

# Three cheers for Trojan women's three pointers

By Matt Dickson  
Colby Community College

Third time's a charm, three's company and the three-point shot fell for the Colby Lady Trojan's in a 61-39 win at Hutchinson Wednesday.

The Trojans hit a season high 13 three pointers.

Led by Suzana Sormaz's 20 points the Lady Trojans improved their Jayhawk conference record to 4-1 and 15-3 overall. Hutchinson fell to 1-3 in conference and 13-5 overall.

Hutchinson held Rita Kollo in

check as she only scored 11 points but Sormaz was too hot from three-point range to be stopped. She shot 6-8 beyond the arc. Freshman guard Jaci Tinkal saw significant playing time in the rout and had a team high five rebounds.

Hutchinson season leading scorer Tessa Morrow had 17 points and Jaqueline Oliveria helped out with 11. The Blue Dragons did not have another player with more than four points.

The Lady Trojans spent much of the week wondering if the Hutchinson ladies team was really as vulnerable as they appeared. The

Lady Blue Dragons had just come off a terrible loss to Cloud County where they matched a 30 year record for futility in scoring points when they only managed 27. Although they did better against Colby, they are still feeling the effects of injuries throughout their lineup.

The win moves the Lady Trojans to No. 15 in the nation with their only conference loss to No. 8 Barton. Colby's next game is 2:30 p.m. Sunday against the Ft. Carson Army team in the Colby Community Building

# Hutchinson escapes with victory over Trojan men

By Matt Dickson  
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The Colby Trojans' two-game win streak was snapped Wednesday against the Hutchinson Blue Dragons as they lost 71-69.

Colby's Hellion Knight missed a last second three-point shot for the win.

The game was riddled with mistakes as both teams had a chance to run away with it. The Trojans committed 21 turnovers and only went 6-12 from the free throw line.

Hutchinson was not much better. To go along with their 16 turnovers, they only hit 5-14 shots from the line.

Trojan Nate Bowie continued his torrid scoring pace as he put in 22 points but the also had six turnovers. His counterpart Hellion Knight helped with 21 points but it took him 23 shots to get it. Jorge Canedo played a strong game as he had a double double with 13 points

and a season high 14 rebounds.

"That's one of the things we've been emphasizing in practice," Colby coach John Woods said. "We've got to block out on every possession. We knew Hutch had a very good rebounding team. They have so many guys that can rebound."

Despite the rebounding margin in favor of Colby, it was a series of offensive rebounds that led to the Blue Dragons taking the lead for good.

With about 1:30 left and the game tied 67-67, Hutchinson's Nate Brumfield and forward Stephen DuCharme kept the ball alive on the glass after a couple of short misses, and DuCharme's basket with 1:26 left made it 69-67.

Brumfield would score with 58 seconds left, the last of his team-best 17 points on 7-8 shooting, but after Hutchinson's Michael Mosley's dunk made it 71-69 with 40 seconds left, Brumfield missed

the front end of a one-and-one with 22.5 seconds left.

DuCharme rebounded a Colby miss with 6.1 seconds left and was fouled, but he missed both free throws, the second of which didn't even hit the rim. That set the stage for a Knight's final shot.

Hutchinson leading scorer DuCharme was held to six points but forward Nate Brumfield picked up the slack with 17 points. The Blue Dragons now sit at 2-2 and 10-7 overall.

The game did not help the Trojans in the Jayhawk West standings. Six teams are tied with two conference wins. The Trojans are 2-3 and 9-9 overall.

The Trojans will be off until 8 p.m. Jan. 25 when they face Pratt at home. The Beavers lead the Jayhawk West with a 4-1 conference record and 15-4 overall.

Portions of this story are courtesy of the Hutchinson News.

# Colby Middle School girls split games with Hays

The Colby Middle School seventh grade girls "A" team Jan. 5 defeated Hays-Felten Middle School 33-13.

Katherine Kaus and Kayla Hockersmith lead a balanced scoring attack by the Lady Eagles with nine and eight points respectively.

Colby's full-court pressure with the defense of Katrina Kaus, Skylar Mengel, Shelby Terrell and Amy Schroeder forced many turnovers, which lead to easy baskets for the Lady Eagles.

"It was good to see Amy

Schroeder and Brittany Bange step up when Skylar got in early foul trouble," said coach T.J. Scholz. "We are a pretty deep team with 27 girls that are out and they all give a great effort when they step out on the floor."

The "B" team did not fare as well coming away with a loss.

"It's good for the girls to play against eighth graders but it was evident in the "B" game that Felten had a year on our girls," Scholz said. "We did put up a good fight in the second half but their girls just over-matched us."

# Rodriguez favors U.S.A.

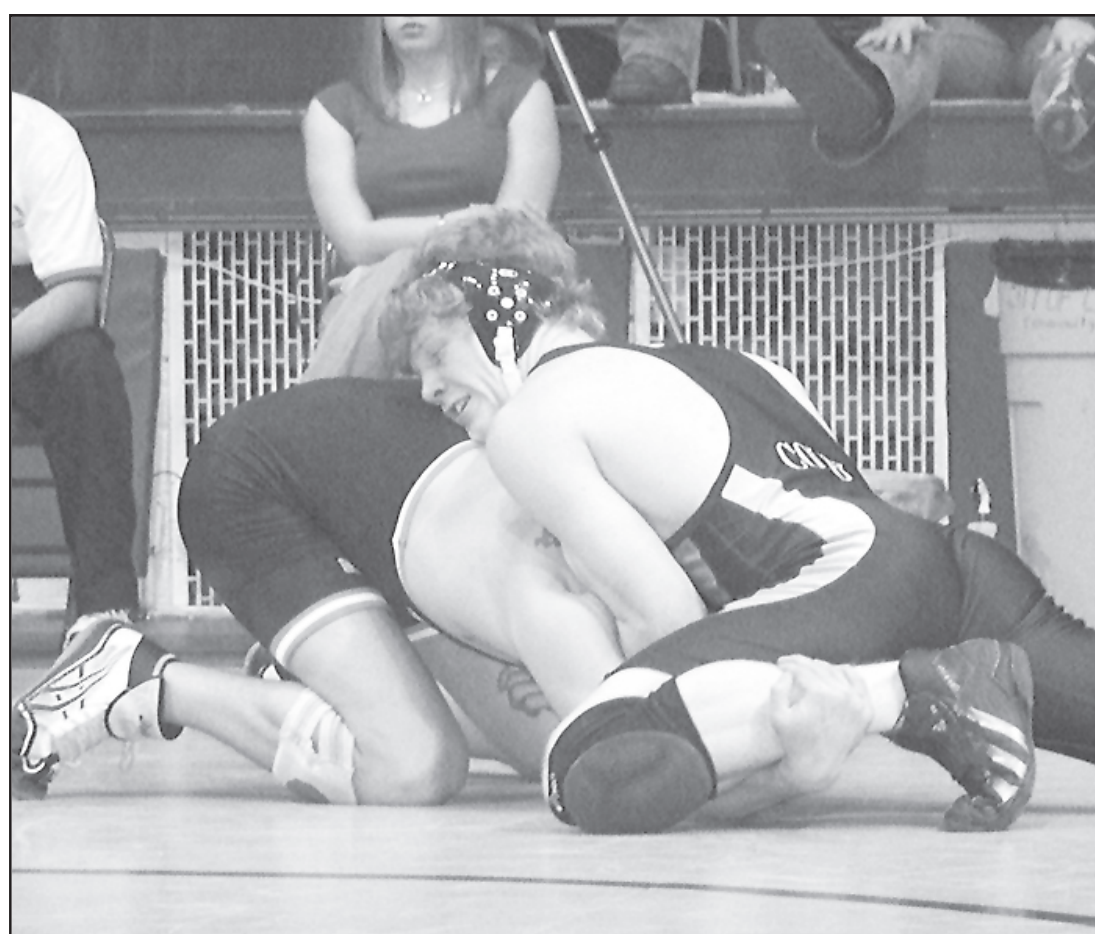
NEW YORK (AP) — A-Rod plans to play for the USA.

His allegiance torn between the Dominican Republic and United States, Alex Rodriguez finally made up his mind Tuesday night and decided he will participate in the World Baseball Classic as a member of the U.S. team.

"In recent weeks, following dialogue with caring friends and players, both Dominican and American, I reached the conclusion that if I played in the Clas-

sic, I would play for the United States and honor my American citizenship," Rodriguez said in a statement on his Web site.

"I appreciate the support and understanding of my fellow Dominican players and friends who aided me in making this decision. The World Baseball Classic offers baseball and its fans an exciting new forum and I look forward, if selected, to representing the United States in what will be baseball's greatest international competition."



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College Trojan wrestler Mat Gilliland tried to pin an opponent during a recent tournament. The Trojans will compete Friday in the Worthington Open in Worthington, Minn.

# Steelers-Broncos game revives coaches debate from 2004

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bill Cowher and Mike Shanahan are trading compliments almost daily, with Cowher calling the Broncos' coach the best playcaller in football and Shanahan recounting how he almost became Cowher's offensive coordinator in Pittsburgh in 1992.

Last season, the words they exchanged were much harsher and anger-inducing, and created hard feelings between the two coaches preparing for Sunday's AFC championship game in Denver.

Cowher, himself a former NFL player, spoke out against the Broncos' penchant for cut blocking — a legal but borderline technique in which linemen block below the waist on the backside of a play, often when a defensive player isn't looking.

Shanahan, in turn, took Denver reporters to a projection room where he showed them tape of Steelers linemen doing the same thing.

"I was a little offended with Bill Cowher's statement because they do it," Shanahan said.

What was unusual about the exchange of words was the teams didn't play in 2004. Cowher was reacting to a broken ankle sustained by the Bengals' Tony Williams on a cut block by Broncos tackle George Foster.

"I saw the play and would not condone it," Cowher said. "Is it il-

legal. No? It is necessary? I don't think so. ... Do unto others as you want others to do unto you."

Steelers lineman Kimo von Oelhoffen took the blocking debate a step further Wednesday when he said the Broncos linemen not only cut block, but chop block — most often defined as a block below the waist from behind. It can be penalized on kick returns but is legal in what the NFL defines as "close line play," the area between the positions normally occupied by the offensive tackles.

The most egregious chop block occurs when two linemen double-team a defender, one hitting him high and the other low.

"What they do is legal," said von Oelhoffen, who caused a debate of his own two weeks ago when his hit seriously injured Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer's left knee. "As long as they get their heads out in front, it's up to us to defend it. It's part of the game. It has been for a long time."

The Broncos' 2,539 yards rushing were second in the NFL only to Atlanta's 2,546 yards, and there's a connection — Falcons consultant Alex Gibbs was the Broncos' offensive line coach from 1995-03 and is credited with developing many of Denver's blocking techniques.

"They're trying to create seams, create that little hole, and their backs are trying to read it and hit it,"

Steelers guard Alan Faneca said. "That's their scheme. It goes to personnel and schemes. We counter-block a little more than some teams do. It's a personal preference."

Faneca would counter-block, for example, when he lines up on the weak side yet still leads the blocking on a running play.

The Broncos' technique is successful because it can be distracting, with defenders forced to watch out for blockers not only in front of them but behind. The Broncos cut block because it gives their runners more options when they decide to cut back on a play.

"It does (work) if you fall into the trap and start looking for it," von Oelhoffen said. "Normally, you react to which way they're going and you just run. When you start looking for it, you get injured."

# Wildcats defeat Aggies

MANHATTAN (AP) — Cartier Martin's 17 points put Kansas State in position to win. The two points he took away from Texas A&M kept the Wildcats there.

Martin forced a critical held ball as the Aggies' Joseph Jones went for a game-tying basket with 4.2 seconds left, and Kansas State held off Texas A&M's second-half comeback to win 58-54 on Wednesday night.

"I did get a little bit of skin on him, but I knew I had all ball," Martin said. "I had confidence that the referee was going to make the right call."

Lance Harris hit three clutch free throws and added 11 points for Kansas State (11-4, 2-2 Big 12 Conference), which improved to 7-0 in Manhattan against the Aggies.

Texas A&M (11-4, 1-3) lost for the fourth time in five games and dropped to 0-3 on the road despite 28 points from Acie Law. The Aggies have lost three straight games by a total of seven points.

"It's frustrating, definitely," Law said. "We know we can play better. All three of our losses in the conference, we had a chance at the end to win. We just have to play a little smarter."

Law scored 22 points in the second half, including a 3-pointer that tied it at 53-53 with 1:03 to go. But he missed one of two free throws with 29 seconds left and Kansas State up 55-53 — and then missed two 3-point tries in the closing seconds after Harris hit one free throw with 19.4 seconds left to give the Wildcats a 56-54 lead.

"I think I rushed them," said Law, who was 4-for-5 from 3-point range before the misses. "I got so excited because I wasn't expecting to be wide open."

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