

Two Trojans crowned champs

By LES BROWN

Free Press Contributor
Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov and C.B. Dollaway each earned tournament championships at Fort Hays State University's Bob Smith Open on Saturday. Colby was one of just two junior college teams to compete in the event. The balance of the field was comprised of NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II and NAIA affiliated colleges and universities. Abdurakhmanov (sophomore, Tashkent, Uzbekistan) earned the tournament championship at 165 pounds after posting a 4-0 record. Coach Steve Lampe indicated that Abdurakhmanov's performance

was "beyond awesome with a high tech performance in every bout." This was evidenced by three major decisions in his preliminary matches and an 8-4 decision over the University of Oklahoma's Oisung Kim in the championship bout. His dominance earned Abdurakhmanov the tournament's outstanding wrestler award. The defending NJCAA 157-pound national champion now holds a season record of 10-2 and is 2-0 against junior college competition.

Dollaway (sophomore, Mt. Gilead, Ohio) also earned tournament championship honors with his 4-0 record. The 184 pounder scored

two technical falls, a fall and a 7-1 decision in his bouts to secure the title. Lampe indicated that Dollaway, too, was "awesome, as he made every opponent appear elementary in ability." The tournament championship is Dollaway's second of the season and he now holds an overall record of 11-2 and a 3-0 record against junior college competition.

Like Abdurakhmanov, Dollaway is also a defending NJCAA nation champion.

Also competing for the Trojans at the FHSU Open, along with their records on the day, were: Elliot Darden (125-pound freshman, Greensboro, N.C.), 1-2; Jim Gebauer (133-pound sophomore, Akron, Colo.), 0-2; Kyle Patton (133-pound freshman, Wellsville), 2-2; Tony Lombardi (141-pound freshman, Key West, Fla.), 0-1; A. J. Wenger (141 pound freshman, Bellville, Ohio), 3-2; Drue Herl (149-pound freshman, Colby), 1-2; Eric Luedke (157-pound freshman, Colby), 4-2; and Maine Artrey (197-pound freshman, Englewood, Colo.), 0-2.

Lampe indicated that Luedke had some tough bracket placement as he met up with Oklahoma State's anticipated varsity 157-pound wrestler, Johnny Hendricks, early in the tournament while lesser skilled wrestlers were given more favorable bracket placement. But Luedke went 4-2 on the day and was just one win away from the consolation semi-final round of the meet.

Another tournament highlight was Patton's victory over Labette County's Cody Lambotte to avenge an earlier loss. Lampe said Patton is dedicated to improvement and his efforts in the practice room are beginning to pay dividends. Other notable occurrences were Wenger's performance and Herl's gradual improvement.

Final first semester action for the Trojans will be on Saturday when they travel to compete in the University of Nebraska-Kearney Open.



LES BROWN/Colby Free Press

C.B. Dollaway, shown here in last season's NJCAA championship match against Mike Massenzio of Bergen Community College, has signed a national letter of intent to wrestle for Arizona State University next season.

Trojan inks with Sun Devils

Colby Community College's outstanding sophomore wrestler, C. B. Dollaway, has announced the signing of a national letter of intent to compete for the Sun Devils of Arizona State University beginning the fall semester of 2004. Dollaway is expected to compete at 184 pounds

Dollaway has posted an 11-2 decision this season and is 3-0 against junior college competition. He has earned tournament championships at the Kaufman-Brand Open and FHSU Open. He was also named the outstanding wrestler award in the under-20 division at the Kaufman-Brand. He is ranked as the NJCAA's top ranked 184 pounder in the Nov. 17 NJCAA poll and is competing in what is arguably the nation's toughest junior college weight division.

Last season Dollaway posted a 39-4 record and was 26-1 against junior college competition en route to his NJCAA national championship at 184 pounds. He was one of only two junior college wrestlers to medal in last season's Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational. Dollaway also recorded 21 pins last season and tied Daniel Cormier's record for falls in a season.

During his high school career,

Dollaway was a three-time state medal winner in the Ohio high school ranks. He placed 5th as a sophomore, 2nd as a junior and earned the state championship during his senior campaign.

He went on to earn All-American honors at the NHSCA senior national tournament by placing fourth. Dollaway was also a runner-up at the Disney Duals and has several AAU freestyle All-American honors to his credit.

Colby Community College wrestling coach, Steve Lampe, feels Dollaway's decision was a good one. "C. B. was given a scholarship opportunity to compete for a very established collegiate program and the school ranked at the top of his list of preferred schools, too. He will fit well in their program and will certainly benefit from ASU head coach Thom Ortiz's tutelage.

"I anticipate great things from this talented athlete following the completion of his career at Colby."

Dollaway will join former Trojan greats Matt Murray (University of Nebraska), Erkin Tadzhimetov (Utah Valley State College) and O.T. Johnson (University of North Carolina-Greensboro) in the NCAA Division I wrestling ranks.

Colby men #3

The Colby Community College men's basketball team is off to the best start in school history at 13-0, and in the latest Official NJCAA National Top 20 Poll released Tuesday, Colby has moved up another spot to #3. With another victory, Colby will tie the longest winning streak ever for a Colby Trojan team.

The #3 ranking is an all-time high for a Colby Trojan men's basketball team. The Trojans did receive one first place vote in this week's poll for the first time this season. San Jacinto (Texas) is the new #1 ranked team, followed by Georgia Perimeter. Hutchinson is the next ranked Jayhawk West school, garnering the #9 ranking.

Ladies are #23

The Colby Community College Lady Trojans basketball team has had a tremendous start to the 2003-2004 campaign with a 12-1 record, and in the latest Official NJCAA Women's Basketball Top 25 rankings (Dec. 9), Colby is ranked #23 in the country. It is the Lady Trojans first appearance in the top 25 poll this season. Gulf Coast (Fla.) and Trinity Valley (Texas) are ranked #1 and #2, respectively.

Seward County is the highest Jayhawk West team ranked posting a 10-0 record and earning the #3 spot. Cloud County (8th) and Dodge City (19th) are two other Jayhawk West teams in the NJCAA Women's Basketball Top 25.

With the #23 ranking of the Colby Lady Trojans, Colby Community College is one of only four schools in the country to have both the men's team and the women's team represented in the Official NJCAA Polls.

The Lady Trojans conclude their non-conference portion of their schedule today at Colorado Springs to face Air Force JV.

SportsLine

Colby activities

- Today — 7th/8th boys basketball with Oberlin at elementary gym, 4:30 p.m. Order of games: 7B/7A/8A/8B-5th Qtr.; JV/Varsity wrestling with St. Francis, 6:30 p.m., Colby Community Building.
- Friday — Colby Eagle Invitational Wrestling Tournament at elementary gym, high school gym and Community Building, 2 p.m.; C-boys and girls basketball, 4 p.m., Hays High School; JV/V boys and girls basketball, 6 p.m., Hays High School.
- Saturday — Eagle Invitational Wrestling Tournament, 8 a.m., elementary gym, high school gym, Community Building.
- Monday — 7th/8th boys NWKL Basketball Tournament in elementary gym, time to be announced.
- Tuesday — C-team, JV/V boys and girls basketball at Burlington, 6:30 p.m.

Golden Plains activities

- Today • Friday • Saturday — Sagebrush Basketball Tournament at Brewster.
- Thursday — Junior High at Healy, 4:30 p.m.

Brewster activities

- Today • Friday • Saturday — Host Sagebrush Basketball Tournament in North and South gyms.

Colby College activities

- Today — Lady Trojan basketball at Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, vs. Air Force JV, 7 p.m.
- Saturday — Trojan men basketball at Lindsborg to play the Bethany College JV, 3 p.m.; Trojan wrestlers at University of Nebraska-Kearney Open, time to be announced.

(Items to td@nwkansan.com, or fax 785 462-7749.)

Fortunate at Shoot-Out



Brian Ostermann

• Keeping in Touch

We are very fortunate to have escaped the Jayhawk Shoot-Out unbeaten. We improved our record to 13-0 but we did not improve as a basketball team. There are always peaks and valleys for a basketball team in a long season. We are very fortunate to win while playing in a valley. I hope that is a sign of a good team and that we can get out of that valley of mediocre/poor play when we return for second semester. Everyone that follows the Trojans and Jayhawk Conference basketball knows that you must play at peak level more often than not or you will not have a good conference season.

We do feel very good about being ranked third in the nation. We also received a vote for the number one spot. I think it's great for our program. I must remind our players that it is fun to be ranked but it doesn't mean anything. We must win the Region VI Tournament in order to go to the national tournament. That will remain our focus and our goal. We will take one conference game at a time to achieve our goal.

Our final non-conference game is this Saturday vs. Bethany JV at Lindsborg. It is a great opportunity for all of our guys to get some playing time. We also will get a chance to see former Colby Trojan Jason Ven John play as his Southwestern team faces the Bethany varsity at 7 p.m. Our game is at 3 p.m.

Jottings

The Trojan men are 13-0 and currently ranked 3rd in the nation. We did receive one vote for the #1 ranking in the country. There are 16 voters on the ranking committee. The Lady Trojans are currently 12-1 and for the first time in school history are ranked #23 in the nation. Congrats to our Lady Trojans on their national ranking!

The *Basketball Times* will once again have Colby as their lead story in their juco section in their next issue. This is a national newspaper/magazine that covers college and pro basketball.

West is the best — Jayhawk Western Conference schools proved superior to their Eastern Conference counterparts in the

Shoot-Out. Western Conference men's team posted a 15-3 record, outscoring their Eastern rivals by an average score of 77-58

The Western women were just as dominant, going 16-2 and outscoring the East 70-53.

Every Monday at noon you are invited to listen to the Colby Trojan coaches talk about their seasons. Lunch is on the campus of Colby Community College and costs just \$5. Coach Lampe will talk wrestling, coach Stephens will fill us in on the Lady Trojans and I will inform you on the men's team.

The first Jayhawk West home game is Wednesday Jan. 7 vs. Garden City.

Jayhawk West teams are a combined 90-27 during the non-conference season. That is a .769 winning percentage. The league will be as tough overall as it has been in my previous four seasons. Two teams from the Jayhawk West are ranked in the top 10 (Colby #3 and Hutch #9) and one team (Barton County) receiving votes for the top 20! Pretty good league!

We could not be successful without the support of all our fans and sponsors. Our business sponsors this year are Stephens Construction, S&T Communications, Western Sprinklers, Pepsi of Colby, Culligan of Colby, McDonal's of Colby, Taco John's of Colby, Thomas County Feeders and Gambino's.

On Sunday, Jan. 31 prior to our game vs. Butler County, we will honor each corporate sponsor with an honorary plaque.

Jayhawk West Records 12-8-03 non-conf.

1. Colby (ranked #3) 13-0
2. Hutchinson (ranked #9) 12-0
3. Barton (RV in NJCAA) 12-2
4. Garden City CC 11-3
5. Cloud County 10-3
6. Butler County 10-3
7. Dodge City CC 8-5
8. Pratt CC 7-5
9. Seward County 6-6

Ostermann is the men's head basketball coach at Colby Community College.

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