



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby freshman Aireus Stephenson squared up for a shot against the Laramie County Golden Eagles on Saturday.

## Indians fast-breaking offense too much for Trojan defense

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby Community College men's basketball team was unable to pick up a victory this weekend, losing to McCook Community College from Nebraska and the Laramie County Golden Eagles from Wyoming in the annual Ambassador Classic.

The losses left the Trojans in fourth place in the four-team tournament, held at the Community Building.

The Trojans' first game of the weekend was against McCook.

Freshman Shamar Acuay gave the Trojans a lift at the start of the game, as he slammed home a dunk to give Colby a 10-7 lead. McCook responded with a couple of threes to take a 13-10 lead. Colby

caught up to the Indians and tied the game at 15.

In what was arguably the highlight of the game, Colby sophomore Erick Peguero blocked a Cougar shot, recovered the ball and drove it down the court before throwing an alley-oop to Freshman Trevor Siebert, who laid it in for two points.

The Trojans had a few mental lapses on defense that led to easy buckets for the Indians, who took a 28-25 lead.

The Trojans were able to refocus, and Acuay hit freshman Ethan Stover with a no-look pass for an easy bucket to tie the game at 28. The Trojans trailed 36-35 at half time.

The second half started out close, with the two teams trading buckets. Peguero connected on a short jumper to tie the game at 60. The Indians responded by knock-

ing down two straight threes to take a 66-60 lead.

The Indians were able to beat the Trojans down court for some easy fast-break lay ups, widening the lead to 82-68 with less than a minute remaining. The Cougars ended up winning 82-69.

Peguero led the team in scoring with 22 and freshman Acuay had 21 points and 11 rebounds. Charleston Smith had 10 points coming off the bench.

"We've got to learn to play defense in open court," Coach John Woods said. "Time and time again tonight, we were beat off the dribble, which led to wide-open looks. In order for us to be a good basketball team, our defense has to improve."

The Trojans lost to the Laramie County Golden Eagles 77-58 on Saturday.

## Women go 1-2 in tourney

The Colby Community College women lost basketball games to the South Plains Lady Texans and the Western Nebraska Cougars this weekend during the annual Ambassador Classic tournament.

The losses left the team with a record of 1-2 in the tournament. The Lady Trojans lost 66-45 to South Plains on Friday. Colby kept it close in the first half at the Community Building.

Freshman point guard Danisha Cole got things started for the Trojans when she swooped into the lane for a lay-up to tie the game at six. However, the Texans immediately responded with three straight buckets to take a 12-6 lead.

South Plains extended its lead to nine before Colby responded with a couple of threes of its own. A three pointer from freshman guard Tasha Wagoner cut the Lady Texans' lead to three.

Colby turned its defensive intensity up a notch, and their swarming defense forced the Lady

Texans to turn the ball over. This helped Colby gain a 22-20 lead, and the Lady Trojans led 22-21 at the half.

The beginning of the second half proved to be a pivotal point in the game. The Lady Texans came out rejuvenated, and they out-scored Colby 15-4 to take a 36-26 lead. They were able to widen the lead to 14 before Colby's Jaelyn Marshall nailed a three to make it 42-31.

The Lady Texans began using their size advantage to control the game, and they were able to get the ball to their inside players for some easy buckets right around the basket. The Colby women were never able to mount a rally and ended up dropping the game 66-45.

"We hung in better than the first time we played them," said Coach Brady Jasper, but they had the better first four minutes of the second half. They are a tough team, a very good team, but we played them

tough."

Wagoner had 14 points on 5-of-10 shooting and Cole chipped in with 10 points.

Colby got off to a slow start in the game against Western Nebraska on Saturday. The Cougars held the Lady Trojans scoreless for the first five minutes of the game. This helped the Nebraska team build an early lead.

Cole would eventually jump start her team, driving past Cougars defenders to put the ball off the glass for two points.

Unfortunately for the Lady Trojans, the Cougars responded by stretching their lead to 34-21. Then sophomore Lauren Fortin pulled down a rebound and laid it in to cut the lead to 11.

Colby cut the Cougars' lead to 8 in the second half, but would get no further. The Cougars ended up defeating Colby 67-45.

The Lady Trojans will play again at 4 p.m. Thursday against Eastern Utah in Casper, Wyo.

## Kansas City loses heartbreaker

SAN DIEGO (AP) — This wasn't about changing defensive coordinators in midseason. It was about making a play that quite possibly saved the San Diego Chargers' season.

Burned by a pass interference call and then a touchdown catch by star tight end Tony Gonzalez, strong safety Clinton Hart swatted away Tyler Thigpen's 2-point conversion pass intended for Gonzalez with 23 seconds left to preserve the Chargers' 20-19 win. Despite coming off their bye, the Chargers (4-5) looked lethargic in the first half and were booed heading to the locker room trailing 13-6.

Philip Rivers rallied them with two touchdown passes late in the game, then Hart saved them.

Thigpen moved the Chiefs (1-8) to the Chargers 18 with 41 seconds left. On a second-down pass, Hart came from the side to

knock a pass away from Gonzalez and was called for a questionable pass interference penalty that gave the Chiefs a first-and-goal at the 1. After an incomplete pass and a 2-yard loss by fullback Mike Cox, Gonzalez caught a 3-yard touchdown pass to pull the Chiefs within one. Hart and nickel back Antoine Cason were covering Gonzalez tightly.

Hart deflected Thigpen's pass right to Quentin Jammer, who made the interception while on

the ground. Gonzalez thought there should have been a flag.

"It was ridiculous, he held me," the tight end said.

Hart disagreed.

"If he pushes me off, they're not going to call it," Hart said

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