

Trojans ready for finale vs. Barton



Brian Ostermann

Power Sports

Our record-breaking season concludes Wednesday night as we face defending Region VI Champion, Barton County at the Colby Community Building.

The game is sponsored by Nancy & Lyle Saddler. Women's tip-off is set for 6 p.m. and the men's game will follow at 8 p.m. Wear your Trojan blue and show your spirit.

Playing in their final home contest Wednesday are Billy Williams, Brent Brooks, and Corey Brown. We thank each of these young men for their contributions to our program. We also thank their local hoops family for their support the past couple of years.

Barton County enters the game with a 20-8 record. Their conference mark stands at 9-5, and they are in third place. A season ago we defeated Barton in Colby 93-83. Barton finished fourth in the league standings last season but won the Region VI title and finished seventh in the National Tournament.

We enter Wednesday night's game with a 16-13 overall mark. The young Trojans have been very tough at home. We have lost just four home games all season and those have been by a total of six points. In two previous home games the Trojans defeated then #16 Seward County 78-76 and then Garden City 77-76.

The Trojans lost the last meeting between the teams played in Great Bend by just 4 points. We are 9-4 at home on the year and 5-7 on the road. We are 2-2 on a neutral floor.

Last season we made major strides in building a Jayhawk West Conference contender. We had the best record in our five-year history in the Jayhawk Conference, including wins over Hutchinson and Barton County.

The team qualified for the Region VI playoffs for the second straight season. This season we have been able to surpass last season's mark and set a new record. We are currently 16-13 and have qualified for the Region VI playoffs for a third consecutive season. We are also assured of our first winning season since joining the Jayhawk.

Our young team has really played well the past three ball games. We played very hard at Seward County. Seward is the league leader and we were in the game until the very end. We

returned home last Wednesday for a big time win over the defending conference champs, Butler County. It was the most unselfish performance of the season. We had 22 assists and only six turnovers. Onto a showdown at Hutch on Saturday. We had a real solid first half and a rare half-time lead (we were up by 5). Hutch came back and built a lead to 9, we responded and sent the game to overtime only to lose it in the overtime. We are playing good team basketball at the right time. We look forward to building on our efforts Wednesday night against Barton County.

Our goal was to finish the final three regular season games in a positive and first class fashion. We have been doing very well in achieving that goal. Your support will go a long way to helping our spirit!

We have four freshman starting, including two northwest Kansas products, Stuart Keltner (Hays) and Mike Wolters (St. Francis). This team is knocking on the door and our freshmen are learning each time out. This young group continues to really need your support as we attempt to build on our season.

Jottings

- Our twins will arrive Thursday morning. Life will be forever changed!
- Freshman Eric Fowlkes (Milwaukee) had a career high 29 points at

Hutch on Saturday.

- We have faced Hutch six times the past three years and less than seven points have decided all the games. I would say we have closed the gap on one of the premier junior college programs. We have just one win in the six tries but it was the first in school history.

- Both Tony Tucker and Jason VenJohn celebrated birthdays this week.

- Hats off to Pepsi I of Colby for supporting Colby Community College Men's Basketball! Thank you!

- Barton County's feature player is 6'11" Robert Whaley. He originally signed at the University of Missouri but ran into some major league problems. He is projected as a late first-early second-round draft selection if he chooses to go pro after this season.

- It wasn't long ago this program was down in the dumps. The first three seasons in the Jayhawk Conference, Colby had records of 5-15, 10-19, 10-19. After a rocky start our first season at 8-22, we have raised the bar to 15-16 and this season 16-13 to date. Darrin Spence was the coach in '96-'97, Bill Morse took over from '97-'99, and I was announced as head coach in 1999. The improvement of our program has been a result of everyone in this community and at the college pulling together.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Parents of the Colby High School boys and girls varsity basketball teams were busy Sunday decorating areas of the school with "good luck" messages as the Eagle boys and girls take to the road tonight in first-round action of 4-A substate play in Scott City. Pictured is Lori Stover (right) and Danielle Kaiser (trimming the laminate on Carson McKee) working on pictures of each one of the varsity team members. The larger-than-life lamented pictures of the 11 boys and 11 girls will be visible at tonight's game to support the Eagles.

Eagles in Scott City for substate action

By TOM A. DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Mother Nature, an admitted basketball fan, can't always be at all games on the same night, so at times she creates conditions that delay action to her benefit.

Such was the case for the Colby High School Lady Eagles, scheduled to host Hugoton Monday night in first-round play in 4-A substate

action, but adverse weather conditions caused postponement.

So, today at 4:30 p.m., the Lady Eagles and Hugoton square off in the high school gym at Scott City. Same teams different site.

At 7:30 p.m., also today, the Colby Eagle boys take on Scott City, also in the high school gym at Scott City.

The Lady Eagles take an 18-2 record into the game vs. Hugoton's 1-17.

The Eagle boys are 9-11 and Scott City 11-8.

Winners advance, losers call it a season.

Monday's weather also figured into relining several other games in the western part of the state and those puzzles were being put together overnight. The Free Press will be tracking the progress of various teams in its immediate area.

Trojan Ladies take to the floor against Barton County

HUTCHINSON — Poor shooting contributed to a 70-49 Colby Community College Lady Trojans basketball loss in Hutchinson on Saturday.

The loss puts Colby at 8-21 overall and 2-13 in the Jayhawk West Confer-

ence. They play their final regular season game Wednesday at home against Barton County. Game time is set for 6 p.m. in the Colby Community Building.

Andrea Stephens and Serra Sangar

had 12 points each, while Stephens had 8 rebounds and Sangar had 5 assists. Amanda Ansel had 10 points and 8 rebounds, Kim Desmond had 9 points, and Desiree Bacchus, Irem Akmans and Alex Kwiecinska added 2 points.

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