

# All's quiet now on Colby College campus...but that'll soon change

## Update on former Trojans reveals a lot of successes

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. Since all the Trojans are on break, I will use this opportunity to once again remind everyone of upcoming Trojan events.

The women's and men's basketball teams face Garden City in Garden City on Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. respectively. Then on Sunday, Jan. 9, as part of a triple-header with the wrestling team, the Lady Trojans take on Cloud County at 4 p.m. and the men play at 6 p.m. Earlier that day, the Trojan wrestlers face Neosho County in a dual starting at 12 noon. One ticket gets you into all three events. It should be a great day for Trojan athletics.

That Sunday's dual will culminate a long week for the Trojan

wrestlers, as they will face Lincoln College of Illinois on Wednesday, Jan. 5 in a dual at the Colby Community Building starting at 7 p.m. Then the Tournament of Champions takes place on Friday, Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. and Saturday, Jan. 8 at 11 a.m.

This is also a good opportunity to highlight former Trojans who are doing well at the four-year level. Justin Williams has started all eight of the University of Wyoming's games this season. He is averaging 21.3 minutes a game along with 7.1 points per game. He has an amazing 22 blocks already, which leads the Mountain West Conference. The Cowboys are 5-3.

## Broncos in control of their own destiny

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Broncos got the win Saturday and something even better Sunday: They regained control of their playoff destiny.

Thanks to Houston's 21-0 upset of Jacksonville and Pittsburgh's 20-7 win over Baltimore on Sunday, the Broncos need only a victory next week against the Indianapolis Colts to secure a wildcard spot in the playoffs. Jacksonville and Baltimore each fell to 8-7.

The Broncos improved to 9-6 Saturday night with a 37-16 win over the Tennessee Titans.

They were off Sunday and weren't available for comment. After the game, though, they said being counted out by many after their 28-point loss to Kansas City motivated them for the Titans game.

"Everybody wrote us off," receiver Rod Smith said. "We didn't like that too much."

Now, they'll need no outside

motivation. A victory against the Colts next Sunday will give the Broncos a 10-6 record, a playoff spot and a first-round game at either San Diego or Indy on Jan. 8 or 9.

Last year, the Broncos defeated the Colts in Week 15 to clinch a playoff spot, then went to Indy for the first round of the playoffs and lost 41-10.

Buffalo also won Sunday to improve to 9-6, and the Jets lost to fall to 10-5.

The Broncos would win a head-to-head tiebreaker against the Bills based on a better conference record if both teams finish 10-6.

If the Jets, Bills and Broncos tie at 10-6, the Jets would be eliminated and the Broncos would get the fifth seed and travel to San Diego for their first round game.

There are also ways for the Broncos to qualify for the playoffs with a 9-7 record, most of which would require Jacksonville to lose its final game at Oakland.

## Chiefs win again, but pride is only thing left

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The football year is winding down for Kansas City in just the way it was supposed to start.

But with only one game left, there's just not enough time for this season-ending surge that's now reached four straight victories to accomplish a thing.

Things like Saturday's thrilling 31-30 win over Oakland in the last home game of 2004 are merely slapping a coat of bittersweet paint over an otherwise gray campaign, one that was ruined before it could begin.

"Now I think we're starting to come around as a team," said Pro Bowl tight end Tony Gonzalez, who has had one of the greatest years of this splendid career. "And that's translating into wins for us."

The Chiefs will close out the year Sunday at San Diego, and a victory would send them into training camp next July on the heels of an 8-8 season. A 1-3 start and a four-game losing skid in November doomed the Super Bowl hopes that had billowed after last year's 13-3 campaign.

"This (winning streak) shows what could have been," said Gonzalez, who caught 11 passes for 124 yards and two touchdowns against the Raiders.

"It's frustrating and sad. But at the same time, I'm happy for the four wins. Hopefully we close it out at San Diego and go out 8-8, finish .500. But next year I think this is going to be a pretty good football team."

Without a doubt, the Chiefs have been an entertaining team to watch this year. Saturday's win completed a season sweep of the Raiders and was in doubt until the final play.

Lawrence Tynes, an NFL rookie, got his first game-winning field goal when he hit a 38-yarder with 22 seconds remaining. The kick was set up by Dante Hall's 49-yard kick-off return.

Sebastian Janikowski's 46-yard field goal — after Trent Green's fumble — had just given the Raiders a 30-28 lead.

Hall waited as the expected squib kick bounced perfectly into his arms and then did what Chiefs fans

have seen him do so many times.

Typically, Hall gave credit to his blockers. But unlike his 97-yard kickoff return for a TD several weeks ago, he had to bob and weave and dodge several would-be tacklers.

"We had a middle wedge," Hall said. "The guys did a great job of staying on their man. I had two or three lanes to choose from. It was a total team effort, not one man."

It probably would be no consolation to the Raiders (5-10) to know that Hall was hurting. An ankle had been giving him trouble all week.

"My ankle was killing me and my hamstring was trying to get tight on me," he said. "So I just put my head down and prayed to God, 'Let me have my legs.'"

"I got the opportunity and we took full advantage of it."

The last-minute field goal rescued Green, who had a terrific night save for one play — when he fumbled with under 2 minutes left. That gave the Raiders the chance to set up Janikowski's go-ahead field goal.

After Hall's long return, Tynes still needed to get a few yards closer, so Green went into action. He hit two quick passes, including one to Gonzalez, and Tynes did the rest.

"Every game is like this," said Green, who hit 32 of 45 passes for 358 yards, including the two touchdowns to Gonzalez.

With one game left, the Chiefs already have piled up 6,252 yards of total offense, breaking the team record of 6,000 set in 2002.

"The old cliché is character and all of that stuff, but I think we played like a real good football team tonight and played against another football team that played like a good football team, regardless of their won-loss records," Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said.

"At this late in the year, to play that hard, and on two short weeks in a row, is a tremendous tribute to our guys."



### Ray Nolan

- On Campus

E.J. Drayton is averaging 26 minutes and 10.1 points a game for the UNC-Charlotte 49ers who are 6-2 so far. The 49ers will be on ESPN against Cincinnati on Feb. 5 and on ESPN 2 against Louisville on March 3.

Brandon Miller is playing well for Montana State. He leads the team in scoring with a 13.4 average and has started all seven of their games. He scored 25 against Wisconsin-Green Bay, 22 against San Jose State and 12 against Washington State. The team is just 1-6 though.

Dillion Sneed has started six of East Tennessee State's 10 games and is averaging 7.1 rebounds and 9.2 points a game. He is also shooting 60 percent from the field.

Joe Williams of Mankato State University in Minnesota is averaging 9.7 points per game and has started all of the Mavericks 12 games. They are undefeated this season.

Fort Hays State University is off to an 8-3 start and Michael Wolters from St. Francis has played in all 11 of their contests. Stuart Keltner is also on the Tiger squad, and despite

only averaging 8.6 minutes a game, is a valuable asset for the club.

Dedric Spooner is in a starting role at Henderson State University in Arkansas and leads the team in blocks with 17. He is averaging 8.8 points a game.

Billy Williams is in his senior season at Binghamton University where he is a team captain and is averaging 16 minutes a game off the bench. He appeared on TV several times last season as a junior.

Sam Jackson is in a starting role at Bethany College, and Jason VenJohn and K.J. Wilkens are both at Southwestern College in Winfield. Jason has appeared in 11 of Southwestern's 13 games. K.J. has started all of their games and is averaging 8.2 points per game.

Eric Fowlkes, who did very well for Oral Roberts in a sixth man role

as a junior, is red-shirting this season because of shoulder surgery.

Finally, a professional update: Larry House, who was at Creighton for two seasons, is with the Kansas City Knights of the American Basketball Association. He plays alongside former K.U. Jayhawks Jeff Boschee and Jeff Graves.

Thanks goes out to former Trojan assistant Chad Ostermann for providing these players whereabouts.

I hope everyone has a great New Year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ray Nolan is sports information director at Colby Community College. His column appears Mondays. We take this opportunity to thank Ray for his weekly input. His column is a valuable addition to the Free Press. - td

**Celebrate the New Year!**  
*New Year's Eve Dance*  
Friday, December 31st  
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. (light breakfast & party favors)  
Contact Don @ 462-2127 or Phil @ 460-7836  
**AMERICAN LEGION**  
1850 W. 4th • Colby, KS

OFF LIMITS  
BAND

# NOW GET AMERICA'S HOTTEST PRODUCTS DURING THE YEAR-END SALES DRIVE.

**DURANGO**

**GRAND CARAVAN**  
STOW N GO

**ALL-NEW MAGNUM**

**RAM 1500**

**ALL-NEW 2005 DAKOTA**

## HOLIDAY BONUS PACKAGE

**\$2,750**

COMBINED HOLIDAY BONUS CASH\*  
ON SELECT MODELS  
\$2,000 - \$2,750, DEPENDING ON MODEL  
WHEN FINANCED THROUGH CHRYSLER FINANCIAL

**+ \$4,550**

FINANCE SAVINGS†  
AT 0% APR FINANCING ON GRAND CARAVAN

**\$7,300**

IN TOTAL SAVINGS ON  
2005 GRAND CARAVAN†

**7-YEAR or 70,000-MILE POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY\***

**PLUS NO MONTHLY PAYMENTS UNTIL MAY\$**

# HURRY, OFFERS END JANUARY 3

**DODGE.COM****800-4ADODGE**

\*Bonus cash and financing for qualified buyers through Chrysler Financial. Not all buyers will qualify. Includes \$750 bonus cash on select Grand Caravan models. †\$3,377 to \$7,300 estimated savings based on cash allowance and CFC average finance rate for Grand Caravan models financed 8/04-10/04 for applicable term by CFC. Actual savings vary with loan amount. \*See dealer for a copy of this limited warranty. Transferable to second owner with fee. A deductible applies. †Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for delayed payment details. Interest accrues from date of purchase. Delayed payment offer not available on Magnum in Pennsylvania.

**Chrysler Financial**  
Financing your drive.

462-7749