



Colby College guard Mike Boyd, back, heads into tonight's Jayhawk Conference opener against Garden City as the leading scorer in the Western Division averaging 21.8 points per game.

Trojans begin Jayhawk action

By Joey Falkoff

Free Press Reporter
jfalkoff@nwkansas.com

Just as New Years Day gave everyone the opportunity to start anew, the Colby College men's and women's basketball teams can wipe the slate themselves, as they begin Jayhawk Conference play 6:30 p.m. tonight against Garden City at the community building.

The first two months of the season were a struggle for the Colby College basketball teams, especially for the men who are 3-10 and currently sit in the cellar of the Jayhawk Western Division.

The Lady Trojans won two of their last three games before the break, but at 5-9, they are a distant sixth place team in the West.

Despite the combined 8-19 record of both squads, there were some bright spots that emerged during the first half of the season.

For the Lady Trojans, it was the play of Whitney Archer and Sandra Sormaz. Archer and Sormaz are the only two players scoring in double-figures. The Goodland-native Archer is averaging 10.4 points per game while Sormaz is third in the division in scoring at 15 points per game.

The Trojan men boast the leading scorer in the division in freshman guard Mike Boyd who is averaging 21.8 points per game. Down low, 6-9 center Koance Davis has emerged as a force in the middle,

averaging 17 points per game.

But it's a whole new ball game now as the Trojans welcome the Broncbusters to town for the first of 16 conference games.

Garden City comes into Colby with a pair of teams headed in opposite directions. The Garden City men are 11-2, good for third place in the division while the Lady Bron-

cbusters are 4-9, just a game ahead of last-place Pratt.

Garden City's men's team features guard Corey Claitt who is fifth in the division in scoring at 17.4 points per game. The Lady Broncbusters come into play with two girls averaging double-figures led by Katie Novack with 11.4 points per game.

2007-2008 Jayhawk Conference Basketball Standings
(As of Jan. 1, 2008)

Men		
	Con	All
Western Division	W L	W L
Barton County	0-0	12-1
Seward County	0-0	12-2
Garden City	0-0	11-2
Hutchinson	0-0	10-4
Dodge City	0-0	8-5
Cloud County	0-0	7-6
Pratt	0-0	6-8
Butler	0-0	5-8
Colby	0-0	3-10

Women		
	Con	All
Western Division	W L	W L
Barton County	0-0	14-0
Cloud County	0-0	11-2
Hutchinson	0-0	11-3
Seward County	0-0	9-5
Butler	0-0	5-8
Colby	0-0	5-9
Dodge City	0-0	5-9
Garden City	0-0	4-9
Pratt	0-0	3-10



Wildcats thumped by Xavier

CINCINNATI (AP) — There was nothing subtle about Xavier's approach. The Musketeers were going to make a point by making it painfully tough to get any points.

Derrick Brown had 14 points and 12 rebounds for his third career double-double on Monday night, and Xavier's unrelenting defense set up a 103-77 victory over Kansas State at a downtown arena.

Xavier (10-3) opened the game with a 14-point run and never let Kansas State (9-4) get into a flow. It was the Wildcats' first drubbing of the season and the most points they'd allowed since a 103-68 loss to Kansas on Feb. 27, 2002.

"We came out and tried to impress on them," Brown said. "We didn't want to get hit in the mouth and get pushed around. We were going to be aggressive tonight and wanted to show it early."

A sign of their success: Kansas State's leading scorer, Michael Beasley, didn't make a field goal until the final minute and finished with only five points.

"They just were physical," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said. "That's what older guys do. They never gave him or us anything easy

at the rim."

The Musketeers had a stunning seven players in double figures, the ninth time this season that at least four have scored 10 or more.

Point guard Drew Lavender led with 21 overall as Xavier put up its highest point total since a 108-57 win over Long Island on Dec. 8, 2001.

Sophomore Jason Love had a career-high 11 points for Xavier, continuing to emerge as a solid front-line threat.

"Our big men are playing great right now," Lavender said. "Everybody on the coaching staff knew what they could do, but they had to prove it on the court. They're starting to emerge now."

Bill Walker scored a career-high 31 for Kansas State, and Fred Brown added a career-high 25, but it wasn't nearly enough to keep up with Xavier's balance.

"Defensively, we had some major breakdowns throughout the course of the game," Martin said.

It was the second in a three-game series set up when former Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins went to Kansas State.

The Musketeers won 76-66 at the

downtown arena last season, and will visit Kansas next season.

Last season's game was a novelty, with hundreds of Huggins fans showing up in purple shirts to support the coach. He bolted for West Virginia after last season, and the rematch on Monday night had far less interest.

One Xavier fan held up a sign that said: "I Came To See Huggins."

Instead, the attraction was to see how Kansas State's two fabulous freshmen would handle Xavier's tenacious defense.

Walker fizzled in his Cincinnati homecoming last season, going 4-for-14 for eight points. The power forward joined Huggins at Kansas State after helping suburban North College Hill win the Ohio prep title, but tore a knee ligament after only six games.

His sidekick is the 6-foot-10 Beasley, who was averaging 25.8 points and had 12 consecutive double-doubles in his budding college career.

In the opening minutes, Xavier made them look like raw freshmen. Beasley had a charge, missed a shot and was called for traveling on Kansas State's first three possessions.

Colby still leads bowl contest

With just five bowl games remaining, Colby is the leading town in the Budweiser Bowl Spectacular Pick 'Em contest sponsored by KXXX and the Colby Free Press.

The winning town must place two contestants in the top three to win "Best Football Town," and Colby currently has six of the top seven entries.

Sarah Richmond of Colby is tied with Kevin Uhrich of Oakley for the

overall lead with 48 points.

Richmond, however, has been eliminated from contention since she has already lost the tiebreaker with Uhrich by virtue of Uhrich picking 23 games correctly to Richmond's 22.

Uhrich and Richmond have the same picks the rest of the way, so there's no way for Richmond to make up any ground.

Jason Mader of Colby sits in third

Kansas and Virginia Tech differ in bowl history

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — After much overanalyzing of Kansas' prolific offense and Virginia Tech's stingy defense and every other stat heading into Thursday's Orange Bowl, one distinct difference stands out.

Virginia Tech has been on the big stage before.

For Kansas, this basically is uncharted territory.

Oh, sure, the Jayhawks have reached the Orange Bowl before. Most recently, 1969. So that won't exactly provide Kansas much help

when trying to determine how best to handle the atmosphere and pressure that can accompany a Bowl Championship Series game.

Meanwhile, the Hokies were in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game last month, have as many bowl trips over the past 10 years — 10 — as Kansas has in its first 117 seasons of football, and are in a BCS matchup for the fifth time since 1995.

But will any of that matter?

The eighth-ranked Jayhawks (11-1) don't think so.

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