of heart spurred by the fans and made possible by an improved relationship with coach Marty Schottenheimer.



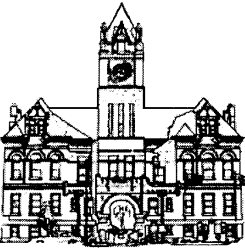
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