



Colby Trojan wrestler Alibek Pardakulov works for near fall points in a match at last weekend's Las Vegas Invitational. The Trojans broke the record for the highest finish ever by a junior college team at the event.

ERIC TORAYA/Colby Free Press

## Trojans shine on trip out west

By LES BROWN

Colby Free Press

This weekend's west coast road trip offered Colby Community College wrestling coach Steve Lampe's number one ranked Trojans the opportunity to reaffirm its status as this season's premier junior college wrestling team. And the Trojans did not disappoint.

The Trojans returned to Colby with three dual victories over nationally ranked opponents and the distinction of having made the finest showing ever by a junior college team competing at the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational.

### #1 Colby vs. #2 North Idaho College Dec. 5 at Las Vegas

The Trojans won 8 of 10 matches in a battle between the NJCAA's two top ranked teams en route to a 33-9 win over the Cardinals. Picking up wins for the Trojans were Davey Dyke, Erkin Tadzhimetov, Bryan Miller, Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov, Hurshid Haldarov, Alibek Pardakulov, C.B. Dollaway and Shannon Ford. Lampe felt as though O.T. Johnson wrestled well enough to win his match at 149 pounds, but a couple of officiating calls did not go Johnson's way in his 3-2 loss to North Idaho's Keri Stanley. Logan Prideaux also wrestled in the dual against North Idaho.

### #1 Colby vs. #7 Pima (Ariz) Community College Dec. 5 at Las Vegas

Following the win over North Idaho, the Trojans squared off against Pima Community College. Pima finished fourth in the team standings of last year's NJCAA national tournament and is currently ranked seventh in the NJCAA's poll.

The Trojans dismantled the Aztecs, as illustrated by the 48-6 dual meet score. Pima's only team points were scored at the 157 pound weight class when Colby forfeited to the Aztecs.

Lampe indicated the team displayed "great domination tonight against North Idaho and Pima. The guys left little doubt regarding their #1 ranking. We were very aggressive on the mat tonight and wrestled like we were having fun".

Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational Dec. 6 & 7

Following the first session of Friday's wrestling action at the Las Vegas Invitational, the team leader board read as follows: 1st West Virginia, 2nd Ohio State, 3rd Michigan, 4th Minnesota and Colby, 6th Illinois,

7th Purdue and 8th Arizona State.

Colby's ability to compete head-to-head against the NCAA's two-time defending national champion Minnesota Golden Gophers, and many of the nation's other elite programs, was a real eye opener for many wrestling coaches and fans.

And, while by tournament's end the Trojans had slipped to 14th place tie with Fresno State University, their success at the meet was still good enough to rank as the highest team finish ever recorded by a NJCAA team at the prestigious tournament.

C.B. Dollaway earned a sixth place finish at the 184 pound weight class. Dollaway received a first round bye and then faced Brown University's Nick Ciarcia in the second round. Despite a valiant effort Dollaway lost a 12-10 decision to the Ciarcia, who currently holds InterMat's rank as the NCAA's 17th best 184 pounder. Dollaway rebounded nicely and won his next six matches in a row, including a 13-6 win over the nation's 11th rated 184 pound NCAA wrestler, Ryan Wilman of West Virginia. He then lost 3-1 to the University of Illinois' Jason Potter and 13-4 to San Francisco State University's Mauricio Wright to secure sixth place honors.

Potter is currently ranked as the NCAA's 5th best 184 pounder and Wright is a three time NCAA Division II All-American and the defending NCAA DII 184 pound national champion.

Three other Trojans were each one win away from earning medals at the event. Erkin Tadzhimetov went 3-1 in the tournament at 133 pounds before exiting with an injury. Hurshid Haldarov went 2-2 at 165 pounds. And Alibek Pardakulov recorded a 3-2 record at 174 pounds. Each of the three wrestlers advanced to the championship quarterfinal round before dropping matches to individuals currently ranked nationally in the NCAA Division I polls.

Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov was 2-1 in the event before bowing out with an injury. Had he won two more matches at his 157 pound weight division, he too would have brought home a medal. Sadly enough, both of these prospective matches would have been against individuals Abdurakhmanov had beaten earlier in the year.

Others competing in the tournament

for the Trojans, along with their tournament records, were: Davey Dyke, 2-2; Bryan Miller, 1-2; O.T. Johnson, 2-2; Logan Prideaux, 0-2; and Shannon Ford, 1-2.

Lampe indicated that tournament officials described Colby's performance as "phenomenal". Lampe went on to describe Colby's lone medallist, C.B. Dollaway, as being "an amazing talent".

Lampe closed his remarks relating to the Las Vegas Tournament by indicating that he "is incredibly enthused about this year's team, as they, despite their early success, have room for great improvement. Our attitude is incredible and we seem to get better each week".

### #1 Colby vs. #8 Lassen Community College Dec. 9 at Susanville, Cal.

The Trojans capped off their road trip with a big win over perennial NJCAA power Lassen Community College. Colby scored victories in seven of the ten weight classes en route to a 31-15 win over the Cougars.

Scoring victories for the Trojans were Davey Dyke, Erkin Tadzhimetov, O.T. Johnson, Hurshid Haldarov, Alibek Pardakulov, C.B. Dollaway and Logan Prideaux. Bryan Miller lost a 4-3 decision to Lassen's Willie Hilton at 141 pounds and Shannon Ford lost by fall to Lassen's Dathan Miller at 285 pounds. Colby forfeited to Lassen at 157 pounds.

Lampe describe the Monday evening performance against Lassen as being "outstanding. Everyone is wrestling to win. We were very road tired, but still found a way to perform like a number one ranked team".

The next action for the Trojans will be Saturday's University of Nebraska-Kearney Open.

This meet will feature many of the nation's premier NCAA Division II teams.

The Trojans will look to better last year's performance at the event when they scored three finalists at the tournament.

A home dual meet against Labette Community College scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13th has been cancelled to allow Labette the opportunity to begin final exams.

The next home action for the Trojans wrestlers will be on Jan. 8 when they take on the Lynx from Lincoln College at the Colby Community Building.

## Sagebrush Shootout continues Friday

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The 2002 Sagebrush Shootout at Brewster completed its first round of basketball action Tuesday. The three-day tournament continues Friday with second-round action beginning at 3 p.m. in the south gym, when the Brewster boys take on Stratton for a chance to get to fifth place in the tourney. At 3 p.m. in the north gym, Cheylin will play Golden Plains.

The winners of those two games will play Saturday afternoon for fifth place. In girls action, Atwood takes on Cheylin at 4:30 in the south gym.

Stratton, Colo., takes on Oberlin in the north gym, also at 4:30. The winners of those two games will play for fifth place on Saturday at 4:30 in the south gym.

As the other side of the brackets plays out, the Brewster girls will play St. Francis at 6 p.m. in the south gym. The winner of that game will play the winner of Grinnell-Golden Plains (Friday, 6 p.m., north gym) on Saturday at 6 p.m. in the south gym for the Sagebrush Shootout championship.

The boy's second-round action will feature Atwood versus Grinnell at 8 p.m. in the south gym, and St. Francis

takes on Oberlin at 8 p.m. in the north gym.

The girl's third-place game will take place at 6 p.m. in the north gym. The boy's third-place game will be played at 8 p.m., also in the north gym.

Here's how Tuesday's matchups went:  
Girls  
Grinnell 71, Stratton 47; St. Francis 36, Cheylin 28; Golden Plains 44, Oberlin 42; Brewster 53, Atwood 25;  
Boys  
Grinnell 85, Stratton 40; Oberlin 82, Golden Plains 37; St. Francis 41, Cheylin 38; Atwood 64, Brewster 43.

## That's my ball!



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby's Desiree Sharp scrambled for the ball Tuesday night against the Hays Lady Indians. The Lady Eagles are off until next Tuesday, when they take on the Norton Lady Bluejays at 6:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

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