

Trojans are #1!

By LES BROWN

Colby Free Press

The NJCAA Coaches Association released its first regular wrestling poll on Dec. 16 and the Colby College Trojans have found themselves once again to be the most highly regarded team in the junior college ranks.

Adding validity to these rankings is the fact that the Trojans have outperformed six of the top ten ranked teams in head-to-head competition this season.

The Trojans, who also held the number one ranking in the NJCAA pre-season poll, dominated the first release of individual rankings too.

Seven Trojans were ranked in their respective weight divisions and five of those individuals were ranked at the top of their division. This is an impressive feat when considering there are only ten weight classes in the collegiate ranks.

Head Coach Steve Lampe indicated that even he was somewhat surprised by the number of top individual rankings his team received.

But he went on to say "Our wrestlers have earned this respect on the mat. The person responsible for compiling the NJCAA poll witnessed our success at the Kaufman-Brand Open, so he has first hand knowledge of the talent we are carrying on this year's roster."

Lampe went on to explain, that while appreciative of the respect shown to his team by his peers, the best part about this ranking is that his team is not putting much stock in them.

He indicates his team understands

the need for continued improvement on the mat in order to achieve their individual and team honors goals at this year's national tournament.

NJCAA Division I Wrestling Poll - Dec. 16, 2002

1st Colby Community College, Colby

2nd North Idaho College Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

3rd Neosho County Community College, Chanute

4th Northwest College Powell, Wyo.

5th Lassen College Susanville, Cal.

6th Ellsworth Community College Iowa Falls, Iowa

7th Muskegon Community College Muskegon, Mich.

8th Iowa Central Community College Fort Dodge, Iowa

9th Labette Community College, Parsons

10th Clackamas Community College Oregon City, Ore.

Individuals from Colby Community College Ranked in the NJCAA Poll

133# Erkin Tadzhimetov (sophomore, Taskent, Uzbekistan) ranked 1st.

141# Bryan Miller (sophomore, Oberlin) ranked 1st.

149# O.T. Johnson (sophomore, Winston-Salem, N.C.) ranked 3rd.

157# Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov (freshman, Tashkent, Uzbekistan) ranked 1st.

165# Hurshid Haldarov (freshman, Djizak, Uzbekistan) ranked 3rd.

174# Alibek Pardakulov (sophomore, Djizak, Uzbekistan) ranked 1st.

184# C.B. Dollaway (freshman, Mt. Gilead, Ohio) ranked 1st.



ERIC TORAYA/Colby Free Press

Colby's Hurshid Haldarov works for a takedown in a match at the Kaufman-Brand Open earlier this season. The Trojan wrestlers recently returned home after a very successful west coast road trip.

Kansas City's Holmes may be finished for the year

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The season may be over for Priest Holmes, a hip injury leaving him tantalizingly close to some major NFL records.

"I would say there's a good chance it's over," coach Dick Vermeil said Wednesday night after talking with doctors.

Earlier Wednesday, Vermeil had said the league's rushing leader was definitely out for Sunday's game against San Diego. But specialists in Kansas City, New York and Florida all studied the results of an MRI and agreed the injury to the right hip is not serious.

"The doctor said in two days, you might feel like, 'Hey, I want to run,'" Vermeil said. "It's up to Priest. It may be six days. It may be three weeks. At this time, I won't just automatically put him on injured reserve."

As for the regular-season finale at Oakland a week from Saturday,

Vermeil said, "I think it's doubtful."

Before he left the game in the third quarter at Denver on Sunday, Holmes appeared on the verge of one of the greatest seasons ever by a running back.

The defending NFL rushing champion is just two touchdowns away from Marshall Faulk's single-season record of 26. His league-leading 2,287 yards from scrimmage this year is the fourth-best in league history and within sight of Faulk's record of 2,429.

But Vermeil made it clear he would not want his star running back to risk further injury by getting on the field before he's fully healthy. At 7-7, the Chiefs' playoff chances are dim.

"We're just not going to fool around," Vermeil said.

Holmes left the game Sunday when he was pulled down awkwardly after a 56-yard run that boosted his rushing total for the season to a franchise-record 1,615 yards, passing Miami's

Ricky Williams for the league lead.

"At least we know there's no serious damage. When he feels good, he can go again," Vermeil said. "How long that takes, we don't know. I'm certainly not going to push him. I would be very cautious."

Doctors generally suggest extra care with hip injuries because of the possibility of further damage.

"The whole situation is disappointing to him," Vermeil said. "But he knows himself what's at stake and we're just not going to fool around."

The embodiment of a team player, Holmes nevertheless had been excited about the possibility of breaking the records.

But Vermeil said Holmes isn't a selfish player who would be disappointed by the missed opportunity.

"In my conversation with him ... we really didn't discuss how he felt about maybe not being able to continue to move toward NFL records," Vermeil said. "I think he has proved what he can do, to himself. I don't think he feels he has to prove it to anybody anymore."

Lady Trojans beat McCook

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Lady Trojan basketball team finished the non-conference portion of its schedule with a 76-50 win over McCook last Saturday night in McCook.

It was the Lady Trojans second road win in a row, and they head for the break with an 8-6 record.

Andrea Stephens led the Lady Trojans with 15 points and 6 rebounds. Bojana Samardziska recorded a season and career high 17 rebounds.

Louise McLean added 13 points, 7 assists and Ivana Drmanac had 13 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists.

The Lady Trojans open conference play with a 2 p.m. game versus Butler County on Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Community Building.

Colby vs McCook
12/14/02 at McCook

Colby 76, McCook 50

COLBY (8-6)

Andrea Stephens 7-13-0-15; Louise McLean 6-11-0-13; Ivana Drmanac

5-10-1-13; Buba Kovacevic 4-8-0-2-9; Ashley Stull 3-5-0-0-8; Bojana Samardziska 2-6-2-3-6; Ali Hammer 2-2-0-0-4; Lindsay Hager 1-2-2-3-4; Ashley Blickenstaff 1-3-0-0-2; Karli Sherwood 1-3-0-0-2; Elizabeth Schroeder 0-1-0-0-0; Amy Green 0-1-0-0-0. Totals 32-65 5-9-76.

MCCOOK
TEAM 20-64 7-12-50. Totals 20-64 7-12-50.

Colby..... 33 43 - 76

McCook..... 20 30 - 50

3-point goals-Colby 7-20 (Ivana

Drmanac 2-5; Ashley Stull 2-3; Buba

Kovacevic 1-4; Louis McLean 1-3;

Andrea Stephens 1-3; Karli Sherwood

0-1; Elizabeth Schroeder 0-1);

McCook 3-14 (TEAM 3-14).

Fouled out—Colby-None,

McCook-TEAM.

Rebounds-Colby 46 (Bojana

Samardziska 17), McCook 35 (TEAM

35).

Assists-Colby 16 (Louis McLean 7),

McCook 10 (TEAM 10).

Total fouls-Colby 9, McCook 11.

Last Minute Gift Ideas!

Limited Edition TOOL BOX
CHEVY, FORD OR MOPAR \$49.95 Was \$74.95

2-ton FLOOR JACK \$109

1000 Amp BOOSTER PACK \$89

AUDIO BOX
Cassette stereo w/speakers \$34.95
Cassette CD/stereo w/speakers \$99.99

204 piece DRILL BIT SET \$49.95

COLBY AUTOMOTIVE
590 N. Franklin
462-3349

Eagle sports calender

Friday, Dec. 20

6:30 p.m. JV/V wrestling vs. Burlington @ H.S. gym

Saturday, Dec. 21

9 a.m. 9/10 wrestling @ Oberlin tournament

6:15 p.m. JV boy's basketball vs. Burlington @ H.S. gym, followed by JV girl's game.

6:30 p.m. Varsity girl's basketball vs. Burlington @ Colby Community Building, followed by Varsity boys.

Colorado fires Bob Hartley

DENVER (AP) - Colorado Avalanche general manager Pierre Lacroix has always had a knack for finding the right pieces to make his team better.

Whether it's adding a scorer, bolstering the defense or bringing in more leadership, Lacroix has found the perfect fit.

This time, Lacroix decided what Colorado needed was passion.

Seeking to break the Avalanche out of their early-season funk, Lacroix fired coach Bob Hartley on Wednesday and replaced him with assistant Tony Granato.

"It was obvious that the team is not showing any emotion, the team is not doing what it needs to do to fulfill these expectations, so I am convinced it was the right time," Lacroix said.

Colorado has been near the bottom of the league on the power play and penalty kill most of the season, and has had a knack for turning third-period leads into ties and even losses.

The Avalanche are fourth in the Northwest Division with 33 points, 10 behind leader Minnesota, and have won just three times in 15 home games.

That simply wasn't good enough for a franchise that has won two Stanley Cups in six seasons and reached the Western Conference finals four straight years.

"We are an organization with very, very high expectations," Lacroix said.

"We've done it every year that we've been in Denver and it's no different this season." Hartley was the first NHL coach in 35 years to take a team to the

conference finals in his first four seasons. He also had more wins than any other coach since the team moved from Quebec to Denver with a record of 193-109-48 in 4 1/2 seasons.

Lacroix said he had been considering a coaching change for about two months, but the news was surprising to Hartley. "You never know in this business, especially when you have a good relationship with the boss," said Hartley, who was promoted from Hershey of the AHL in 1998. "People who know me, they know I always put myself behind my team, my players and my partners."

Lacroix turned to Granato because he didn't want to disrupt team chemistry by bringing in someone from the outside. Granato had never coached before joining the Avalanche for this season, but Lacroix said that was never a concern.

"It was right there in my face and I never had to think about this," Lacroix said. "When you look at what he's been through in his career, he's always been a great leader with a lot of great attributes." Granato, 38, played for three teams in 13 NHL seasons before retiring in 2001. He believes his tenure in the league and enthusiasm will make up for any lack of experience.

"Pierre asked if I would be interested in doing it and how could you turn down an opportunity like this," Granato said. "I feel ready, I'm excited and I think I'll bring a lot of excitement and energy to this locker room. I'm looking forward to getting started."

UNICEL

Holiday

83% GDN

4X10

W/RED

COLOR

SPOT