

Trojan wrestlers gearing up for Nationals

By LES BROWN

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College wrestlers closed out their regular season in fine fashion. A recent road trip to Lincoln, Ill., and Kirkwood, Mo., gave the Trojans the opportunity to add six more dual victories to this season's tally.

The most recent road trip included dual victories over Lincoln College, St. Charles Wrestling Club, Wentworth Military Academy, Missouri Baptist College, Rochester Technical College and St. Louis Community College at Meramec.

The Trojans outscored their opponents by a cumulative score of 213-109 during the six duals, which is quite impressive.

But even more impressive is the fact that 84 of those 109 teams points scored by the competition came as the result of open spots in the Trojan's lineup. Meaning the opponents only earned 25 points through match victories against the Trojans.

Three members of the team sat

out of the majority of the matches due to nagging injuries and illness. But the rest of the team responded favorably and, by doing so, kept the Trojan's lengthy winning streak intact.

To this end, Coach Steve Lampe has reported this year's version of Trojan wrestling has established new team records for dual meet wins in a season and for consecutive dual meet victories.

So, with the regular season behind them, the Trojans are now gearing up for the Feb. 15 national qualifying tournament in Rock Spring, Wyo.

While only five teams comprise the West-Central Region, the talent will be especially deep at this meet as four of the NJCAA's top ten ranked teams will be in attendance. #1 Colby, #4 Northwest (Wyoming), #8 Labette and #9 Neosho along with the host school, Western Wyoming, will all be battling for berths into the national tournament.

The top three finishers in each weight class will automatically qualify for the NJCAA national tournament.

As many as five additional wrestlers could be awarded wild card entries into the national tournament, if their performance is deemed worthy by the selection committee.

Those athletes earning national tournament berths will compete for All-American honors in Rochester, Minnesota on Feb. 28 and March 1.

The Trojans, who have been ranked as the top NJCAA team in the nation since the pre-season poll, will likely be awarded the top seed in eight of the ten weight classes. Those eight individuals have posted a staggering 127-11 record against junior college competition this season.

But, despite their probable fifth place seeds, the other two Trojans are capable of qualifying for the national tournament as well.

Trojan heavyweight Rio Mayo has been on a roll of late, as evidenced by his six match winning streak. And Lampe indicates the talented Derek Daugherty is capable of qualifying too, as his cardiovascular conditioning has now reached a point that will allow him

to remain competitive throughout an entire match.

Lampe goes on to state that his team is now healthy, well conditioned and excited about the upcoming tournament. And, of equal importance, his team's mental health is solid too. "We have seen no sign of burn out cases or poor attitudes on this team. The competition has been taking their best shot at this team, but we have excelled in each outing. A team subjected to that type of season-long intensity often times becomes mentally weary. But this team has responded favorably and now appears physically and mentally poised to achieve their individual and team goals."

The following is a breakdown of the credentials for this year's post-season team.

	Ranking	Overall	Juco
125 Davey Dyke	5th	13-7	11-2
133 E. Tadzhimetov	1st	34-3	20-0
141 Bryan Miller	1st	30-4	19-1
149 O.T. Johnson	2nd	26-6	15-3
157 M. Abdurakhmanov	1st	24-3	13-0
165 Roshawn Haldarov	2nd	24-7	15-1
174 Alibek Pardakulov	6th	21-6	15-3
184 C.B. Dolloway	1st	32-4	19-1
197 Derek Daugherty	n/a	5-6	3-3
285 Rio Mayo	n/a	8-8	5-6

Spring sports are right around the corner



Darrel Pattillo
● On the Ball

The temperature has been flirting with the 50's lately. Can it possibly be golf time already? Well, I'm not ready. I haven't even practiced cheating yet. My buddy Rod says he's looking forward to the golf season, though, and can't wait to get out there and enjoy all that the game has to offer.

Speaking of golf, did you realize there are 5 sports getting ready to get underway? Baseball, softball, track, golf, and tennis. It's just a couple of weeks until those teams can start practicing. Colby should be pretty competitive in all of those sports.

—dp—

This will be my last On The Ball column for awhile. I've been assigned to a top-secret, classified, need-to-know, super-clandestine project involving covering the news in far-off, exotic locations.

This mission will involve great personal risk, and I will have to call on years of training to get through it.

Aw, who am I kidding? I'm going to Goodland for a bit, to help the paper out over there. Michelle Hawkins has been over there cov-

ering the news and sports for the last few weeks, and now it's my turn. I'm pretty sure I'll be back in a few weeks...

In my absence, Michelle will be covering the sports scene here in Thomas County. I hope she has track shoes.

In the meantime, I am compiling a checklist of things I need to do in preparation for this mission:

1. Set all of my calendars to Mountain Time.
2. Figure out what sports season is in progress at the Technical College.
3. Find some way to make sure that the lunch I'll be packing survives the trip over there each morning without being eaten enroute.
4. Bake a bunch of cookies for all of my favorite Highway Patrolmen. (KIDDING!!!)
5. Confirm whether the Goodland High School girl's basketball team is the Cowgirls or Lady Cowboys...

On the positive side, folks, there's a good chance that significant snowfall is on the way. I know this because it'll be my dumb luck to have to slog through a blizzard every day driving back and forth.

Darrel Pattillo is the sports editor for the Colby Free Press. He will be working out of the Goodland Star-News for the next several weeks. His column will return when he does.

School says ESPN can't show high school star James' games

CLEVELAND (AP) - LeBron James will be getting a little less TV exposure. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School officials have decided not to sign a contract with ESPN to have James' final regular-season game televised on Sunday.

"We have been getting some bad press from ESPN and from other media sources," athletic director Grant Innocenzi said Wednesday. "We're at the point that enough is enough. It's that simple."

Innocenzi said the school's board of trustees voted Tuesday not to have James' game in Dayton against Kettering Alter shown on ESPN2. The network had already televised two of the school's games this season.

A Dec. 12 game against Oak Hill Academy - with Dick Vitale and Bill Walton as announcers - earned the second-highest rating ever for ESPN2, drawing more than 1.5 million viewers.

Lady Eagle 8th-grade teams performing well

The future continues to look promising for Coach Tom Beckman and the Lady Eagle high school basketball program, as future high schoolers from Colby Middle School continue to win.

The 8th-grade girls traveled to Scott City last Saturday and returned home winners. The B team finally got a chance to show their stuff and play a full game. "These gals have so much heart and potential. It was great to see them have so much success", said Coach Raenette Martin. The final score was 44-17.

Bailey Klinger led the way with 17 points, 5 steals, and 10 rebounds. Caitie Henry added 10 points, 2 steals and 4 rebounds; Tisha Bieker had 9 points, 5 steals and 2 assists, and Carleigh Dempewolf, Kristin Skiles, Rishaun Wilson and Michelle Kaus each added 2 points. Dempewolf was also credited with 4 rebounds and 9 steals, and Skiles brought down 3 rebounds. In A team action, Rishonna Martin's 18 points (including 8 of 10 from the line), led

the way to a 43-28 victory. Martin also had 2 steals. April Weaver added 6 points and 2 rebounds; Brittany Kersenbrock had 5 points, 5 assists and 4 steals; Rishaun Wilson added 5 points, and Lauren Cox had 5 points and 3 steals. Kersenbrock hauled in 5 rebounds and Cox brought down 4.

"This group of young ladies has been told for years that it takes all 5 on the floor to win ball games. They are truly seeing that this year, and are all stepping up to help each other," said Martin. "I am proud of all of them. They all contribute something positive to this team."

Colby VS Hays/Kennedy Middle School

Monday, Hays/Kennedy came to challenge the Eagles. Again, the B team gals played very well, winning 57-8 against the Hays A-team. Bailey Klinger recorded her personal best score of 20 points; Kristin Skiles had 12; Caitie Henry added 10; Tisha Bieker had 7; Rishaun Wilson added 4 and Michelle Kaus had 4. Also seeing playing time

were Brandi Stupka, Kristin Cox and Jennifer McMahan. "This is really a group of hustlers", said Martin. "They had Hays frustrated with the pressure defense they played, allowing them to score only 8 points."

After getting beaten badly in the B team game, Hays was fired up and ready to challenge the A team. The Colby girls responded well and worked together to come out on top 65-31.

"We had a few girls get in foul trouble early," Martin said, "so our bench came in strong and did a great job. This group is playing hard and they are really pushing themselves to prepare for our next big games. They are definitely beginning to recognize what they are capable of and they are striving to reach their team goals."

Brittany Kersenbrock, Ashley Barnes and Lauren Cox shared

scoring honors with 19, 14, and 15 respectively. Kersenbrock also recorded 12 steals, Barnes had 5 and Cox had 6. Rishonna Martin scored 7 points and had 2 steals, April Weaver had 4 points and 5 steals, and adding valuable help from the bench were Caitie Henry, Rishaun Wilson, and Jenna Johnson with 2 points each. Kristin Cox also saw court time. The team was 62 percent from the stripe, which is a great improvement, Coach Martin said.

Only 2 regular season games remain. Monday, Feb. 17 at Burlington, and the always intense Goodland match-up which is scheduled for Feb. 20.

"The next 2 games and 2 weeks of practice will be preparation for league. These young ladies set a goal last November to win their league tournament," said Martin. "I know they will push each other and be ready to go."

Jayhawks on the road to recovery against Baylor

WACO, Texas (AP) — Kansas appears to have recovered from its embarrassing breakdown against top-ranked Arizona.

Keith Langford scored 19 points and Nick Collison 15, nine in a game-turning run that he started and finished, to lead the ninth-ranked Jayhawks to their fifth straight win, 79-58 over Baylor on Tuesday night.

The Jayhawks (18-5, 8-1 Big 12) haven't lost since their 91-74 defeat Jan. 25, in which they led Arizona by 20 points in the first half. That also was the second time this season Kansas lost consecutive games.

"A lot of people saw a few losses and started to doubt this team's potential," said Langford, who put Kansas ahead to stay with consecutive three-point plays in the first half. "We still think we can win the whole thing. We are establishing confidence."

Kansas is atop the Big 12 standings.

Oklahoma State (18-3, 7-1) is the only other team with just one Big 12 loss. Kansas plays four of its next five at home, ending that stretch March 1 against the 13th-ranked Cowboys.

"We have a long way to go, but we are fairly happy with where we are at," said Kirk Hinrich, who had 14 points.

Collison, Kansas' leading scorer, had been held to just one point until driving for a short bank shot with 3:34 left in the first half. His first field goal started a 15-0 run for the Jayhawks, who led 46-28 when he made a 3-pointer to cap the spurt just 63 seconds after halftime.

R. T. Guinn, a 6-foot-10 center, led Baylor (10-10, 1-8) with 15 points on five 3-pointers and also had 10 rebounds. John Lucas added 15 points, Lawrence Roberts 12 and Matt Sayman 10.

Baylor is 0-6 against Top 25 teams this season, including a 91-42 loss Saturday at No. 5 Oklahoma that was its worst in 20 seasons. The Bears have lost nine straight against ranked teams since an 81-80 upset

over Missouri last February.

"The critical part was the last part of the first half and the start of the second. We were scratching and clawing and piecemealing some offense," Baylor coach Dave Bliss said. "After that 15-0 run, we were just playing for the final score."

Kansas scored the last 10 points in the first half. Collison scored on a spinning layup on a pass from Hinrich to cap the opening half with a 41-28 lead.

The Jayhawks then scored the first five points after halftime, Collison passing to Jeff Graves for an easy layup before his 3-pointer.

"I made a few plays and got going," Collison said. "That was big. It created a lot of separation and really changed the game. That was a mental blow for them."

The Jayhawks shot 62 percent (32-of-52), and led by as many as 26.

Langford was 7-of-10 shooting. Hinrich made 6-of-11, and has 66 points on 68 percent shooting (27-of-40) the last three games.

Baylor shot a season-low 32 percent (17-of-54), including 11 3-pointers, two more than its Big 12-leading season average, and was outscored 50-12 inside the paint.

Two years ago, when Kansas last traveled to Waco, the Bears won. There was never a chance for another upset once Kansas quit throwing the ball away: In the first six minutes, the Jayhawks had five turnovers, all on unforced bad passes.

"We weren't perfect today, but we got focused in the course of the game and defended," Kansas coach Roy Williams said. "That definitely turned the game."

Langford put the Jayhawks in the lead to stay, 13-11 with 11:18 to go in the first half, when he switched the ball to his left hand while in the air to make an awkward layup as he was fouled and then made the free throw.

After a Baylor miss, Langford drove inside, made the shot and was fouled again.

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