



COLBY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Colby Trojan coach Tom Stephens, left, demonstrates some techniques to players during a recent practice. Colby won its first game of the year Saturday 72-54 over Dawson (Mont.) Community College at Casper, Wyo. Three Trojans scored in double figures. Jamie Schroeder led Colby with 21 points from 11-21 shooting. Schroeder also had 10 rebounds. Vanja Zelenovic scored 15 points. Sandra Sormaz had 12 points. Colby (1-8) plays Cowley County Dec. 2 in Coffeyville. The Trojan men (3-5) play Salt Lake City Community College Friday at Eastern Wyoming.

Jayhawks overpower Tennessee

LAWRENCE (AP) — Five players produced nearly all the points for Kansas. One big man created most of the excitement.

Sasha Kaun brought a huge roar from the Allen Fieldhouse crowd when the 6-foot-11 center came into an 89-54 rout of Tennessee State midway through the first half Tuesday night, much sooner than anyone had hoped 22 days earlier when he partially tore a tendon in his right knee.

A physical, intimidating presence inside, Kaun will be key to any chance the 10th-ranked Jayhawks (3-1) have of meeting their lofty long-term goals this season.

"We've been talking about leaders. That may be the guy," coach Bill Self said. "He certainly has changed the mind-set of our team in the locker room with the excitement of his being out there. Even yesterday in practice, he was going to hit you and foul you, and that's something we just haven't had."

Kaun played 9 minutes and scored seven points. Freshman guard Sherron Collins had 19 points, and Brandon Rush added 14 points and 10 rebounds in the second-round game of the Las Vegas Invitational.

"It was great to get back out there with the guys," Kaun said. "It was very nice to be back playing in Allen Fieldhouse in front of the fans."

The knee, he said, "is sore, but the pain isn't like it was before."

In their best 20 minutes so far this season, the Jayhawks raced to a 50-19 halftime lead, outscoring the Tigers 23-5 during one stretch.

Julian Wright had 14 points while Darnell Jackson scored 11 and freshman Darrell Arthur 10.

"The first half was terrific," Self

said. "The second half, I think we got kind of bored."

Clarence Matthews made a field goal for Tennessee State (0-2) with about 6:30 left in the first half, but the Tigers didn't score again until his three-point play 33 seconds into the second half.

"They go 100 mph the entire game, so we just needed to run and run and run," Matthews said. "They ran their game and that's what they do. They are a fast-paced team."

Matthews, the Ohio Valley Conference's leading rebounder last year, had 18 points and six rebounds before fouling out with 1:33 to play.

"It's no embarrassment to lose to Kansas," Tennessee State coach Cy Alexander said. "Kansas is a top five team in the country, talent-wise, and as they continue to play, they are going to be one of the top teams in the country."

The popular Kaun triggered a roar when he put up his first shot and it bounced around the rim a few times before dropping in. He then hit a free throw for a three-point play and a 33-15 Jayhawks lead.

"He came back yesterday and changed the whole practice by blocking shots, ducking in hard, going to the rim whenever possible and just making great plays," Rush said.

It was the second game in a row a freshman led the talented Jayhawks in scoring. Arthur, the 6-9 center who had 26 points two days earlier against Towson State and was aver-

aging 20, picked up three quick fouls in the first half and sat out much of the game.

The Jayhawks, who dropped seven spots from No. 3 after their upset loss last week to Oral Roberts, shot 52 percent, held a 46-32 rebound advantage and kept dazzling the visitors with one athletic play after another as the lead climbed into the 30s.

Northwest Kansas Technical College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its accreditation evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host an evaluation team, representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, on its campus on February 12-14, 2007. This team will review the institution's ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to:

Public Comment on Northwest Kansas Technical College
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago IL 60602-2504

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed, and include the name, address and telephone numbers of the person providing the comments. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered. Comments will not be treated as confidential. All comments must be received by January 12, 2007.

2006 a time of change for NASCAR

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson opened and closed the 2006 season on top, for very different reasons.

The year began with the controversial suspension of his crew chief, who was caught cheating before the Daytona 500 and kicked out of the garage for four weeks. It ended with Johnson and Chad Knaus hoisting the Nextel Cup trophy as the championship winning team.

It was a headlining year for Johnson, but he hardly stole the show.

NASCAR's 2006 season was thick with story lines, subplots and drama that didn't involve Johnson at all.

There was NASCAR's intense focus on the future, two elite teams moving in opposite directions and the defending Nextel Cup champion embarking on his own rollercoaster season.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon both returned to the top of the sport — with Gordon making a pit stop to get married along the way — while a handful of former contenders dropped to the back of the field.

But the main theme of the season was change as everyone spent most of the year preparing for what's to come in 2007: A foreign automaker, a Colombian driver, a futuristic car and a new television network.

NASCAR chairman Brian France is confident the new look can jump-start a sport that seemingly has stalled after a decade in the fast lane.

"It's an awful lot of change, but it's going to be good change," France said before Sunday's season finale. "A lot of exciting things for the fans and the drivers and everyone else to look forward to. I love where we're at, and we're excited about where we're going."

It all started with Toyota, which said in January it would enter Camrys in the Nextel Cup Series in 2007. The announcement coincided with NASCAR's decision to phase in its custom-designed "Car of Tomorrow," which will debut next season and is meant to cut costs and

improve safety.

Fans will become acquainted with Toyota and the CoT next year on ESPN, which will replace NBC.

Toyota started the biggest domino effect as it worked hard to land the top talent in NASCAR: The garage was consumed for months with which drivers would sign with the automaker. Toyota had its sights set on Kevin Harvick or Matt Kenseth but got Dale Jarrett and Brian Vickers instead.

Still, Harvick played the game and kept his options open — a hardline stance that forced car owner Richard Childress to pull his once-proud team from the back of the field to the front of the pack. When Harvick realized RCR was a competitor again, he re-signed and had the best season of his career.

With five Cup wins, nine Busch victories and that series title, as well as a spot in the Chase for the championship, Harvick helped RCR become a major player again. But he received help from teammate Jeff Burton, who resuscitated his career by ending a five-year winless drought and making a major play for the Nextel Cup title.

With Harvick off the free-agent market, 1999 Cup champion Jarrett became a viable option for Toyota, sending RYR into a free-fall that threatened the team's survival.

Jarrett opted out of the No. 88 Ford to drive a Camry for Michael Waltrip Racing, and sponsor UPS went with him. Then Elliott Sadler asked out of his seat, leaving RYR down two drivers, two crew chiefs and a sponsor.

Yates heads into the offseason still trying to save his flagship No. 88. So far, he has only David Gilliland — the unproven driver who shot to stardom with a freak Busch win in June — holding his operation together.

When the open-wheelers get comfortable, they might find themselves battling with former series champion Tony Stewart.

The two-time champ had a truly bizarre season as he struggled with his role as a garage leader, slumped on the race track and missed the Chase for the championship.

It started at Daytona, when he publicly warned someone would be killed because of the dangerous racing conditions. That led NASCAR to police aggressive driving, and Stewart was one of the first offenders. Then he angrily backed away from commenting further on the issue.

Unable to defend his Nextel Cup title, he spent the final 10 weeks of the season focusing on himself.

Harvick and Burton stepped in for RCR, and rookie Denny Hamlin surprised many by racing his way to a third-place finish in the points.

"This has definitely been a year that exceeded every expectation," Hamlin said, speaking for almost everyone.

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