

Readers encouraged to share opinions

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Attention, sports fans. The *Free Press* hopes to start running columns featuring the opinions of athletes, coaches and fans of Colby Community College and area high school sports. Opinion articles offered by fans from Colby, Golden Plains, Brewster and Heartland high schools and Colby Middle School will be run as space permits.

We want you to feel like this is

your sports page, so please send your opinions whenever you want to comment about your favorite team.

While we support freedom of speech, we want to avoid profanity, unfounded rumors and unduly harsh criticism. Columns will be edited and may be abridged, so keep the brief.

This is your sports page, not ours. Player, coach or fan, if you have a viewpoint you want to express, send an e-mail with your article attached to aheintz@nwkansas.com.

Tigers beat Memphis, advance to Sweet 16

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — When freshman Marcus Denmon swished one from three-quarters court at the halftime buzzer to put his team up by 13, it sure looked like Missouri's night.

And when Mizzou later made it a 24-point lead, it looked unbelievably easy. That's when Memphis made things interesting.

J.T. Tiller scored a surprising 23 points and Missouri held off a frantic rally, ending Memphis' 27-game winning streak with a 102-91 victory Thursday night in the semifinals of the West Regional.

The display of intensity and toughness "out-Memphised" the opposition to put Missouri one win from its first trip to the Final Four.

"We kind of got punched in the mouth right from the beginning of the game," Memphis coach John Calipari said. "They broke us down defensively like we break people down. They beat us at our own game."

Third-seeded Missouri led by 24 points four minutes into the second half, then saw Memphis close within six with 2:14 to play. Mizzou put it away from the foul line.

Missouri (31-6) advanced to play top-seeded Connecticut for the West title on Saturday.

"We came out and kind of took the fight to Memphis early on, and before you know it, our guys had a little confidence," Missouri coach Mike Anderson said.

Dynamic point guard Tyreke Evans scored 33 for second-seeded Memphis (33-4). The Tigers shot only 18-for-32 from the foul line — last year, a poor showing at the foul line cost them dearly in an overtime championship game loss to Kansas.

Tiller, the co-defensive player of the year in the Big 12, made 10-of-16 shots in the highest-scoring game of his career and had three steals. He was averaging only eight points per game.

"His energy was just contagious," Anderson said. "I thought he was like a pit bull in a china shop out there. He was going everywhere, just bowling down everybody. He was wherever the ball was."

All five Missouri starters reached double figures. DeMarre Carroll scored 17 and Leo Lyons had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Lyons was 11-for-18 from the foul line but made four straight in the final 1½ minutes. In all, a whopping 77 free throws were taken, with Missouri making 30 of 45.

Robert Dozier had 19 points and 16 rebounds in Memphis'

first loss since a Dec. 20 setback against Syracuse. Antonio Anderson scored 18 in his last game for Memphis.

Missouri is among the last eight teams left in the NCAA tournament in just its third season under Anderson, a Nolan Richardson disciple who coached the last Conference USA team to beat Calipari's Memphis team — that was for UAB 62 games ago.

This was Tigers vs. Tigers in a matchup not only of nicknames but in-your-face, high-energy styles.

Missouri overwhelmed Memphis with a 27-7 run that spanned the final four minutes of the first half and the first four minutes of the second.

Matt Lawrence's third 3-pointer of the night — in four attempts — put Missouri ahead 64-40 with 16 minutes to play.

"I don't think we lost our composure," Dozier said, "but maybe on the defensive end a little bit. We weren't talking."

In its fourth straight regional semifinal appearance, Memphis finally turned up the pressure to force a series of turnovers that got the Conference USA champs back in the game.

Shawn Taggart's rebound dunk cut it to 89-83 with 2:14 left, but Zaire Taylor sank two free throws to boost the lead to 91-83. Lyons made two free throws with 1:30 left, then two more with 1:21 to go and it was 95-85.

Lawrence had started it all for Missouri with a 3-pointer that ignited an 11-1 run.

The Tigers took a 37-29 lead on Tiller's inside basket with 5:39 left in the half.

Ready, aim, fire



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Sophomore Marie Elsberry prepared to fire a pitch towards the plate during the Colby Community College Lady Trojans' game against Central Community College of Nebraska on March 14. The softball team is 7-8 for the season this year.

Closer job for Rockies may go to newcomer

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Huston Street is finally showing he might be the right choice for the Colorado Rockies closer job.

Street pitched a scoreless inning Thursday, his fifth in six games, but the Rockies lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-6.

Colorado manager Clint Hurdle refuses to say if he favors Street or Manuel Corpas.

"He has been on a nice little roll. He had some pretty good

put-away pitches," Hurdle said of Street. "We have seen a marked improvement."

Street, obtained in a trade in November with Oakland for Matt Holliday, had a quadriceps muscle problem that led to early spring troubles. But his last outings have impressed the coaching staff.

The right-hander snapped a four-game, five-inning scoreless streak the last time out against Milwaukee.

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STRIKE ZONE

~ League Bowling Results ~

March 17, 2009- Pinbusters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Colby Bowl	132	78	1
Al's Painting	115	95	2
Colby Automotive	108	102	3
Subway	105	105	4
Roommasters	100	110	5
Cummins Central Power	96	114	6
Bargos	96	114	7
Corona Kids	88	122	8

First high Individual game: Darren Hickson, 300
First high Individual series: Vernon Schwanke, 771

March 16, 2009 - First Nighters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Kansas Quick Lube	119	49	1
Parking Lot Maintenance	116	52	2
Discount Repair of Oakley	110	58	3
Woofter Pump & Well	101	67	4
Sparky's Firework	90	78	5
NW Refrigeration	86	82	6
Grinnell Furniture	78	90	7
Frontier Ag Inc.	70	98	8
McKee	68	100	9
Wild Ride	63	105	10
Pepsi	61	107	11

First high Men Individual game: Brett Suter, 300
First high Men Individual series: Brett Suter, 707

March 19, 2009 - King Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
T.J. Tire	58	26	1
Balls Deep	57	27	2
5 Pony Men	56	28	3
Morgan Construction	55	29	4
Colby Automotive	43	41	5
Colby Bowl & Fun Center	42	42	6
www.visitcolby.com	38	46	7
Orschelns	36	48	8
FireXrikers	25	59	9

First high Individual game: Al Koenig, 243
First high Individual series: Al Koenig, 680

March 18, 2009 - Ladies Nite Out League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Golden Harvest Seeds	8	0	1
Twisters II	6	2	2
Service Oil	6	2	3
Straightline	5	3	4
Citizens Medical Center	5	3	5
Bop Shop Betties	4	4	6
Twisters	2	6	7
Don's Electric	2	6	8
Strike-Outs	1	7	9
Super 8 Motel	1	7	10

First high Individual game: Heather Griggs, 224
First high Individual series: Lesley Wagoner, 538

March 20, 2009 - Ten Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Minds In The Gutter	31	13	1
Minds In The Gutter	29	15	2
Colby Bowl	26	18	3
Once Upon a Sign	18	26	4
Farm Credit	16	28	5

First high Individual game: Kelly Horinek, 202
First high Individual series: Kelly Horinek, 566

March 17, 2009 - Early Bird Ladies League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
NW Vacuum	29	19	1
www.strike	28	20	2
Van's Merry Four	19.5	28.5	3
Bowlerettes	19.5	28.5	4

First high Individual game: Dee Hovda, 182
First high Individual series: Dee Hovda, 529

March 15, 2009 - King and Queen non-smoking

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Schissler-Koehn	32	20	1
Swartz-Barnett	30	22	2
Renner-Schwanke	29	23	3
Kreutzer-Garrett-Stasser	29	23	4
Barton-Reeh	29	23	5
Norman-Mackley	25	27	6
Cook-Dennis	17	35	7
Pancake-Heartman-Lee	16	36	8

First high Men Individual game: Gary Pancake, 197
First high Men individual series: Charles Schwanke, 565
First high Women individual game: Deb Norman, 181
First high Women individual series: Deb Norman, 509

March 8, 2009 - King and Queen smoking

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Phillips-Carmen	32	24	1
Huff-Waddington	31.5	24.5	2
Barnett-Schroeder	28	28	3
Schmidtberger-Benson	28	28	4
Skolout-Wagoner	26.5	29.5	5
Pancake-Heartman	22	34	6

First high Men Individual game: Shelby Barnett, 224
First high Men individual series: BJ Wagoner, 567
First high Women individual game: Jennifer Phillips, 162
First high Women individual series: Jennifer Phillips, 431

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