



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College Trojan wrestler Tyler Baker took down an opponent during a recent home match.

Young Trojan wrestling team still learning, showing success

From Colby Community College

After a grueling first semester schedule, the Colby Community College wrestling team is preparing for their next home dual Jan. 3 against Lincoln, Ill.

After that dual, Colby will host the Tournament of Champions meet at the Community Building Jan. 5-6.

The teams competing at the Tournament of Champions include Colby, Pratt, Neosho, Labette, Pima Community College from Tucson, Ariz.; Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, Iowa; Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minn.; U.S. Air Force Academy, Ridgewater College in Hutchinson/Wilmar Minn.; Western Wyoming, St. Louis – Meramec, Lincoln College, Northwest College and Minnesota West.

Looking back at the first semester, Colby head coach Steve Lampe

compares the first few months of the Trojans wrestling season to a yo-yo, lot's of ups and downs.

"Some of our off days can be directly related to travel fatigue and multiple days of making weight and competition," Lampe said. "We traveled six and a half hours (to compete) at Kearney and eight hours to compete at Labette. It's not hardly fair, but nonetheless ruthless training for the Trojan wrestlers. All things considered, we are turning into a respectable team."

Lampe said Levi Younkin, a sophomore from Oakley, and only returning All-American, started the season slow but has looked fantastic over the past two weeks.

Lampe also said that Akmal Adilov (Uzbekistan, freshman), Tyler Baker (Hoxie, freshman), Scott Miller (Oberlin, freshman), and Chris Kearn (Concordia, freshman) are also potential All-Americans. According to Lampe,

Lyubomir Kumbarov should join that group after becoming eligible for the second semester.

Lampe also said two other wrestlers, Cole Garcia (Colby, freshman) and Taylor Finley (Colby, freshman) are beginning to turn the corner after making the adjustment from high school to collegiate wrestling.

"I believe Cole Garcia will make the turn very soon. Taylor Finley has had some very bright bouts as well, but has not quite made the turn," Lampe said. "Other wrestlers Naota Saga and Gabe Walz continue to improve."

Although the Trojans have battled some adverse conditions, Lampe feels his team is beginning to develop into a solid unit.

"Having one sophomore and nine freshmen is a great challenge," Lampe said. "We are behind at this point, but have some time to get where we need to go."

K-State fans could be out of luck

S&T Communications say Texas Bowl will be on

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The NFL has offered a free week of programming to two cable television operators, but the generosity could still leave many college football fans seething.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league is offering the network to Time Warner Cable and another provider, Cablevision, from Dec. 24 to Dec. 30. That would allow customers to see Kansas State play Rutgers in the inaugural Texas Bowl on Dec. 28 and Minnesota vs. Texas Tech in the Insight Bowl on Dec. 29.

But Maureen Huff, a spokeswoman for Time Warner Cable, said Thursday that the offer applies only to subscribers in the New York area. Those in Kansas City and elsewhere are likely out of luck.

"They haven't extended an offer anywhere else," Huff said. "I'm not sure why."

A spokesperson from Colby's S&T Communications office said today the Texas Bowl will be on its programming.

NFL Network spokesman Seth Palansky said the network is offering a free preview to New York-area subscribers "to appease the New York residents who don't have a choice."

"There's a lot of high-rises and apartment buildings in New York that don't have the ability to get service," Palansky said.

As for Time Warner customers elsewhere getting the network, he said the decision is up to Time Warner Cable — not the NFL Network.

"There's a ton of stuff that appeals to Kansas City residents," Palansky said. "We know it's a football town. The issue is (Time Warner). We're trying to make it available, but we can't force them to."

Neither Time Warner Cable nor Cablevision has an agreement to carry the NFL Network full time, meaning many Wildcat fans will not be able to watch the team's first bowl game in three years.

School officials announced Thursday that only about 200 tickets remain of its 10,500-ticket allotment for the game against Rutgers at Reliant Stadium in Houston.

Huff said Time Warner CEO Glenn Britt countered the NFL's offer by sending a letter to network President Steve Bornstein on Wednesday, offering two options: making only the Texas Bowl available to all New York-area customers on Time Warner Cable's basic tier, or carrying the network all week on a digital tier.

Neither option includes Kansas City or other service areas.

"The timing is entirely up to them at this point," Huff said.

The NFL Network is available in roughly 40 million of the nation's 111 million homes with televisions, mainly through satellite providers. Time Warner says the network is asking for too much money to carry the network.

Colby Free Press contributed to this story.

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