

# Entire Trojan wrestling team qualifies for Nationals

**By LES BROWN**

*Colby Free Press*  
The Colby Community College wrestling team earned the West-Central Regional Championship this past weekend at Rock Springs, Wyo., and, in doing so, qualified their entire varsity line-up for the NJCAA national tournament.  
Nine Trojan wrestlers earned automatic tournament berths by virtue of their top three finish at the meet and a tenth was able to procure a wildcard entry into the national tournament.

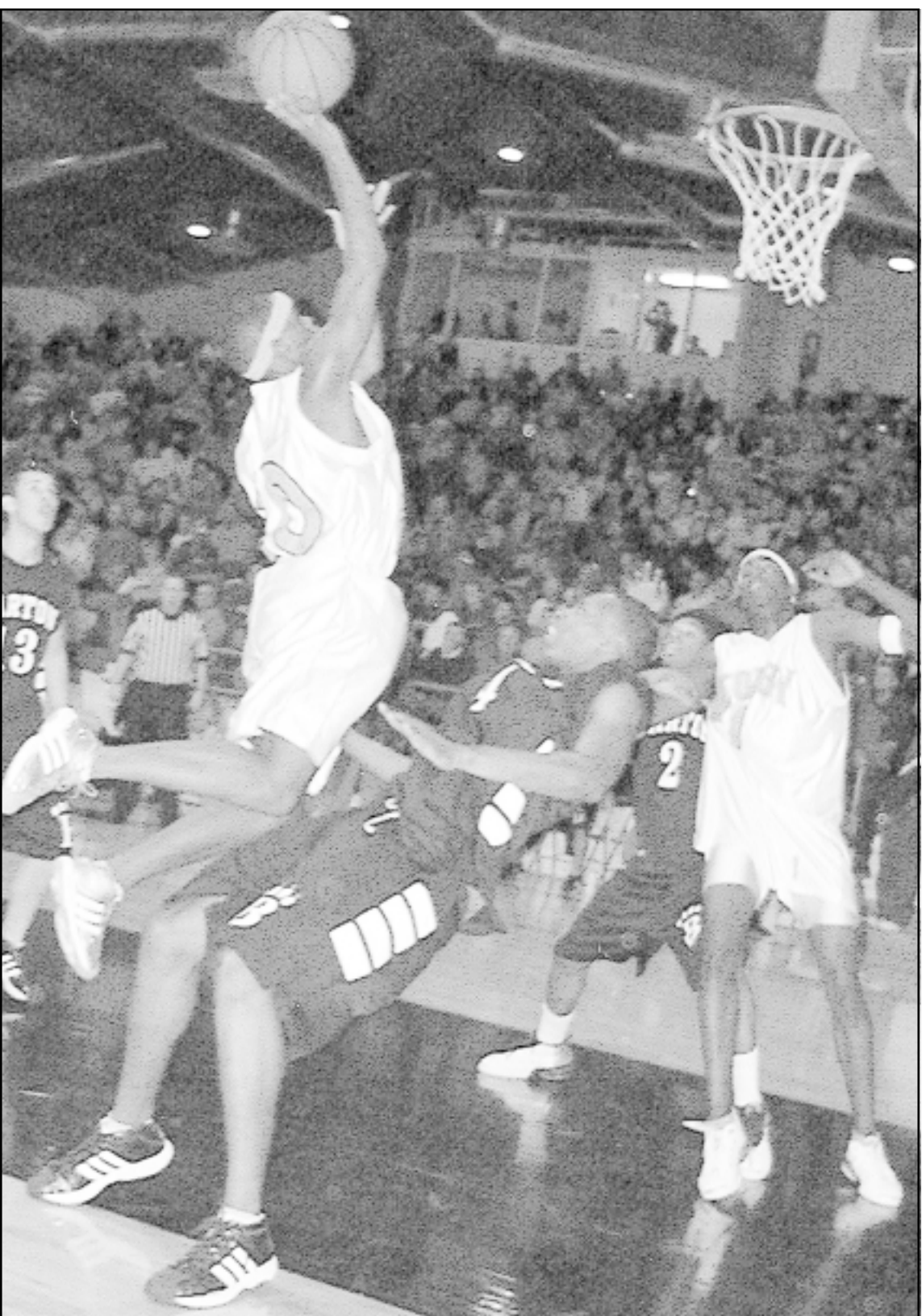
The Trojans finished the meet with 100.5 team points, which was comfortably ahead of second place Northwest Wyoming's 79 point tally.  
Labette placed third, Neosho fourth, and tournament host Western Wyoming finished fifth.  
Earning tournament championships for the Trojans were Erkin Tadzhimetov at 133 pounds, Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov at 157 pounds, Alibek Pardakulov at 174 pounds and C.B. Dollaway at 184 pounds.

Tadzhimetov, Abdurakhmanov and Dollaway are each ranked as the NJCAA's top wrestler in their respective weight class.  
Pardakulov is currently ranked sixth, but has defeated Labette's top ranked Aaron Meister on two occasions, including a 10-5 decision in the championship finals on Saturday.  
Placing second at the meet for Colby were O.T. Johnson at 149 pounds and Rio Mayo at 285 pounds.  
Johnson, currently ranked sec-

ond, lost a one point decision to fourth ranked Luke Salazar of Northwest Wyoming. Mayo is not currently ranked, but had a superb outing at the qualifier.  
Third place medalists for the Trojans were 125 pounder Davey Dyke, 165 pounder Roshawn Haldarov and 197 pounder Derek Daugherty.  
Dyke is currently ranked fifth in the NJCAA poll, while Haldarov is ranked second. Daugherty, who was thrust into the varsity line-up after Christmas due to injury, had an

outstanding outing and surprised the competition with his national tournament berth.  
Meanwhile, the NJCAA's top ranked 141 pound wrestler had to rely upon his reputation to gain entry into this year's national tournament. Returning NJCAA All-American and Oberlin product Bryan Miller had compiled a 19-1 record against junior college competition this season, but went 0-2 on the day in what may have been the most competitive weight class at the regional.

Despite his sub-par outing, Miller was awarded a wildcard entry into this year's national tournament.  
Ironically, Miller went winless at last season's regional tournament too before securing a wildcard berth and going on to earn All-American honors.  
The NJCAA's top ranked Colby Trojans will now compete for team and individual honors at the NJCAA national tournament in Rochester, Minn., on Feb. 28 and March 1.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby College Trojan freshman Branden Miller scored a career-high 28 points against Barton County Saturday at the Community Building, including this shot over 6'10" Nouha Diakite, who was called for blocking.

## Trojan men pull away from third ranked Barton County Cougars

**By DARREL PATTILLO**

*Colby Free Press*  
The Colby Community College Trojan men's basketball team knocked off powerhouse Barton County 93-79 Saturday night in front of a near capacity crowd of 1,847 at the Community Building.  
Colby is now 4-1 versus teams ranked in the NJCAA top 10, and the Trojans defeated two top 10 teams in a four-day span this week.  
The Cougars, ranked #3 in the nation, were without three of their starters but still managed to keep up with the Trojans, who led 34-32 after Branden Miller and Barton's Richard Chavez traded three-pointers to close the first half.  
Head coach Brian Ostermann took advantage of Barton County's manpower shortage by rotating in fresh bodies the whole game, and that strategy paid off in full midway through the second half, when the Trojans went on a 12-0 run.  
"They're still the #3 team in the country," Ostermann said after the game. "Even if they were short some players, this is still Barton County, and our guys really stepped up tonight."  
Colby trailed just once in the

game and built their lead to as many as 18 in the second half, defeating Barton County for the third consecutive year at the Community Building.  
The Trojans outrebounded the visiting Cougars 51-35 and held Barton to 43.1 percent shooting and hit 47.7 percent of their own shots, including going 10 of 20 from beyond the three-point arc.  
Colby currently has the longest winning streak in the Jayhawk West Conference, winning its past 7 games.  
Highlighting the scoring for the Trojans was Branden Miller, who had 28 points (career high), 5 rebounds and 6 assists.  
EJ Drayton had 25 points and 11 rebounds, Justin Williams had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Eric Fowlkes had 7 points, 7 assists, and 6 rebounds.  
Colby is now 22-5 overall and 9-4 in Jayhawk West Conference play. They will have a week off before traveling to Hutchinson next Saturday. Game time is set for 8 p.m.  
Colby 93, #3 Barton County 79 BARTON COUNTY (23-3, 10-2) Randy Pulley 10-18 4-5 27; Stan

King 6-14 3-3 17; Nouha Diakite 5-9 6-9 16; Tyler Luke 3-6 2-2 8; Richard Chavez 2-10 0-1 6; Richard Nolan 2-5 0-0 5; Cody Rierson 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 28-65 15-20 79.  
COLBY (22-5, 9-4) Branden Miller 9-15 3-4 28; EJ Drayton 8-18 6-9 25; Justin Williams 10-15 2-9 22; Eric Fowlkes 1-6 5-5 7; Dedic Spooner 3-7 1-1 7; Michael Wolters 0-3 3-4 3; Stuart Keltner 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 31-65 21-34 93.  
Barton County.....32 47 - 79 Colby.....34 59 - 93 3-point goals-Barton County 8-25 (Randy Pulley 3-4; Stan King 2-9; Richard Chavez 2-5; Richard Nolan 1-3; Cody Rierson 0-2; Tyler Luke 0-2); Colby 10-20 (Branden Miller 7-12; EJ Drayton 3-4; Eric Fowlkes 0-1; Michael Wolters 0-2; Stuart Keltner 0-1).  
Fouled out—Barton County-Richard Nolan; Tyler Luke, Colby-None. Rebounds-Barton County 35 (Nouha Diakite 8), Colby 51 (EJ Drayton 11).  
Assists-Barton County 7 (Randy Pulley 3; Richard Chavez 3), Colby 19 (Eric Fowlkes 7). Total fouls-Barton County 25, Colby 16. Attendance-1847.

## Yankees, Mets will have to pay luxury tax this year

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The New York Yankees set a record with a \$138 million payroll last year, according to the final tabulation by the baseball commissioner's office.  
The Yankees are on the verge of becoming the first team to top \$150

million.  
The Yankees' 2003 payroll stands at \$149.2 million for 22 signed players expected to be on the opening-day roster plus injured pitcher Jon Lieber, according to contract information obtained by The Asso-

ciated Press.  
The Yankees currently are just one of two teams projected by the commissioner's office to be paying the new luxury tax this year, due to being over the salary cap  
The other is the New York Mets.

## Eagle boys hold off Quinter 74-61

**By DARREL PATTILLO**

*Colby Free Press*  
The Colby Eagle boys' basketball team improved its record to 13-4 with a 74-61 win in Quinter Friday night. The Eagles had three players in double figures, and had scoring from all seven who played. Jordan Harris scored 20, Landon Stover had 19, and Matt Augustine got 12 points. Carson McKee scored 9, Jared Cranston 4, Shane Stover had 6, and Jeff Reavis added 4 points to round out the scoring.  
Quinter (15-2) opened the game with a 5-0 run, and it was almost 4 minutes into the game before Colby scored. The two teams tied at 9 in

the first period, and Colby out-scored Quinter 17-15 in the second, to go to the break up 26-24. The Eagles out-scored Quinter 26-19 in the third and 22-18 in the fourth period for the 13-point win.  
On the boards, Harris completed another double-double with 10 rebounds, Augustine had 8, McKee and Cranston each had 1, Shane Stover had 3, Reavis had 1 and Landon Stover grabbed 5.  
Colby JV 77, Quinter 58  
Brian Sulzman tossed in 4 baskets from downtown and finished with 31 points Friday night as the JV Eagles improved to 14-2 with a 77-58 win over Quinter. Jared Dinkel

add 17, Chris Finley 14, and Bruce Arnberger scored 10. Jordan Cranston added 2, and Deke Elliott 3 to round out the scoring. Sean Mengel, Josh Cox, and Jordan Sharp also played.  
The Eagles next game is Tuesday night against the Goodland Cow-boys, with the JV playing at the high school after the C-team, and the varsity playing after the varsity girls at the Community Building. Tuesday night is senior recognition night for the basketball teams, the pep band, and the drill team. Seniors and their parents will be honored between the varsity girl's and varsity boy's games.

## Trojan baseball team building character

Trojan baseball fans, we are six games in and still looking for our first win. Should I be worried? Maybe, but I feel that we will be a better team because of these early season struggles.

Before I expound upon why we will be fine, let's talk basketball. What a great week for the men and women! The women beat eleventh ranked Seward on Wednesday and then took care of Barton on Saturday. The men beat number eight Seward and number three Barton. I realize that the Barton men had three starters out, but it is still a great victory. Barton still had several talented players on the floor.

It would be a tremendous feat for both teams to achieve home court advantage for the first round of the playoffs. The men have already clinched and I think the women can too. I wish both teams the best of luck next Saturday down at Hutch.  
Okay, back to baseball, the Midland series was what you might expect from the first outing of the year, sloppy. If you haven't heard yet, we lost four down there. Why did we lose four? We made 13 errors in the four games. Enough said.

On the positive side, we had some pitchers who threw well. Sophomores Brandon Shiers and Casey Wernke showed form that will make them forces to be reckoned with in conference. Shiers did not walk a batter in four innings of relief work and Wernke threw five innings of three-hit ball in the first game on Sunday.

A couple of freshmen arms showed promise as well. Lefty Tyler Landenberger of Lakewood, Colo., started the second game on



Ray Nolan

### ● From the Dugout

Saturday and struck out seven in four innings. Right-hander Bobby Van Wieren of Edmonton, Alberta struck out four and walked just one in four innings of relief work.

This past weekend was big for Trojan baseball. Friday we faced the third place team from last season's NJCAA World Series, Lamar Community College. On Saturday and Sunday we held our first Trojan Baseball Try-athon, our big fundraising event of the year.

Lamar had a record of 59-5 last season. No, that is not a typo. They did win 59 games last season. Four of those games were against us. We opened with the Runnin' Lopes last season and our ace Andy Wernke threw well and lost 2-1 on two solo home runs. Supposedly, Lamar's first five hitters in their order were drafted. Of course, none of that matters, this is a different season. That would be true except for the fact that I have been hearing all fall and winter that they are better this year.

Well, Lamar is still awesome. We lost two close ones, 15-0 and 10-3. Yes, I am trying to be funny, and yes, I know that it is not.

So, why can I make light of a bad start? First, Midland and Lamar are two of the best teams we will face

all season. Second, we are young and inexperienced. We are not only relying on freshmen, but most of our sophomores do not have many collegiate games under their belts.

Will we be able to compete against teams like Midland and Lamar? Yes, we will. Our team is dependent on error free ball, mentally and physically. We have not accomplished this yet, but we will. We play McCook Community College next Saturday at their place. We are going to have a great week of practice and I expect a great performance at McCook.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in, sponsored bowling lanes for, and donated auction items to our Trojan Baseball Try-athon. I talked to numerous people in search of sponsorship for this event. Everyone I spoke to was kind and attentive.

I realize that businesses in this community are asked to donate to numerous teams, functions, and causes. I appreciate everyone's patience and professionalism in this down economic period. The event was a success and we hope to expand it in the future.

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Ray Nolan is the assistant coach of the Colby Trojan baseball team. His column appears on Mondays.

## Colby places seven at Bill Voss wrestling tourney

Sophomore Ross Wright was Colby High School's lone champion at the 2003 Bill Voss Novice Invitational wrestling tournament Saturday, which featured teams from Colby, Goodland, Hoxie, Phillipsburg, Norton, Trego, St. Francis, Hill City, Scott City, Smith Center, and Oberlin.

Wright got his first-place finish by pinning Leitner of Atwood and Bishop of Oberlin in the 145-pound division.

The Eagles also had a second place finish, 4 thirds, and a fourth-place finish. Here's a rundown of the finish:

103, Lincoln McClure, 3rd; 130, Kyle Withington, 4th; 130, Josh Cersovsky, DNP; 135, Doug Hurtt,

3rd; 135, Alex Kleinsorge, DNP; 140, Ben Jurek, DNP; 145, David Voss, 2nd; 145, Ross Wright, 1st;

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