



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College freshman Charleston Smith laid in a basket during Sunday's game against Pratt. Smith scored 14 points and the Trojans defeated Pratt 80-78 in overtime.

## Colby triumphs in overtime; guard's heroics lead to victory

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby Community College men's basketball team edged out Pratt 80-78 in overtime in a heart-stopping, blood-pressure-raising contest Sunday.

The momentum shifted between the two teams a dizzying amount of times during the game. Every time the Trojans seemed on their way to victory, Pratt would somehow claw its way back into the contest at the Community Building.

The Trojans seemed to have finally put Pratt away with less than two seconds remaining. Colby was leading 68-65 and Pratt was at

the foul line. The Beavers player made the first free throw and deliberately missed the second. A Pratt player was able to get the rebound and put the ball on the glass as time expired to tie the game at 68.

The Trojans could have given up right then, but instead, they came out battling in overtime.

The game went back and forth in overtime. Freshman Derrick Thomas hit sophomore Anthony Rohr with a nice pass for an easy layup, giving the Trojans a 73-72 lead.

Colby led 78-75 with less than 10 seconds remaining when the Beavers hit a long three to tie the game. Sophomore Erick Peguero made a long inbound pass to fresh-

man Shamar Acuay, who streaked to the basket and laid the ball off the backboard to give the Trojans a 80-78 lead with three seconds to go. A desperation heave by Pratt was way off the mark and Colby came away with the victory.

Although the team struggled in certain areas, particularly rebounding, Colby played hard and did what they had to do to pick up a win.

Acuay scored a team-high 22 and freshman Charleston Smith had 14. Freshman Aireus Stephenson added 13.

The Trojans' next game will be against Cloud County at 8 p.m. on Wednesday in Concordia.

## Lady Trojans gain early lead, cruise to an easy 74-50 victory

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby Community College Lady Trojans took care of business on Sunday at the Community Building, whipping Pratt 74-50.

Colby took control of the game early. Freshman Ashley Ming jump started the Lady Trojans on offense by scoring four of the team's first six points to give the women a 6-2 lead.

Freshman Jaime Alexander grabbed a rebound and banked in a tough turnaround jumper to widen Colby's lead to 12-2.

The Lady Trojans continued the attack, increasing their lead to 18-5 with a little less than nine minutes remaining in the half. Freshman Jasmine Gardener got hot from outside, hitting two three-pointers on two consecutive possessions to give Colby a 30-6 advantage with less than five minutes remaining.

The half ended with the Lady

Trojans leading 34-11. The Lady Beavers were unable to mount a comeback in the second half, and Colby cruised to a 74-50 victory.

Freshman Danisha Cole scored a team-high 17 point and sophomore Jamie Alexander added 15. Freshman Tasha Wagoner scored 14 and Jasmine Gardner chipped in 11.

The Lady Trojans' next game will be against Cloud County at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Concordia.

## Jayhawks' star players shine as Kansas upsets Tennessee

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas coach Bill Self has said it all season: Sherron Collins and Cole Aldrich have to play well for the Jayhawks to beat good teams. They did against Tennessee and Kansas ended up with its biggest win of the season.

With Collins blowing past defenders with crossover dribbles and Aldrich flying in for dunks and blocked shots, Kansas picked up an important victory by knocking off 14th-ranked Volunteers 92-85 Saturday.

Collins had career-high 26 points and nine assists, Aldrich had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and the two Jayhawks stars combined to shoot 17-of-28 in the kind of game that should look good come NCAA tournament time.

"A lot of the guys, from us going through last year's run know that Sherron and I kind of have that extra edge going through those kinds of games," said Aldrich, who was 10-for-14 from the floor and blocked six shots. "They have confidence that we'll lead them in the right way, we'll bring them up when we're down and we'll just keep on attacking when things are going right."

Relying on one or two players isn't something Kansas has had to worry about since Wayne Simien left in 2005. Every team since then, including last year's national champions, has had talent throughout the lineup. If one player had an off-night, the Jayhawks knew someone else would be there to step up.

This year's team is much different. Collins and Aldrich are the only players back with any significant playing time from a year ago, and the team has eight newcom-

ers. If Collins and Aldrich don't play well, even for stretches, Kansas usually doesn't end up winning. It happened in losses to Syracuse, Massachusetts and Arizona — its only three games against big-name schools this season — leaving the Jayhawks (10-3) in need of a win against a big-name school.

They got it, thanks to Collins and Aldrich, feeding off a rowdy crowd to build an early 16-point lead, then holding their composure against Tennessee's defensive pressure for Kansas' 32nd straight win at Allen Fieldhouse.

"Every team needs signature wins, resume-builders, and this was a good one for us," Self said.

Tennessee (9-3) had already padded its resume with wins over Georgetown and Marquette..

The Volunteers entered Saturday's game on a three-game winning streak and were looking to build momentum for the start of Southeastern Conference play in a week.

Instead, poor shot selection and defensive breakdowns put Tennessee (9-3) in a big hole early and the Vols never recovered, making Wednesday's game against No. 16 Gonzaga a little more daunting.

Tyler Smith led the Vols with 21 points and Wayne Chism, back after a scary fall in his last game, had 17 points and six blocked shots while playing with a bruised spine and elbow.

"I'm hoping this one will serve us well," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said. "Look, Kansas is a NCAA tournament team."

## Broncos interviewing for new coach

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Pat Bowlen wants to get back to the Super Bowl after a decade's drought, and he thinks last year's participants might just hold the key.

A day after interviewing Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo in New York, the owner of the Denver Broncos met Sunday with New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels in the Boston area.

Bowlen is searching for a replacement for Mike Shanahan, whom he fired last week after 14 seasons. Shanahan won back-to-back Super Bowls in the late 1990s, but just one playoff game in the 10 years since John Elway retired.


McDaniels is a 32-year-old rising star who worked his way up from graduate assistant to offensive coordinator for Bill Belichick. Under his tutelage, Tom Brady

threw for a record 50 touchdowns last season.

McDaniels' reputation grew ever larger this year when Brady was lost with a knee injury in the opener and Matt Cassel, who hadn't started a game since high school, led the Patriots to an 11-5 record.

Spagnuolo, 49, who spurned the Washington Redskins last year, is

the architect of the pass rush that stymied Brady in last season's Super Bowl stunner. His credentials also were burnished this season when the Giants earned the No. 1 seed in the NFC playoffs despite the retirement of seven-time Pro Bowler Michael Strahan and the loss of fellow Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora to a knee injury in the preseason.



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