

Unheralded Trojan guard comes back to bite hometown team

By Joey Falkoff

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Maybe it a New Year's resolution or some extra shooting over the break.

Either way, Colby College freshman guard Jordan Ottoway found his stroke and just in time to bury his hometown team.

After averaging just 2.6 points per game and shooting 25 percent from the three-point arc prior to the new year, the Holcomb native burst out of the gate in 2008 with a career-high 25 points and seven three-pointers which keyed the Trojans (4-10) to an 85-70 victory over Garden City (11-3) Wednesday at the community building.

"I really wanted to play good in front of my hometown school," said Ottoway. "The first part of the season was really rocky, but I knew I could shoot the ball better than 25 percent."

And was he ever correct.

Ottoway's seven three-pointers came on just 10 attempts after hitting only 9-36 prior to Wednesday.

But the performance of Ottoway and small forward Erick Peguero, who finished with 12 points, wasn't the least bit surprising to Trojan head coach John Woods.

"It's a big surprise to our fans that Erick and Jordan had big nights, but I knew all along they could do it," said Woods. "We've been waiting on Jordan and Erick to contribute and they played great tonight."

Their contributions were needed greatly on a night in which the Trojans two top scorers, Koance Davis and Mike Boyd, were held to 25 points on 10-34 shooting (29.4 percent).

"To know we won with Koance and Mike under their average, it's a nice feeling," said Woods.

"That's important. The guys off the bench gotta bring it," said Ottoway. "It's something we've worked on."

Unfortunately for Peguero, his breakout night was overshadowed by Ottoway.

The 6-4 guard had the home



MONICA KANE/Contributed Photo

Colby College guard Jordan Ottoway went up for one of his seven three-pointers during the Trojans 85-70 win over Garden City Wednesday at the community building. Ottoway, a Holcomb native, finished with a career-high 25 points against his hometown team.

crowd hooping and hollering in the second half where he scored 17 points and hit five of his seven three's, including four during a 33-7 Trojan run over an 11 minute span that turned a 57-52 deficit into a 85-64 advantage with 1:30 to go.

"Any time you have a guy that can shoot the three it stretches the defense out," said Woods. "It helped us in transition and in the half court."

Garden City had won six of seven and had beaten Western Nebraska by 24 points earlier this year, the same Western Nebraska team that beat Colby by 33.

Nevertheless, Garden had no answers for Colby's new outside shooting star.

"The Ottoway kid really got 'em going," said Garden City head coach Kris Baumann. "He made some big shots and played really well."

If Baumann wasn't aware of

Ottoway's shooting abilities from watching him at Holcomb High, he certainly found out the hard way Wednesday.

But his Broncbuster team never got the message, leaving Ottoway alone time after time in transition.

"That's a good question," said Baumann on why his guys couldn't find Ottoway on the perimeter. "I'll have to watch the tape and find out."

It won't just be the transition defense that Baumann looks back on with dismay.

Despite having a noticeable size advantage inside, the Broncbusters settled for outside shots all night and wound up shooting only 26-81 (32.1 percent), including just 11-40 (27.5 percent) in the second half.

"We didn't do a good job of getting it inside in the second half and I thought that's where our advantage was," said Baumann. "They kind

of baited us into shooting outside shots."

The Trojans allowed only 24 points for the first 19 minutes of the second half after giving up 40 in the first half. Woods said he installed a new defense over the break, which he felt paid dividends right away.

"I simplified things for our guys," said Woods. "It's all predicated on not giving up easy baskets and finishing with a block out. Our guys believed in what we were doing defensively. First semester, everything was one-on-one and no one was helping out. Now we have guys willing to help."

Help was needed in the first half when the already undersized Trojans had the 6-9 Davis pick up his second foul and 6-11 Everson Lacerda also on the bench with three fouls.

For the last 10 minutes of the half, the Trojans were forced to go small and they responded with a 15-8 run

Box Score

	1	2
Garden City	11-3 (0-1)	40 30-70
Colby	4-10 (1-0)	38 47-85

Garden City (70)- Claitt 16, Tarvin 2, Ottley 2, Brown 9, Roquemore 8, Ragan 7, Flemming 12, Baird 6, Link 8

Colby (85)- Lacerda 2, Kelly 1, Davis 8, Rohr 2, Boyd 17, Ottoway 25, Engel 14, Peguero 12, Doll 4

Team Stats:

Turnovers: Colby 16 Garden City 13
Rebounds: Colby 42 Garden City 44
Assists: Colby 12 Garden City 8
Field Goal Percentage: Colby 29-74 (39.2) Garden City 26-81 (32.1)
Three Point Percentage: Colby 11-28 (39.3) Garden City 5-22 (22.7)
Free Throw Percentage: Colby 16-27 (59.3) Garden City 13-25 (52.0)

to grab a 27-20 lead. Garden City slowly chipped away and eventually regained a 40-38 lead at the break, but Woods was happy his team was able to stay afloat.

"I was pleased the last 10 minutes of the half without Koance or Everson we were only down two," said Woods.

The Trojans continued to trail at the beginning stages of the second half and got down as much as 55-49 after a Corey Claitt basket with 12:45 to play.

Claitt led the Busters in scoring with 16 points.

Trailing 57-52, Ottoway responded with two three-pointers to give the Trojans their first lead of the second half. Garden's Jordan Ragan, who had a woeful 3-15 shooting night, responded with his only three-pointer allowing the Busters to regain a 60-58 lead.

But from there it was all Trojans.

Colby went on a 17-2 run capped off by an Ottoway three to lead 75-62 at the 4:28 mark. Garden cut it to 75-64, but Ottoway's seventh three and an incredible one-handed shot by Boyd highlighted another 10-0 run that put the game out of reach.

Things got a little testy with 1:02

to go when Woods called a timeout to settle his reserves down.

Feeling the timeout was unnecessary, Baumann threw his hands up and yelled "Are you kidding me?" at Woods multiple times.

But things eventually settled down, and when the buzzer sounded the Trojans had already matched their total of one win in conference play last year.

"What a difference a year makes," said Woods. "I liked last year's team. We just didn't have the talent to compete. I told our guys during the shootaround, you're either going to be tied for first with four teams or tied for last."

And for the first time in a while, the Trojans can say they are a first place team, but with road games at Pratt (Saturday) and Dodge (Wednesday) staring them in the face, Woods knows that may be shortlived.

"Any road game in our league is tough," said Woods. "I'd be pleased with a split. We have to win all of our home games and steal a couple on the road if we want to finish in the top four."

After Wednesday's surprising start to '08, anything seems possible.



MONICA KANE/Contributed Photo

Lady Trojan forward Nikki Welsh went up against a Garden City defender during her team's 70-51 win over the Lady Broncbusters Wednesday at the community building. Welsh nearly had a double-double, finishing with 10 points and nine rebounds.

Lady Trojans blow past Garden

By Joey Falkoff

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Lady Trojan head coach Tom Stephens talked before the season about his team getting better month by month.

His plan appears to be working.

Following a 3-7 November, the Lady Trojans went 2-2 in December and are now 1-0 in January after their 70-51 win over Garden City (4-10) in their Jayhawk Conference opener Wednesday at the community building.

"It's always important to hold serve on your home court," said Stephens. "The kids did that. I thought we had good energy to start the second half."

Both teams came out sluggish in the first half.

The Trojans managed a 29-22 lead at the break despite shooting 11-33 (33.3 percent). Garden, though, shot it even worse, connecting on just 10-36 (27.8 percent) attempts.

Colby came out and shot the ball much better in the second half, but Garden wouldn't go away and managed to trim the deficit to 39-33 with 13 minutes left.

That was as close as Garden would get.

The Lady Trojans went on a 12-0 to expand to a 51-33 lead with just under 10 minutes left.

"Our defense was really good, we

Box Score	
	1 2
Garden City	4-10 (0-1) 22 29- 51
Colby	6-9 (1-0) 29 41- 70
Garden City (51) - Copeland 6, Schmitt 12, Young 2, Durler 4, Burnett 2, Jones 8, Brown 4, Novack 12	
Colby (70) - Welsh 10, Ciani 5, Spresser 3, Fortin 10, Puchelova 3, Sormaz 18, Archer 15, Phelan 6	
Team Stats:	
Turnovers: Colby 22 Garden City 16	
Assists: Colby 13 Garden City 14	
Rebounds: Colby 41 Garden City 34	
Field Goal Percentage: Colby 27-70 (38.6) Garden City 22-68 (32.4)	
Three-Point Percentage: Colby 9-25 (36.0) Garden City 6-26 (23.1)	
Free Throw Percentage: Colby 7-9 (77.8) Garden City 0-2 (0.0)	

rotated well, had good communication, ran well and got easy transition baskets," said Stephens.

Garden City stopped the bleeding with a basket to bring it to 51-35, but the Lady Trojans went another run of 14-2 to claim their biggest lead of 65-37 after a Nikki Welsh basket.

Welsh nearly had a double-double, finishing with 10 points and nine rebounds. She was one of four Trojan starters in double-figures led by Sandra Sormaz with 18 points on 7-17 shooting.

Sormaz, along with Whitney

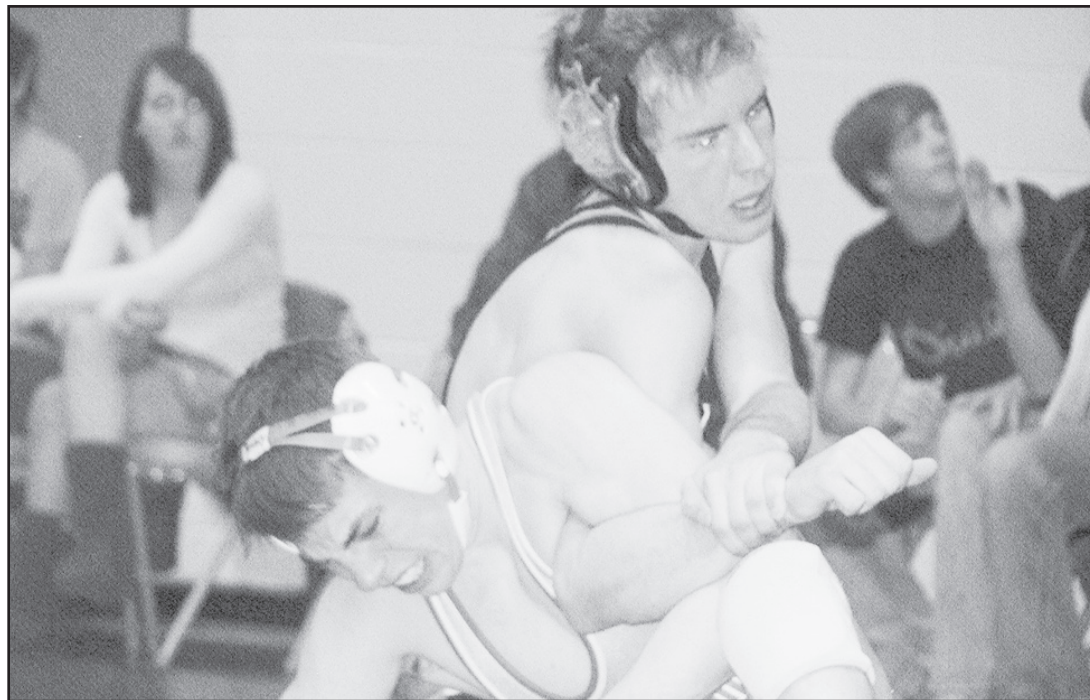
Archer who finished with 14 points, each had three triples.

The Lady Trojans (6-9, 1-0) have now won three of their last four games, but Stephens isn't reading too much into it.

"We're 1-0 in league. That's all I know," said Stephens. "The team is improving and we want keep improving every month."

They'll look to continue their improvement this month 6 p.m. Saturday when they travel to Pratt for their second Jayhawk Conference tilt.

Back with a flurry



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior Brent Luedke, top, and the rest of the #2 ranked Colby Eagle wrestling team will be back in action 6:30 p.m. CT with a duel at Goodland. Tonight's Goodland duel begins a stretch where the Eagles will wrestle three days in a row and nine times in 16 days. The Eagles will wrestle at the Liberal Tournament Friday and Saturday.

Kansas offense faces huge challenge

MIAMI (AP) — When Mark Mangino went to Kansas, he knew changing a woebegone program into a winner would be a major challenge.

He also knew similar turnarounds had been accomplished before.

The one Frank Beamer started a decade earlier at Virginia Tech, for example.

So Mangino modeled large chunks of his Jayhawks' regime

after things Beamer did with the Hokies, like trying to be complete in all three aspects of the game, not just offense or defense or special teams.

Those parallels will be on display Thursday night, when No. 8 Kansas (11-1) — perhaps the biggest surprise in college football this season — makes its first Orange

Bowl appearance in 39 years against the fifth-ranked Hokies (11-2), champions of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"When I first arrived at Kansas, it was disappointing," said Mangino, who was 25-35 in his first five Kansas seasons before this year's big turnaround earned him the AP Coach of the Year honors.

CORRECTION:

In Wednesday's Free Press, it stated Sarah and Tom Richmond were two of the top seven contestants in the Budweiser Bowl Pick 'Em Contest. It is Sarah Redmond tied for first place and Tom Redmond in a four-way tie for fourth.

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