

Trojans basketball team wins close game



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby Community College freshman Regis Schafer glanced down court while dribbling during the Trojans' game against Laramie County Community College from Wyoming on Tuesday at the Community Building. Colby defeated the Golden Eagles 74-71 in a hotly contested game that went down to the last minute. Schafer buried two free throws in the last minute to help seal the win.

Colby women's squad falls to Lamar in opener

By Trent Rose
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The Colby Community College Lady Trojans lost their basketball opener 61-44 to Lamar Community College from Colorado on Tuesday at the Community Building.

Entering the game, the Lady Trojans were already without three players. Sophomore Jessica Schmidt and freshman Crystal Kinderknecht both missed the game due to illnesses. Sophomore transfer Jessica Mitchell will not be eligible until the second semester. Only eight players suited up

for the game.

Colby trailed by 11 points at halftime. They women were unable to mount a significant second-half run, mainly due to timely outside shooting by Lamar.

"We gave up a high number of rebounds," said Coach Brady Jasper. "They hit some timely threes to keep us at arms length."

The Lady Trojans were led by freshman Hannah Thornton with 11 points and 8 rebounds. Sophomores Tasha Wagoner and Danisha Cole both finished with 8 points.

The team will take on Western Nebraska Community College of Scottsbluff at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building.

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby Community College basketball team and new coach Dustin Pfeifer started their season off in dramatic fashion on Tuesday night at the Community Building.

The Trojans overcame a 17-point deficit on their way to defeating the Laramie County Golden Eagles from Wyoming 74-71.

Pfeifer was still fired up and breathing fast while being interviewed several minutes after the game.

"One thing about these guys is they've been a second half team," he said.

The Trojans needed a rim-rattling dunk by freshman Jose Pena-Benjamin and a couple of clutch free throws by freshman Regis Schafer in the final minute to seal the win.

Benjamin followed up a missed Trojans' shot with a monstrous jam that gave Colby a 71-70 lead with 41 seconds left. The powerful slam had the rim shaking and brought the crowd to its feet.

"He's a big-time athlete," said

Pfeifer.

The men forced Laramie to turn the ball over on the next play and sophomore Aireus Stephenson collected the ball for Colby. The ball eventually found its way to Schafer, who was fouled. He hit one of two free throws to make it 72-70 Trojans.

Laramie freshman Terrance Dent was fouled on his team's next turn on offense. He made his first free throw, but his second shot was off the mark. Schafer went up and grabbed the board, but was fouled by a Golden Eagle defender who tried to come over his back.

This time Schafer nailed both his shots.

"His work ethic will take him to the top," said Pfeifer.

This left the Golden Eagles with a little over five seconds to try to tie the game with a three-pointer or a three-point play. Their attempt was unsuccessful, and the Trojans picked up the win.

The game was defined by momentum swings. Laramie led 39-22 with a little over five minutes left in the first half. Colby didn't begin cutting into the lead until the

beginning of the second half. After a fierce rally, they trailed Laramie by just one, at 51-50. Then the Golden Eagles were able to score a few buckets to give themselves some breathing room.

Laramie's Mike Johnson knifed his way into the lane for a bucket to extend his team's lead to 58-53, but the Trojans were not ready to relinquish the momentum they had built up throughout the half.

Schafer drilled a three-pointer to cut the lead to two, and Stephenson banked in a three from the top of the key to give Colby a 59-58 lead. Several moments later, Benjamin would pick off a pass and take it down court for a one-hand slam to make it 61-59 Trojans with 6:02 remaining. Dent answered the dunk by nailing a three to put the Golden Eagles up 62-61.

Schafer drove the baseline and laid it in to gain the lead back for Colby. A few minutes later, Stephenson took the ball down the lane, split two defenders and laid the ball off the glass with his left hand to give his team a 65-62 lead.

Laramie fought back and tied

the game at 65. Freshman Jordan Michelson stuck back a missed three-pointer by Schafer to make it 67-65 Colby. The 6-foot, 8-inch freshman out of Houston seemed to come flying in out nowhere to bank in the errant three pointer. Michelson had another tip-in later in the game to give the Trojans a 69-68 lead with 2:40 left.

Michelson led the team with 18 points and seven rebounds.

Stephenson had a solid game for the Trojans, scoring 17, dishing out four assists and going the whole game without a single turnover. He drilled 3-of-6 three pointers. Benjamin chipped in 12.

The Trojans will hold the Ambassador Classic at the Community Building this weekend. They will take on Trinidad State Junior College from Colorado at 7 p.m. Friday and the Northwest Kansas All-Stars at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Middle school volleyball team wins Freedom League tourney

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Middle School volleyball team completed an undefeated 14-0 season by winning the Freedom League Volleyball Tournament in Healy last Tuesday.

The girls entered the tournament as a No. 1 seed with a 9-0 record.

The tourney started out with pool play. The first team the girls faced across the net was Healy.

Although they started out a little timid, the girls were playing well by the end of the first set. They swept Healy in two sets, 25-19 and 25-10.

The second team to be defeated by the Lady Bulldogs was Dighton. After winning 25-7 in the first set, the girls struggled to get things moving. They allowed Dighton to win 14-25. Pulling back together, the girls worked hard and won the third set 25-20.

The Lady Bulldogs final challenge in pool play was Cheylin. During the regular season, Chey-

lin took the match to three sets, but the girls were able to win easily this time, 25-20, 25-12.

After winning their pool, the girls took on Weskan in the semi-final round.

The girls had struggled to defeat Weskan earlier in the season and had to work hard to gain the win in three sets. The match went back and forth the entire time, but the Lady Bulldogs fought hard for a victory, 25-22, 22-25, 25-21. This earned them the right to play Grinnell-Wheatland in the title. The first set was tight, with the girls pulling out the win 26-24. They were aggressive at the net and controlled the second. With the help of several good plays by Kylie Jones and a seven-point run served by Macayla Easton, the girls were able to win the second 25-18.

"We didn't go all that way not to get first," said Juenemann.

"Even though the tournament was nerve-racking, we are proud of ourselves," Christensen added.

Coach Ashley Arnberger led the team this season with the help of Autumn Arasmith.

"I can't express just how extremely proud I am of this group of girls," said Arnberger.

"I believe that all of us who know them have come to expect great things from them, but none of us expect more than the girls themselves."

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