

# Coach says, ‘thank you’

The first thing I want to do is thank everyone for coming out to our games this season. We had three crowds of over 1,500 people in the community building this season, including at our

volunteers. Certainly, our fans have been great, but I must tell everyone we would not be successful if we didn't have good players. Not only did we have very talented basketball players



**Brian Ostermann**

●Power Sports

first ever Jayhawk Conference playoff game. Your support enabled us to post a 14-2 home record and an overall mark of 26-7.

The support continued as we played two games in Salina. Local fans and students (baseball, softball, volleyball, and other sports teams) made the trip and it really helped us. The enthusiasm for our team this season had been great. I have been told that this year was as good as any in history (including those wild 70s) for supporting Trojan basketball.

We set many team records and also had some individuals achieve records and honors. The Trojans finished in a second place tie in the Jayhawk West, and also made our first trip to the final eight since joining the Jayhawk Conference seven seasons ago and advanced to the final four for the first time since 1977-78.

When a team wins 26 games and has the success that this season's Trojan team did there are also individuals that are honored. E.J. Drayton (First Team All-Conference, First Team All-Region, Freshman of the Year), Justin Williams (Third Team All-Conference), Dedric Spooner (Third Team All-Conference, All-Tournament Team Region VI), and Brian Ostermann (Coach of the Year) could not have achieved the individual honors without great teammates and fans. We thank you for your contribution the 2002-2003 Trojans.

There are several reasons for our successful season. The financial support from the community for our program has been one of the biggest keys. Our annual golf benefit has really been the backbone of funding our program. I have a tremendous coaching staff; two of my assistants are

but also we have a great group of young men.

I have really enjoyed coaching this year's team. I will miss our six sophomores and I will look forward to adding to our tremendous freshman class. I hope you all enjoyed this year's team as much as I have.

Finally, this will be my last regular article for the year. I do plan on giving an update on our recruiting and also where our sophomores will be heading next year.

**Jottings:**

- The Lady Trojans had a great season (18-14) and congrats to coach Stephens and the team.

- Congrats to the Colby High boys and girls on great seasons.

- The Trojans received mention in National Junior College Athletic Association national poll three times this season, the last was on Feb. 18.

- We finished 14-2 at home this season. A year ago we went 10-4. A record in two years of 24-6 at home is not bad.

- Pat Tubbs, thank you for your enthusiasm this season and the balloons for the playoff game.

- Sophomore Dedric Spooner has verbally committed to Charlotte University of Conference USA. He will sign officially in April.

- Congratulations to the Trojan wrestlers on their National Championship-Runner-up finish.

- The Trojan Dunk-O-Meter finished at 107. We especially thank Colby Canvas and Steve Molstad for providing the banner.

- I would like to thank my wife (Julie) for her support, patience, and love throughout this past season. Folks — she is the greatest!

# Lady Trojans finish season 18-14; three honored by conference

By **CHAD OSTERMANN**

*Colby Free Press*

The Colby Lady Trojans recently finished their season with an impressive 18-14 record and three Lady Trojans were honored by the Jayhawk Conference for their efforts. The National Junior College Athletic Association Region VI also honored two of Colby's individuals for their outstanding efforts this season.

Louis McLean earned first team All-Jayhawk West Conference after averaging 12.5 points, 7.9 assists and 6.9 rebounds per game. The 5'10 freshman guard from Warrnambool, Australia shot 34 percent from beyond the arc and hit 45 percent of her overall field goal attempts.

McLean recorded triple-doubles against Colorado Northwestern and Pratt this season. She scored a season high 26 points in the Lady Trojans upset victory over Seward County and recorded 16 assists in her first Jayhawk West game this season against Butler County. McLean also was honored by Region VI as a second team member. During the Region VI tournament, McLean was named to the All-Tournament team.

Bojana Samrdziska was awarded second team All-Jayhawk West Conference for her performance her freshman season. Samrdziska, a 6'4" center from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, averaged 14.3 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.4 blocks per game.

Samrdziska had 15 double-doubles (points/rebounds) and shot 57.9 percent from the floor.

Her season and career high in rebounds was 15 versus Garden City at home while her career high in points came at Garden City when she scored 28 points. Samrdziska received Region VI honorable-mention honors.

Earning third team All-Jayhawk West Conference for the Lady Trojans was sophomore Buba Kovacevic. The 5'6" sophomore from Vrsac, Yugoslavia averaged 10.9 points, 2.7 rebounds and 2.1 assists during her second season with Colby. Kovacevic had a career high 24 points in Colby's victory at Hutchinson. Kovacevic shot 44

percent overall and 36 percent from beyond the three-point line.

Colby finished the season 18-14 overall and 9-7 in Jayhawk West Conference action. They finished in fourth place, their highest finish in the seven seasons Colby has competed in the Jayhawk West.

Colby hosted their first home playoff game as a Jayhawk member this season and responded with a convincing 101-51 victory over Labette County. Colby advanced the Region VI quarterfinals in Salina, but were defeated by Cowley County 68-56.

This was the second time in Coach Stephens tenure Colby advanced to the Region VI quarterfinal round.

# Denver Broncos to change location of training camp

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Broncos will hold summer training camp at team headquarters in suburban Denver this summer, joining the growing number of NFL teams no longer taking the shorter sessions on the road.

The Broncos have cut the length of their camp in half in recent years and players now arrive in better condition than ever before because of offseason conditioning and mini-camps.

"The concept of training camp has changed considerably over the last 20 years," Broncos president Pat Bowlen said. "It is much shorter in length, now three weeks as opposed to six, there are fewer practices in full pads, and fewer practices overall."

Starting this summer, the team will practice on three new artificial

turf practice fields at its headquarters.

The decision was disappointing for Greeley, 50 miles north of Denver, where the Broncos practiced for the last 21 years at the University of Northern Colorado.

The team paid a lot of money to use university fields, dining halls and dorms — nearly \$500,000 last year. And Greeley, an agricultural city known for its huge Swift and Co. meatpacking plant, enjoyed the cachet of being the summer home of the Broncos, giving residents a chance to rub elbows with the players and get autographs.

The practices drew Broncos fans from around the Front Range, and tourists made detours on their vacations in Colorado to see the team, many spending money at restaurants and hotels.

# Sports Briefs

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Svetlana Feofanova reclaimed the pole vault world record from Stacy Dragila by clearing 15 feet, 9 inches Sunday at the World Indoor Championships.

The Russian bettered the mark of 15-8 1/4 Dragila set at the U.S. Indoor Championships on March 2.

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA players' union sent a letter to mem-

bers last month warning them about ephedra, the supplement linked to the death of Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler during spring training. Ephedra is not banned by the NBA.

Union director Billy Hunter sent a letter alerting players to the Bechler case and warning them to consult a doctor before taking anything containing ephedra, union spokesman Dan Wasserman said.

# Local Sports Briefs

## Goodland 3 on 3 this Saturday

There will be a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament in Goodland this Saturday to raise money for Goodland Project Graduation. Participants in both girls and boys divisions, 1st-12th grades, from area towns are invited to participate.

Contact Ann Middleton at 785-899-5781 mornings and evenings or 785-899-2000 afternoons for information.

## Atwood 3 on 3 entries due

The fourth annual Atwood Swimming Pool and Park Project Three on Three basketball Tournament entries are due to Rhonda Argabright in Atwood by this Saturday.

The tournament will be held on Saturday, April 5. Entry forms were sent to all local schools or a form may be downloaded from: atwoodpoolproject.tripod.com

All boys and girls in grades 1-10 are eligible to play with entries set at \$27 per team. Concessions and

lunch items including walking tacos will be provided by the pool committee. There is a \$1 admission for non-players.

Playing times change according to the number of entries per division but, approximate times are:

- 5th-6th grade boys and 5th-6th grade girls 8 a.m. with championship at 11:45 a.m.

- 1st-2nd grade boys and 1st-2nd grade girls 10 a.m. with championship at 12:45 p.m.

- 3rd-4th grade boys and 3rd-4th grade girls 10:30 a.m. with championship at 1 p.m.

- 7th-8th grade boys and 7th-8th grade girls 1 p.m. with championship at 3:30 p.m.

- 9th-10th boys and 9th-10th grade girls at 1 p.m. with championship at 3:30 p.m.



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