

# Colby Community College's Eric Luedke made a good decision

**By LES BROWN**  
*Free Press Contributor*

Wrestling at the University of Nebraska-Kearney Open was important to Eric Luedke. So important that when illness, injury and rapidly approaching final exams caused Colby College wrestling coach Steve Lampe to remove the event from the team schedule, Luedke decided to travel to the event on his own. It was a good decision for Luedke, as he earned runner-up honors in the 157-pound weight class.

Luedke's results during his last outing at the Fort Hays State University Open had left a bitter taste in his mouth. Not that his 4-2 record and competitive performance were to blame. But a less than favorable bracket placement likely assisted in Luedke's premature exit from the event, while other, lesser talented competitors, enjoyed placement that gave them a better opportunity to earn tournament honors. With that memory still fresh in his mind, Luedke felt it important to get a bit more mat time in before the Christmas Holiday.

In the first round Luedke scored a 9-3 decision over in-state rival Brandon Jobe of Fort Hays State University. Luedke's second match paired him with Sean Coughlin of the Bear Wrestling Club and Luedke won by an 8-0 major decision. This victory propelled Luedke into the championship quarterfinal round where he met Matt Weingert of Chadron State College. Luedke scored his second consecutive major decision with a 15-1 major decision over the Chadron State Eagle. In the semi-finals Luedke met the University of Nebraska's David Ingalls. Ingalls and Luedke were familiar with one another through a mutual friendship with former Trojan great and current

Cornhusker Matt Murray. Ingalls was a two-time state finalist and a former state champion in the South Dakota high school ranks and represented the Cornhuskers in the 2003 Big 12 Championships. Luedke won this battle with a hard fought 3-1 victory over a very talented competitor. In the championship bout, Luedke lost a tightly contested 2-1 decision to Travis Peak of Chadron State College. Peak, a senior at Chadron, has been a varsity letter winner in each of his first three seasons with the Eagles and placed second at last weekend's FHSU Open when he lost by just a point to

Oklahoma States Johnny Hendricks. The performance at Kearney allowed Luedke to run his record to 19-4 on the year. Included in this total is a 4-1 record versus junior college competition. This success has earned Luedke the rating as the nation's 4th best junior college wrestler at 157 pounds. Those same rankings, which were released on Dec 12, list Colby as the 7th ranked junior college team in the nation. Trojan standouts and returning NJCAA national champions Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov and C.B. Dollaway continue to hold

down top billing at their respective weight divisions. The next action for the Trojans will be a Jan. 7 meeting with Lincoln College. The dual will be held at Hoxie High School. That will be a busy week for the Trojan wrestlers, as they will host their annual Tournament of Champions on Friday, Jan. 9 and 10th and will square off against in-state rival and nationally ranked Neosho County Community College on Jan. 11. The Tournament of Champions and the Neosho dual will each be held in the Colby Community Building.

## It's time for a much-needed rest

Our basketball team is finishing final exams this week and will be headed home for a much needed break. We are 14-0 and have done a solid job of staying focused. It has been a long first semester. Players started arriving on Aug. 15 and we started fall conditioning soon thereafter and practice started Oct. 1. Four scrimmages and 14 games have prepared us for the always-tough Jayhawk West Conference beginning on Jan. 3 (our first home contest is Jan. 7 vs. Garden City).



**Brian Ostermann**  
● Keeping in Touch

Our basketball staff will take a few days off prior to hitting the recruiting trail. We will see several high school games during various holiday tournaments (I estimate we will see approximately 50 high school teams play). We have seven sophomores to replace including four out-of-state players. We will be very busy recruiting talent to reload our team.

We wish you and yours a blessed and safe Christmas. God Bless.

**Notings**  
My next article will be Jan. 6. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The Trojan men are 14-0 and currently ranked 2nd in the nation! Our 14-game winning streak ties the longest streak in school history (1984-85).

11-0, and Garrett, Md. (RV) 10-0. Our first conference game is at Butler County. They are currently 10-3 and have won 9 out of their last 10. They play a home game on Dec. 30 and should improve to 11-3. Only 2 teams last season were able to pick up conference wins in El Dorado — Barton County and your Colby Trojans. We will have to play very well to win at Butler County.

### Lots of dollar signs

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SEATTLE (AP)—Ichiro Suzuki avoided salary arbitration by agreeing to a \$44 million, four-year contract, keeping the All-Star right fielder and one-time AL MVP at the top of manager Bob Melvin's lineup.

The Mariners avoided Saturday night's deadline to formally offer a 2004 contract to Suzuki, which would have made him eligible for salary arbitration.

NEW YORK (AP)—Free agent reliever Arthur Rhodes and the Oakland Athletics have reached agreement on a three-year contract. The Associated Press learned.

The deal, worth about \$9.2 million, was subject to Rhodes passing a physical, a source familiar with the negotiations said on the condi-

tion of anonymity.

NEW YORK (AP)—Center fielder Mike Cameron and the Mets finalized their \$19.5 million, three-year contract, giving New York another key component in its defensive overhaul.

NEW YORK (AP)—Left-hander Chris Hammond was traded from the New York Yankees to the Oakland Athletics for two minor leaguers, right-hander Edwardo Sierra and infielder J.T. Stotts.

New York also is sending cash to the A's to cover part of Hammond's contract. He has a \$2.4 million salary next season, and his deal includes a \$3 million team option with a \$200,000 buyout.

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. Our next luncheon will be Jan. 19 (we won't meet when school is not in session — no cafeteria for food).

The Lady Trojans were ranked #23 and have a 12-game winning streak. They are 13-1 on the season. In this week's poll they dropped out but are receiving the most votes in others listed. So call it 26th I guess. Not sure why they would have dropped out.

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

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, McDonald's of Colby, Taco John's of Colby, Thomas County Feeders and Gambino's.

On Saturday, Jan. 31 prior to our game vs. Butler County we will honor each of our corporate sponsors for the 2003-2004 season. We will present each will an honorary plaque.

The Trojan Dunk-O-Meter is at 58 after 14 games. Justin Williams is the team leader with 34 slams! Last season the Trojans recorded 107 dunks. Colby Canvas sponsors the Dunk-O-Meter!

Jayhawk West Records 12-15-03 non-conf.

1. Colby CC (#3 in NJCAA) 14-0
2. Hutchinson CC (#9 IN NJCAA) 13-0
3. Barton County 12-2
4. Garden City CC 11-3
5. Cloud County 11-3
6. Butler County 10-3
7. Dodge City CC 8-5
8. Pratt CC 7-5
9. Seward County 8-6

Holiday greetings to all of you! \*\*\*\*\*

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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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<p><b>1996 Saturn SL2</b></p> <p>4 cyl, 85K, over 35 MPG ~ \$3,999</p>	<p><b>2001 Durango SLT</b></p> <p>Leather, Loaded, 42K ~ \$17,500</p>
<p><b>1992 Ford Explorer</b></p> <p>4WD, Cloth, V-6, Excellent Condition</p>	<p><b>1995 GMC Jimmy</b></p> <p>4WD, Leather, Loaded, Super Clean</p>
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## STRIKE ZONE

Team	Won	Lost	Pins
December 15 - First Nighters League			
Outcasts of Oakley	24	8	49430
Code Red	18	14	49168
Colby Implement	18	14	49164
Schlick Construction	16	16	49536
Woolter Well & Pump	14	18	48957
Coors	14	18	42637
Frontier Equity	13	19	48398
Colby Bowl	11	21	45299
First high individual game: Al Koenig, 236			
First high individual series: Al Koenig, 636			
December 10 - Powderpuff League			
Team	Won	Lost	Pins
Service Oil	33	23	32989
Western Sprinklers	32	24	33075
Weiser Insurance	27	29	32714
Camouflage Lawn Care	24	32	32635
Nightmares	22	26	27963
First high individual game: Jennifer Walker, 194			
First high individual series: Carol Mick, 492			
December 11 - King Pin League			
Team	Won	Lost	Pins
5 Pony Men	22	6	46395
Stephens Construction	17	11	46196
Colby Bowl & Fun Center	15	13	46202
A & R Farms	14	14	45249
Triple K Racing	14	14	45640
T.J.'s Tire	13	15	45354
Colby Automotive	11	17	46077
Beringer Hardware	6	22	45358
First high individual game: Roger Bliss, 244			
First high individual series: Roger Bliss, 580			
December 5 - Ten Pin League			
Team	Won	Lost	Pins
Oasis Travel Center	18	6	32521
Hurt Enterprises	15	9	33023
Comfort Inn	13	11	32866
Cal Williams	11	13	32540
Colby Community College	11	13	32269
Sunflower Kitchen Bakery	11	13	32148
L & R Promotions	11	13	30061
Passion Party	10	14	32186
Colby Bowl	8	16	32755
Western Times	8	16	32700
Don's Electric	7	17	32552
First high individual game: Justin Krey, 245			
First high individual series: Scott Cameron, 640			
December 7 - King & Queen			
Team	Won	Lost	Pins
Bachman - McGuire	19.5	8.5	16446
White - Gaede	19	9	16498
Norman - Moore	18	10	16440
Kern - Dale	16.5	11.5	16329
Brewer - Schwanke	16	12	16278
Wark - Ryan	15	13	14478
Moeder - Lee	14	14	16303
Benson - Sabatka	13	15	16516
Lippert - Odell - Stults	12.5	15.5	15729
Andrews - Boell	11	17	16189
Barton - Niblock	10.5	17.5	15903
First high male game: Robert Lee, 225			
First high male series: Robert Lee, 570			

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