



Crusaders lose by 12

By Andy Heintz
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The Heartland High boys basketball team had Tuesday's game against Triplains under control going into the third quarter, but the Viking's switch to full court pressure proved to be too much for them.

The Winona team was able to overcome an 11-point first-half deficit on their way to defeating the Crusaders 66-54 at the Community Building.

Heartland started off strong. Senior Jeremy Myers scored on a driving layup while being fouled by a Triplains' defender. He drained his free throw to cash in the three-point play and give his team a 7-4 lead. Then the Vikings scored three of the next four points to tie the game at 8. Myers made another shot while being fouled, but he missed his free throw, giving the Crusaders a 10-8 lead. A little later on, Meyers drove the lane for a layup to make it 16-12. Heartland led 16-14 at the end of the quarter.

Junior Clint Goosen hit a pretty turnaround rainbow jumper from

near the free-throw line to extend the Crusaders' lead to 19-14 early in the second quarter. Moments later, Grace nailed a jumper while being fouled. He completed the play by sinking his free throw to give Heartland a 22-14 advantage.

Triplains responded by making the next three baskets to cut the lead to 22-20. Myers scored on a tough running one-hand layup from the left baseline to extend Heartland's lead to four. The Crusaders dominated the end of the second quarter, scoring 10 of the next 13 points to give them a 34-23 halftime lead.

The Vikings began applying a full-court press at the start of the third period, causing the boys to commit several turnovers and allowing Triplains to mount a rally.

Brett Gfeller of Triplains made a layup and a jumper and' Ethan Plummer nailed a three-pointer to give their team a 48-43 lead. They led 50-45 at the end of the third. Despite Heartland's subpar performance in the third, one positive development was the defensive play of Goosen, who forcefully blocked several shots.

"He has a very well-timed

jump," said Heartland coach Randy Regier.

Myers was fouled while taking a shot a the beginning of the fourth. He hit one of two free throws to cut the Vikings' lead to 50-46. Triplains, however, scored the next 8 points to take a 58-46 lead. Goosen made an acrobatic layup to make it 58-48 a little later. The Vikings Plummer responded by making consecutive buckets to extend his team's lead to 14.

Later on, Goosen grabbed a rebound down low and laid it over the rim in heavy traffic to make it 62-52. Grace hit a turnaround jumper to cut the lead to 62-54. Heartland was unable to get any closer and Triplains picked up the win.

Regier said turnovers really hurt his team in the second half.

"We got away from our offense in the second half," he said. "We moved the ball around well in the first half and utilized everyone. Not everyone scored, but they had good looks at the basket.

"We didn't play as well as we could as a team in the second half."

The Crusaders will play again at 8 p.m. Friday at Healy.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Heartland High senior Jeremy Myers shot a free-throw during the Crusaders' game against Triplains High School from Winona on Tuesday at the Colby Community Building.

Eagles' top runner an academic star

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Colby High junior Katrina Kaus may be the perfect model of a student athlete. She has qualified for the state meet in cross country all three years of her high school career, and she has a perfect 4.0 high school grade average so far.

Kaus was recognized for her accomplishments on and off the field when she was selected for the Class 4A Academic All-State Cross Country team. The award was announced during halftime of the basketball game between the Colby girls and St. Francis on Dec. 15. Cross country coach Bob Mannebach gave her a plaque, which Kaus, a starting guard, accepted in her basketball jersey.

"When athletes work really hard in sports, they usually also work really hard in the classroom," the coach said.

The all-academic team was named by the Kansas Cross Country/Track and Field Coaches Association. To make the all-state squad, an athlete had to be nominated by their coach, be a junior or senior, have at least a 3.75 grade average and finish in the top 30 at the state meet, said Mannebach.

On top of cross country and basketball, Kaus also runs for

the track and field team in the spring. Her 4-by-400-meter relay team took first in the Class 4A finals at the state meet in Wichita last year with a time of 4:09.3. Her teammates were sophomores Emilea Finley, Alyse Dumler and Morgan Bell. Kaus finished third in the 3,200-meter race and fifth in the 1,600.

Kaus has been Colby's top cross country runner for the last three seasons. She took 27th in the state meet at Wamego this season with a time of 16 minutes, 46 seconds.

Kaus' other accomplishments this season include taking first in the Northwest Kansas League Meet for the third time and finishing first in the Hill City Invitational. She also took fifth at the regional meet, third at the Oberlin Invitational with a season-best time of 16:04 and third at the Hays Invitational.

In her sophomore season, Kaus snared first in the Lakin, Hays and Goodland invitationals.

One reason for Kaus' success may be the fact that she runs on the same team as her twin sister Katherine.

"Each one competes hard and makes the other one better," he said.

The sisters also team up on the basketball squad.

Jayhawk's senior helps team avoid upset

LAWRENCE (AP) — Cornell held its poise in one of the most intimidating places in college basketball, ignored the rafter-rattling crowd and shook off nearly every challenge from the nation's No. 1 team.

Only one person stood in the way of a monumental upset by the two-time Ivy League champions: Sherron Collins. He was just enough to pull Kansas through.

Playing with an aggressiveness he hasn't needed in a senior season filled with blowouts, Collins had a career-high 33 points and made nearly every key play down the stretch to help the top-ranked

Jayhawks avoid the upset with a 71-66 victory Wednesday night.

"Tonight was like a tournament game," Collins said. "When things aren't going good, you just have to find a way to win and I was that way to win. I didn't want to let us lose and wasn't going to let us lose."

Facing being on the wrong end of one of college basketball's biggest upsets, and with the nation's longest home winning streak in jeopardy, Collins showed why this is still his team.

Cornell (12-3) dictated the game from the start. The Big Red kept the fast-breaking Jayhawks

grounded by turning it into a grind. Never intimidated by playing in one of college basketball's most famous gyms, the Big Red forced Kansas to grit one out at Allen Fieldhouse instead of running away with another easy win.

Cornell made nine 3-pointers, got 24 points from Ryan Wittman and stayed in front well into the second half. It just wasn't enough to keep their 10-game winning

streak going.

Kansas (14-0) overcame a rare off night from the field — 36 percent — and shoddy defense in the first half to pull off one of the toughest victories during its 51-game home winning streak.

Xavier Henry had 14 points and four steals and Brady Morningstar hounded Cornell sharpshooter Ryan Wittman throughout the second half.

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