

# Trojan volleyball team aims for nationals

By Trent Rose  
Sports Information Director  
Colby Community College

After coming off a 29-15 season, you might assume that the Lady Trojan volleyball team is satisfied. However, head coach Pedro Gonzalez contends he and his team are far from satisfied.

Colby begins its season 5 p.m. Aug. 25 at the North Platte, Neb., Tournament.

In his third season, Gonzalez said this team will be quicker and a more physically strong team than in previous years. Although he believes this team may have more athletic ability, many of the goals are the same as in past years.

"First of all, academics are our number one priority. As far as during the season, we hope to start strong, avoid injuries and maintain momentum throughout the year," Gonzalez said. "Obviously, it is always our goal to end up in the national tournament."

To reach the goal of playing in the national tournament, Gonzalez will be relying on one of the best players in the conference and the nation in sophomore outside hitter Ana Kokanovic.

"Ana will show both the confer-

ence and the nation her abilities and she will carry our team to the next level," Gonzalez said. "She makes her teammates better and her unselfish leadership on and off the court makes us feel proud and determined to reach bigger goals than last year. She is the complete athlete."

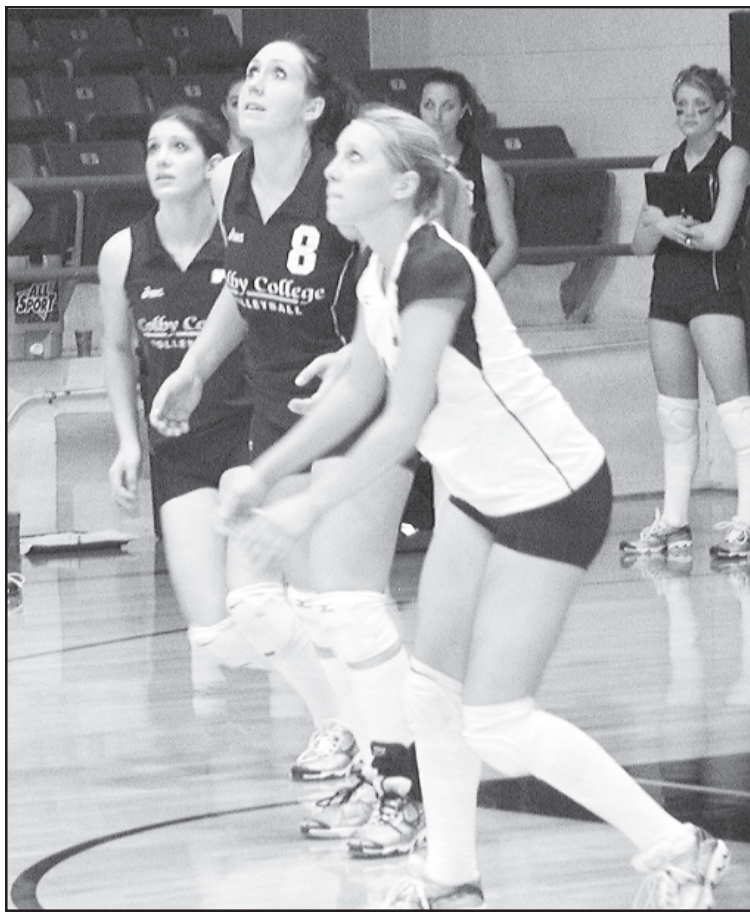
Besides Kokanovic, the Lady Trojans return two other starters from last season in sophomore outside hitter Cynthia Danthon, an All-Conference honorable mention selection last season, and sophomore libero Kori Tagtmeyer.

Out of the newcomers, Gonzalez has another "big" asset. At just over six feet tall, setter Milica Micovic gives the Lady Trojans a height advantage at her position against most teams.

Gonzalez also lists freshman middle blocker Brandi Bertrand as a possible impact player and says other freshman will have to step up for the team to be successful.

"We're looking to make some noise this season. Hopefully, with our new players and new assistant coaches, we will continue to turn things around here at Colby," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez is 41-42 overall in his first two seasons. Gonzalez will be



COLBY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO  
Members of the Lady Trojan volleyball team practiced during the 2005 season. The Lady Trojans return to action for the 2006 season Aug. 25 at North Platte, Neb. Colby was 29-15 last year.

joined on the bench by first-year assistants Manolo Concepcion and Eddie Rivera

Volleyball team members are Ana Kokanovic, Milica Micovic,

Sarah Ritchey, Kori Tagtmeyer, Ali Thomas, Vicmari Prospero, Lindsey Graham, Megan Jones, Daryl Rodriguez, Cynthia Danthon and Brandi Bertrand.

# Chiefs' offense struggles, drops to 0-2

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Eli Manning and the New York Giants showed flashes of offense they'll need to repeat as NFC East champions. They also showed Herm Edwards how much work his Kansas City Chiefs have left to do.

Manning threw for one touchdown and set up another and the Giants starters and backups dominated in a 17-0 preseason victory over Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday night, spoiling Edwards' return to Giants Stadium.

"We came out here and played very well," Manning said. "The defense did a great job of getting us good field possession on the first series and we were able to run the ball, throw the ball and convert third downs."

The Giants did just about anything they wanted in outgaining the Chiefs 309-111 while holding the ball for more than 37 minutes.

If the game showed anything, it was that the Giants (2-0) have the talent to repeat in the NFC East and that Edwards, the former Jets coach, has a lot of work ahead to get the Chiefs (0-2) back to the playoffs for

the first time since 2003.

"We've done this two weeks in a row," Edwards said matter of factly. "I flat out told the guys it wasn't a good job coaching, and you just can't play like that against a team that went to the playoffs last year. We have to hurry up and rally now."

Edwards led the Jets to three playoff appearances in five seasons, but he was ushered out after a 4-12 mark last season.

In taking the Chiefs job, he promised to shore up their porous defense.

No such change was evident against the Giants.

Manning shredded Kansas City for touchdowns on two of the first three drives, capping the first with a 5-yard toss to Amani Toomer and handing off the Brandon Jacobs for a 1-yard plunge on the third series.

The other drive probably would have resulted in points had not Jeremy Shockey and Tim Carter been hit with consecutive holding penalties in Chiefs' territory.

Defensively, New York limited Trent Green (4-of-6 for 32 yards) and halfback Larry Johnson (4 car-

ries for 8 yards) to two first downs in two series before turning things over to the backups. The Chiefs only got into Giants' territory once in the game, getting to the New York 40 on their second series.

"Is it time to panic?" Green asked. "No, but I definitely think there has to be much more of a sense of urgency on the starters part."

Manning finished 11-of-14 for 80 yards playing for the first time this preseason with all 11 starters from the offense that scored 422 points last season.

Manning spread the ball around extremely well, hitting Toomer, Plaxico Burress and Carter with two passes each. Tiki Barber, appearing

for the first time, ran five times for 22 yards and caught a pass for nine more.

Shockey, who missed the preseason opener with a concussion, caught one pass for 10 yards and cleared out the middle on the short touchdown pass to Toomer.

"I'm excited we have something to build on," Shockey said.

In the second-quarter drive, Manning used a no-huddle offense to move New York 52 yards in eight plays without all starters in the game. Jacobs had a 14-yard run on the second play of the drive in which the Giants had only one third-down play: Jacobs' touchdown run.

Kansas City never threatened.

# Rebel sprint series to be in Goodland

From the Goodland Star-News

The United Rebel Sprint Series will highlight the 14th Bill Gray Memorial race bill Saturday night as the winged cars visit Sherman County Speedway in Goodland for the first time.

The racing night is named in honor of the late Bill Gray, a former member of the county fair board, and was a staunch supporter of the speedway, said Doug Hilty, who used to drive a race car before a farm accident that put him in a wheel chair.

Hilty said the memorial used to be held during the fair, but with scheduling problems it got moved later in August. He said it is a way the Sherman County Racing Association honors the help they received from Gray.

Association President Alex West said this is the first appearance of the larger Sprint cars on the Goodland track, and he expects some high-speed racing this weekend. The mini-sprint cars ran on June 3 at speeds around 100 mph. West said the series cars run on 305 Chevy engines.

The new traveling Sprint series will bring drivers from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado to attack the three-eighths-mile oval, said Rick Salem of Oberlin, founder and promoter.

Leading the Rebels into town will be points leader Jon Johnson (car 86) of Utica. Johnson, who returned to racing this year after being burned two years ago in a fire at Hutchinson, has won six events this season. He is a five-time National Championship Racing Association champion and a three-time International Motor Contest Association national champion in the Sprint car division.

Among the drivers attempting to catch Johnson will be Goodland Sprint driver Mark Bantam, (car 82) currently running eighth in points with 12 points separating him from sixth place. Bantam's best finish this season was a third in Oberlin on July 16 when he led for over half of

the feature race before being passed by Johnson and Travis Decker of WaKeeney. Decker worked his way passed Johnson on the 17th lap only to have the veteran ace drive around him coming out of turn four on the last lap to take the win.

Also coming to race will be Justin Schwien from Russell, currently second in points with three second-place finishes this year. Schwien is hungry to get his first win. Other drivers include Randy Bantam, Billy Smith and Kyle Fields from Norton; Hill City's hard-charging Larry Radcliffe; Smokey Fairbanks from Ransom; Deckers, Colo.'s, Tim Perkins; and Nebraska's Tommy Williams and Doug Roth, just to name a few.

The series has developed into one of the most exciting forms of Sprint car racing in the area, Salem says. The race format used by the traveling series inverts the top 10 qualifiers in the feature, ensuring a lot of passing and close wheel-to-wheel action for the fans.

Also on tap Saturday night will be the regular race classes for mini-stocks, econo stocks, bombers, stocks and modifieds.

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## BOWLING LEAGUE OPENINGS

### 2006 Fall League Schedule

**SUNDAY P.M. - Mixed Couples League.** Two couples per team. Bowls at 7 P.M. every other week. Starts Sept. 10th

**MONDAY P.M. - 5 person Men's League.** Starting at 8:00 p.m. Starts August 28th.

**TUESDAY A.M. - Ladies Coffee League.** Starts at 9:00 a.m. and bowls 4 to a team. Starts Sept. 5th.

**TUESDAY P.M. - Men's 5 person teams.** Starts at 7:15 p.m. Starts Sept. 5th.

**WEDNESDAY P.M. - Two - 4 person Ladies Leagues.** Starting at 6:15 or 8:15 p.m. Definitely Ladies Night Out!! Both Start Aug. 30th

**THURSDAY MIXED COUPLES - "Free NFL Team Ball League"** Bowls at 6:30 p.m. (two games and shorter season. Starts Oct. 5th

**THURSDAY COED LEAGUE - 5 person (any sex)** Teams starting at 8 p.m. Starts Sept. 7th

**FRIDAY P.M. - 4 person Ladies League** at 7:00 p.m. Starts Sept. 8th.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON JR. LEAGUES - Ages 5 & up.** Sign up is Sat., Sept. 30th at 1:00



Most Leagues still have openings!  
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