

Track patcher



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Public School students might be on spring break, but for the district's maintenance crew the work continues in and outside the school buildings. One project that needed attention prior to the start of the spring sport's season was repairing holes on the track at Dennen Field. Don Morton, groundskeeper, is pictured drying one of the patched areas in order to make the track ready for this weekend's Colby Community College invitational track meet on Saturday. The procedure, Morton said, involves cleaning out the hole and then following up with a glue and ground rubber substance to fill the damaged area. The project started on Monday and should be completed by Wednesday, he said.

Williams: title is passion, not obsession

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — This might be the year that Roy Williams stills his critics' mantra. You know how it goes: "He's a good coach, but ..."

Then again, maybe it isn't No. 2 Kansas' year to win its first national title since 1988.

Either way, Williams said, he isn't worried what other people think. His own drive, what he called his "passion" for a national title, is more than enough to motivate him.

If that passion goes unrequited for another year, he can live with that too.

"I do have passion for it. I'm not hesitant to say that," Williams said Monday, during the conference call of the Big 12's NCAA-bound coaches. "Some of my buddies tell me I set myself up for failure, because it's just so hard to do. Every year, only one coach is going to do it."

"To say that I'm driven, yes, I'm driven to do that," he said. "To say that I'm a maniac, that it's the only way I'm going to judge my worth — that's far from the truth. I've said publicly that I've had 13 great, great years with kids that I've really, truly loved."

That hasn't stopped the questions for Williams, whose Jayhawks are seeded

No. 1 in the NCAA's Midwest Regional despite losing the Big 12 tournament championship game 64-55 to No. 3 Oklahoma on Sunday.

"The media, the fans ... keep asking me that question: 'Are you the best coach never to have won it?'" he said. Williams doesn't have an answer for them.

"I think it's sort of flattering to be considered one of the best coaches in any category, even if it's just a category of two people," he said. "I try not to get too caught up in that."

Kansas' string of NCAA tournament bids dates to 1990, Williams' second season.

But after a runner-up finish in 1992 and a Final Four appearance in 1994, the Jayhawks have played in only one regional final, in 1996.

"I think we do a great job, and yet we haven't won a national championship in 13 years," Williams said.

"There's some pretty doggone good coaches and coaching staffs that haven't."

Kansas (29-3), which meets Holy Cross on Thursday in the first round in St. Louis, went unbeaten through the 16-game Big 12 season and won 18

straight games against conference opponents before Sunday's loss.

Against the Sooners, the Jayhawks made only seven field goals in the first half and shot just 33 percent (19-for-57) from the field.

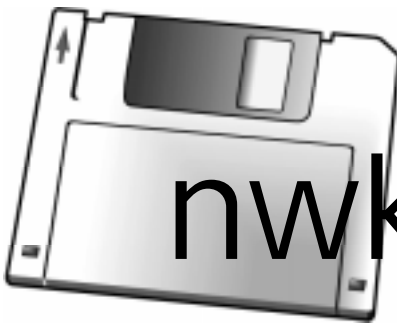
All-Big 12 guard Kirk Hinrich went 0-for-10 from the field and had just four points.

"He will not brush that off," Williams said. "He's a serious-minded kid, and this will just make him more motivated."

Forward Drew Gooden, who had 22 points and 15 rebounds on Sunday, dismissed suggestions that the Jayhawks needed a loss to refocus them.

"A lot of people are trying to say a loss might be good for us — to refuel or rejuvenate us," said Gooden, the Big 12 player of the year. "You can say it if you want, but this team knows what we are capable of doing. We are capable of being a Final Four team and a national championship team, but we just have to put it together and do it."

Barring an upset by Holy Cross (18-14), Kansas is guaranteed to face a ranked team — either No. 19 Western Kentucky or No. 24 Stanford — in the second round.



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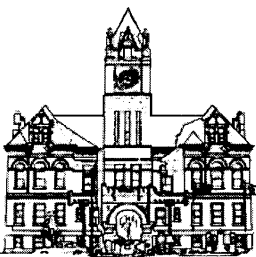
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Critical offseason for the Trojans

The most critical time in Colby Community College men's basketball history will be from today until next fall. I have stated several times the most important thing for our team in 2002-2003 will be retention. We must retain this team. We have several key players that matured and played on this season's 17-win ball club. These players must take care of their academic business and really work hard this off-season to improve. We have three key off-season programs for our players to help assure a high retention rate. First, we have 4 days a week study table. We will watch their academic progress very close the final 8 weeks of the term. Second, we have a 4-day per week strength program. Third, we will have a 3-day per week individual improvement program. We will study, lift weights, and work on basketball skills. Our off-season program begins March 25 upon the players' return from spring break.

The second most important thing for our team in 2002-2003 will be the players we add to this team. It's obvious our primary need is help on our front line. We will return all-conference forward Dedric Spooner (6-8, 230) and back-up center Jason Ven John (6-6, 230). Tony Tucker (6-6, 225) also played some inside but is a more natural small forward. We will sign two or three out of state inside players. The back court is much more solid. We return five key perimeter guys. Keyon Williams (22.3 ppg) and Eric Fowlkes (10 ppg, 4 rpg, 3 apg) are both very good out of state kids. In-state kids Stuart Keltner, Mike Wolters and Joe Williams all played more than 16 minutes a game and averaged about 5 points per contest. We will sign two or three in-state guards but will sign perhaps only one out of state perimeter player. Overall we expect to sign between 5 and 7 kids this spring with three of them being from out of state. The current recruiting outlook is terrific. We have three out of state kids 6-8 or taller scheduled to visit our campus and also have three high quality in-state kids coming to campus in the next month.

The final piece to the 2002-2003 puzzle is our coaching staff. It is our job to tie all this together. The Trojan coaching staff is my associate head coach and youngest brother Chad Ostermann, first-year assistant Yancey Walker, and of course myself. Chad has been with me since we started this difficult journey three years ago. He has been primarily responsible for assembling the players in the program. He obviously has a keen eye for talent. This is Coach Walker's first year recruiting and we are in on some very solid in-state prospects. Of course the responsibility for everything that goes on with this program is ultimately mine. I feel very good about the players we currently have on the team. Recruiting is going very well. Our fans are amongst the best in the country at the junior college level. The financial support has been very good and has allowed us to improve.

Most importantly we have improved our win total each season since I arrived and we are now a very competitive program in the Jayhawk West. The fact is we are now defeating every



Brian Ostermann

●Power Sports

school in the West (Hutch, Barton, Seward, Garden, etc.). Each of you should share in the credit. If we can take care of the above mentioned details there is no reason why the Colby Community College Trojans should not have another record-breaking season and perhaps have the best team in school history. Lofly goals and expectations, but I would say they are very realistic. We should be around 20 wins and should finish in the top 5 in the West. Our players know this, our staff understands where we must go next season and now every one of our fans should expect an even greater season in 2002-2003. Go, Trojans!

JOTTINGS

Our record-breaking season took us across the state last Wednesday to face a Cowley County team. I strongly believe excuses are for losers and we will not make any for our 80-77 loss. It was a tough loss as we clearly were the better team and out played the Tigers. The final score did not indicate that the Trojans were the better team. We did have all three of our front line players foul

out of the game and we were outscored at the foul line. We attempted 12 free throws to Cowley's 31.

Keyon Williams finished 9th in the NJCAA in scoring during the regular season. Keyon has played in 27 of 31 games and avg. 22.3 ppg.

Keyon scored 601 points this season. This ranks as the 5th highest single season scoring total in school history. The top four are: Curtis Gates 808 (1983-84), Curtis Gates 721 (1984-85), Larry Borom 641 (1991-92), and Nayron Monk 606 (1977-78).

Dedric Spooner made 3rd Team All-Conference. Spooner was 2nd in the conference in rebounding at 8.7 per game and 2nd in the league in block shots swatting away 2.92 per contest. He averaged 13.9 points per game shooting 48.3 percent from the field.

The 17 wins recorded by the Trojans this season is tied for 9th most wins in a single season in the school's 37-year history.

We have improved each season: 8 wins in 99-00, 15 wins in 00-01, and 17 wins this year.

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