

Colby Trojans lose close one to Dodge City

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Trojans men's basketball team mounted a fierce rally that almost erased a 17-point deficit in the second half Wednesday, but they were unable to get over the hump and beat Dodge City.

The Conquistadors won a hard-fought 73-65 victory over Colby at the Community Building.

The Trojans came out strong in the early going. Freshman Regis Schafer buried a three-pointer from the left corner to give the team an 8-2 lead in the games opening minutes. Moments later, sophomore Jordan Michelson hit a cutting Corey Woofter with a pass near the basket that he laid in to extend his team's lead to 10-2.

The Conquistadors' Bruce Massey Jr. banked in a short jump shot to cut the Trojans' lead to 10-4. Dodge City scored the next four points to make it 10-8.

Michelson hit a big-time turnaround from the left baseline with a defender right in his face to give Colby a 12-8 lead. A few minutes later, freshman Michael Morris caught a pass and laid in a transition layup after beating the entire Conquistador defense down the floor to make it 17-8.

Dodge City scored five unanswered points before Morris nailed a short jumper while being fouled to give his team a 19-13 lead. He sank his free throw to extend the Trojans' lead to 20-13.

The Conquistadors mounted a rally and eventually tied the game at 22. The teams continued to trade buckets back and forth, but Dodge City managed to take a 33-30 lead with 30 seconds remaining in the half. They scored two more points and led 35-30 at the break.

Dodge City got hot in the second half, scoring 12 unanswered points to take a 47-30 lead. The solid play of Michelson and soph-

omore Aireus Stephenson sparked Colby's rally. Michelson made several buckets inside the lane and Stephenson hit a three and scored on a tough drive. The Trojans trailed 57-47 with 8:36 left.

Stephenson penetrated down the lane and hit Morris with a nice bounce pass inside that allowed him to get fouled while attempting a layup. Morris hit 1 of 2 shots to cut Dodge City's lead to 57-48. A few minutes later, Woofter made a shot inside the lane after receiving a nice pass from Jose Peña-Benjamin to make it 57-50. Then Woofter fed Morris, who had his man posted up deep inside the lane. Morris took advantage of his good position and made a layup to cut the Conquistadors' lead to 59-52. Moments later, Morris made another bucket to bring the game within five with about five minutes remaining.

"Michael Morris has improved tremendously," said coach Dustin Pfeifer.

The Conquistadors' Barnes hit two free throws to make it 61-54. Schafer spun by a defender and found Morris inside for a layup to cut Dodge City's lead to 61-56. The Conquistadors scored four unanswered to broaden their lead to 65-56. Then Michelson tipped in a missed three-pointer by Stephenson to make it 65-58. Moments later, Stephenson sank a three from the left corner to bring Colby within four.

But the Conquistadors refused to let the Trojans complete their comeback. Derrick Parsley Jr. of Dodge City got open inside and made a layup to give his team a 67-61 lead.

Morris continued to battle for the Trojans, rebounding a missed three pointer by sophomore Ethan Stover and laying it in. Colby was unable to stop the Conquistadors from scoring on their next possession and they fell behind 69-63. Dodge City went on to pick up the win.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Jordan Michelson took a short jump shot during the Trojan men's basketball game against Dodge City on Wednesday at the Colby Community Building.

"It's tough for us right now, these are the kind of the games we need to win," said Pfeifer. "We need to be more aggressive towards the basket. We need to quit settling for jump shots."

Stephenson had a team-high 17 points, 12 in the second half, and

Morris scored 15 off the bench. Michelson had a double-double scoring 14 and grabbing 10 rebounds.

With the loss, the Trojans dropped to 6-11. They play next at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Garden City.

Bulldogs' senior selected for team

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School
judyusd316.org

Golden Plains senior Jenna Bruggeman has been chosen to play in the Northwest Kansas All-Star volleyball game at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Community Building.

"It is an honor to be selected to play in this event," said Bruggeman. "I hope many volleyball fans will come to enjoy these matches."

Bruggeman had been named to the Western Kansas Liberty League all-league volleyball team this fall. She said she would like to continue her volleyball career next fall in college.

Bruggeman said players chosen for the team are asked to round up advertising to help pay for the event.

"I would like to thank Stephens Construction, Comfort Inn, the

Midway Café, Schiltz Harvesting, and my family for their financial support that helps give me the opportunity to play," she said. "Thanks also to Orba Smith, my volleyball coach throughout high school, for helping me earn this honor."

"I'm very pleased that Jenna was selected to play in the Northwest Kansas All-Star Volleyball Match," said Smith. "Throughout the 2009 volleyball season, Jenna exhibited a positive attitude, an exemplary work ethic, as well as admirable team loyalty and cooperation."

"She led the team by example, and was definitely our 'vocal' leader. I have had the pleasure of coaching Jenna throughout her high school volleyball career, and have enjoyed watching her grow and mature, not only as an athlete, but as an individual and student. I wish Jenna the best of luck."

Collins scores 22; Kansas wins opener

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Still smarting from its first loss of the season, third-ranked Kansas got all it wanted and more from Nebraska.

The Jayhawks found themselves down by double digits just three minutes into Wednesday night's game, but they came back to put away the Cornhuskers late for an 84-72 victory.

"We played a good Nebraska team tonight that was ready to beat us and came out on top," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

KU fans, coaches and players stressed out after depleted Tennessee stunned the Jayhawks 76-68 with a squad made up of six scholarship players and three walk-ons. The Jayhawks lost their season-long hold on the No. 1 ranking.

Drama in the KU camp peaked Tuesday when Tyshawn Taylor told reporters that he and some of his teammates were unsure of their roles — a comment that drew Self's ire.

The Jayhawks looked as confident as ever on Wednesday.

"I thought we were really ready to play," Self said. "So even though we were down 12-1, it wasn't the end of the world. And then Sherron (Collins) put us on

his back. Sherron got us back to the point where it was a basketball game, and we played a lot better after that."

Collins scored 22 points, showing his strong penetration moves throughout the second half, and the Jayhawks (15-1, 1-0 Big 12) won their conference opener for the 19th straight season.

Marcus Morris added 19 points and Taylor and Tyrel Reed 11 apiece for the Jayhawks, who shot 58 percent and made 13 of 21 3-pointers.

"My thing was to settle my teammates down. I knew we could come back," Collins said. "No matter the situation, we're always in position to win. I never thought they were going to win, but they played us tough."

Brandon Richardson scored 18 points, Jorge Brian Diaz 15 and Eshaunte Jones 12 for the Huskers.

Nebraska made just three field goals over a 12-minute stretch of the second half. After shooting 56 percent in the first half, the Huskers cooled to 31 percent in the second.

Kansas has won 14 straight and 23 of the last 24 meetings with Nebraska.

Nuggets' defensive effort leads to victory

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Nuggets knocked Dwight Howard out of his comfort zone with tough, physical defense and by using an array of defenders against the Orlando Magic's star center.

Howard ended up having one of his worst games of the season, and the Nuggets fed off their defensive effort, getting 27 points from Carmelo Anthony and 24 from Chauncey Billups in a 115-97 victory over Orlando on Wednesday night.

"Offensively and defensively combined, it might be the best game we've played all year," Nuggets coach George Karl said.

Karl said the defensive effort against Howard was especially important to Denver's dominating performance.

"We were trying to be physical with him," Karl said. "Turning him over five times and not allowing him to make many shots was huge. There's not going to be many teams that hold him under 10 points."

Howard, who had 30 points and 16 rebounds in Orlando's win at Sacramento on Tuesday, had 13 rebounds and three blocked shots but was held to 8 points.

"They did a good job of mixing it up and trying to have me off-balance," said Howard, who made only one of seven shots from the floor while being guarded at various times by Nene, Chris Andersen and Kenyon Martin.

"They swarmed him and their big guys are very athletic," said Matt Barnes, who had a season-high 28 points to lead Orlando.

Said Anthony: "Our big guys did a great job tonight making it tough for him. Each guy we put on him had something different for him."

JJ Redick, with 13 points, and Mickael Pietrus, with 12, were the only other Magic players in double figures.

It was Denver's fourth win in five games, including victories over fellow division leaders Orlando and Cleveland.

"We have to stop messing around with our intensity and play the same way every night."

The Magic were playing without their leading scorer, Vince Carter (shoulder), for a third straight game and the second game of a back to back after winning at Sacramento the night before.

Go Painlessly™
MAXIMUM STRENGTH
Thera-Gesic
Pain Relieving Cream
For Real Pain Therapy...
Thera-Gesic® Pain Cream
It Really Works...Compare and SAVE.

WINTER CLEARANCE SALE
Steel Arch Buildings
MADE IN USA
Huge Savings on select sizes
16x20, 20x24, 25x30, 30x44
Limited inventory — first come, first served!
Snow and wind rated for KS
FINANCING AVAILABLE!
CALL TODAY — 1-866-339-7449

Fund Raising
Request your FREE catalog and information packet:
1-800-311-9691
or www.RadaCutlery.com
NOTE: Dept A10CNA
Your School, Church, Club, Team or Youth Group will work directly with the manufacturer to make 40% profit.
Our proven Fund Raising system guarantees your success.
RADA CUTLERY
"A Cut Above The Rest"
lifelong GUARANTEE
Made in the USA

BREWSTER CARRIER
Work Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday...
2 to 2 1/2 hours each afternoon
\$25 sign on bonus after 3 months
Bonus for new subscribers
No 2 routes are the same
Stop in at 155 W. 5th Street
or Call Kathryn 785-462-3963

Operation Patriots Property
Kansas State Treasurer
Dennis McKinney
Wants to return Kansas Veteran's
Unclaimed Cash...
Aaron, Joseph Collin
Aaron, Joseph Matthew
" "
Zumalt, Cassie True
Zuniga, Ralph John
To search between letters A and Z for the Kansas Veteran in your life visit:
www.KansasStateTreasurer.Com/PatriotsProperty
or
call 1-800-432-0386

MOTOR ROUTE DELIVERY
Work Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday...
2 to 2 1/2 hours each afternoon
\$25 sign on bonus after 3 months
Bonus for new subscribers
No two routes are the same
Stop in at 155 W. 5th Street
or Call Kathryn 785-462-3963