



Trojan Shareka Purnell readied the offense during Colby's 106-83 win over Salt Lake City, Utah, Community College Tuesday in the first round of the NJCAA Championships at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. Purnell finished the game with 11 points and 10 assists.

Shockers: Last Kansas team standing

WICHITA (AP) — Ask Wichita State athletic director Jim Schaus about the Shockers' surprise run to the NCAA's round of 16 and he won't stop raving about coach Mark Turgeon. He'll talk about how the hometown has embraced the team, and how far the program has come in only six years.

Mention that Wichita State is the final team from Kansas still standing in the tournament, and a wry smile crosses his face.

"When we arrived at the airport on Sunday, I thought a couple hundred people might meet us," Schaus said of the return from Greensboro, N.C., where the Shockers beat Seton Hall and second-seeded Tennessee. "We had thousands. I can't get over that response."

As for the Kansas Jayhawks getting ousted by fellow Missouri Valley Conference Cinderella Bradley: "I won't touch that."

A lot of people are groping for a piece of Wichita State, though. Conference player of the year Paul Miller spent about as much time on cell phones with the media Tuesday as he did on the court, and Turgeon — who in six years has turned around a decade worth of losing — has become a hot commodity among programs looking for a coach.

"I've heard from a lot of people. It's amazing how many Valley fans have called," said Turgeon, mentioning that former Kansas and NBA coach Larry Brown gave him a call. "And he doesn't call anybody. Maybe his wife."

The school's ticket allotment for Friday's regional semifinal against No. 11 seed George Mason — a rematch of a game won by the Patriots in February — was quickly spoken for, despite more than 1,200 miles separating Wichita and Wash-

ington, D.C.

"We're getting the attention this week because maybe they assume we're going to lose," Turgeon said. "But come on, the final eight? In today's world, Wichita State, that would be pretty special."

Turgeon admits he didn't sleep much Saturday before the Shockers (26-8) upset Tennessee 80-73 and further validated the conference's four tournament bids. But he insists his young team — four starters will return next season — is handling the exposure like it's been here before.

"Everything's been the same," Miller said. "It's been relaxing. I've

been catching up on some sleep and just enjoying what we've done so far."

Don't fault Miller for not realizing the magnitude of the Shockers' postseason march. He was 5 years old the last time Wichita State even reached the tournament in 1988, and wasn't alive when the Shockers reached the quarterfinals in 1981.

"It's just a basketball game. It's just played in a bigger arena with more people watching," said Turgeon, whose team reached the tournament as an at-large pick after being snubbed three straight times by the NCAA selection committee.

Sormaz sinks eight three-point shots as Trojans win first round

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Salt Lake City, Utah, Community College was not seeing double, they were seeing in threes.

Colby Community College Trojans made 16 of 28 three-point shots in its 103-86 win over Salt Lake City Tuesday in the first round of the NJCAA Division 1 Tournament in Salina. It was the first ever national tournament game for both schools.

Colby's Suzana Sormaz led Colby with 28 points and made eight of 11 three-point shots.

"The kids weren't shy at all," said Colby coach Tom Stephen's. "They had intensity."

Colby takes that intensity to the second round today. The Trojans play Odessa, Texas, at 6 p.m. Odessa defeated Shelton State, Ala., 56-46 Tuesday in other first-round play.

Not even three minutes into the game, Colby led 10-0. Salt Lake City's first points were from a free throw at the 17:04 mark.

Trojan Rita Kollo extended the lead to 26-13 after a three-point shot with 11:50 in the first half. Then Colby grew their lead, mainly by threes.

For the rest of the first half, Colby used the three-point shot to eventually extend the lead to more than 20 points. Sormaz's three-point shot with nine minutes left gave the Trojans a 36-19 lead.

Colby led 57-30 at halftime.

The Trojans' play was not the same in the second half. Salt Lake City outscored Colby in the second half. The Bruins took advantage of Colby turnovers and a soft defense. Salt Lake City managed to trim the deficit to 15 points but could not get any closer.

"Our defense lacked throughout the game," Stephens said. "I was a little disappointed especially in the second half. No lead is safe."

Salt Lake City managed to shoot 50 percent from the field, making 34 of 67 shots. Five Bruins scored

in double digits. Breanne Law led Salt Lake City with 23 points. Shordy Mulford came off the bench to score 12.

Five Trojans also scored in double figures. Kollo scored 22 points, Jamie Schoreder scored 17, Shareka Purnell added 11 and Ivana Mijalcevic scored 14 points. Kollo led Colby with 11 rebounds.

Purnell had 10 assists.

As a team, Colby shot 58 percent from the field, making 44 of 76 shots. Colby only shot, and made, two free throws.

Stephens was pleased with how his team approached the three-point shot throughout the game. He said it is a symbol of how the team has developed during the year.

"The kids are more mature about it," he said.

Stephens said part of the reason for the offensive output may have been the Bruins had no prior knowledge of Colby's potential, compared to the Jayhawk West Conference foes who play Colby twice a season.

"It is a relief to play a team that doesn't know us as well," he said.

Colby is seeded sixth in the tour-

"The kids are more mature about it."

Tom Stephens,
Colby coach

nament. Salt Lake City was seeded 11th.

If Colby wins tonight, they will play the winner of Chipola, Fla., vs. Trinity Valley, Texas, 6 p.m. Friday. Trinity Valley is 30-1. Chipola is 29-4.

Trinity Valley easily ousted Northeast Mississippi 123-64 Tuesday. Trinity Valley set a new record for most points scored in a national tournament game. The old record was 121 set in 1995. by Westark Community College of Arkansas.

If Colby loses tonight, they will go to the consolation bracket. Colby will play the loser of Chipola vs. Trinity Valley 8 p.m. Thursday.




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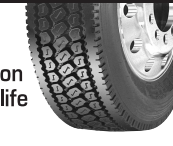
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