

The battle at the net



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Two volleyball players battled each other at the net during the Northwest Kansas All-Star Volleyball match on Sunday at the Community Building.

# Colby College men fall to Seward County

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The Trojans' mens basketball team put up quite a fight Monday, but they were unable to beat a talented Seward County team. The No. 23 Saints beat Colby 71-57 in a makeup game at the Community Building.

As usual, the Trojans battled until the last minute. Players took charges, battled for rebounds and ran after loose balls, but the Saints were just too big, too athletic and too talented. The team from Liberal was full of long, tall and quick players who could handle the ball, run the floor, rebound, score inside and knock down three-pointers.

These players would pose matchup problems for any team. Scouts from Louisiana State University attended the game to watch Seward's Nolan Smith.

The margin for error was slim for Colby. Passes that would usually lead to buckets got intercepted. The Trojans had to make quick decisions with the ball or they would be trapped by a nasty double team the Saints could apply in the blink of the eye.

"We have nothing to hang our heads about," said coach Dustin Pfeifer. "That is one of the better teams in the country. We have some young men who grew as people tonight."

Pfeifer started a different lineup

than usual. Sophomore Ethan Stover and freshmen Michael Morris, Corey Woofter, Regis Schafer and Jose PENA-Benjamin took the floor for Colby.

"We were trying to challenge some guys," said Pfeifer.

Stover nailed a three-pointer from the left baseline to tie the game at 3 early in the first quarter. Seward scored the next 5 points to take an 8-3 lead.

Morris electrified the crowd with a rim-rattling one-handed tomahawk jam. Sophomore Jordan Michelson drove to the hole from the left baseline and laid the ball over the rim to cut Seward's lead to 11-9. A few minutes later, sophomore Aireus Stephenson hit a running one-hand floater to make it 17-13 Seward.

Smith threw the ball away on Seward's next possession. Freshman Regis Schafer penetrated to the middle of the lane from the left wing and got fouled trying to score. He hit one of his free throws to cut Seward's lead to 17-14. Later on, Stephenson hit a jumper in the lane to make it 19-16 Saints.

Seward County began to extend its lead as the half progressed. Smith scored inside while drawing a foul from freshman Zach Danner. He made his free throw to give Liberal a 33-22 lead. PENA-Benjamin knocked down a three-pointer to cut the Saints' lead to 37-25 with 5:27 left in the half. Seward maintained its double-

digit lead, 43-31, at the break.

Stover contributed on both ends of the floor at the start of the second. He drilled a three-pointer not long after taking a charge. Smith nailed a three for Seward County. Both teams turned up the intensity on defense and forced several turnovers. The Saints led Colby 55-39 with 12:27 left. Woofter made a strong defensive stand, forcing his man to take a five-second call.

Michelson knocked down a turnaround to cut Seward County's lead to 55-41. Smith buried another three to give the Saints a 58-41 lead. Woofter faked like he was going to shoot, but instead dropped a nice pass to Michelson inside for a bucket. Schafer dished it to Woofter for a transition basket to make it 60-45, then made a tough basket in heavy traffic. Colby continued to play tough on defense as Danner took a charge. Michelson banked in a jumper from above the free-throw line to cut the Saints' lead to 60-49. Later, Colby passed the ball around the floor until Michelson hit a shot from the baseline to make it 62-53 Seward.

The Saints went on a small run and stretched their lead to 68-53 with two minutes to go, and went on to pick up the victory.

Michelson had a team-high 15 points and 8 rebounds for Colby.

The Trojans will play Butler County from El Dorado at 8 p.m. at the Community Building.

## Royals players agree to return

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Third baseman Alex Gordon and right-hander Robinson Tejada bypassed arbitration, agreeing Tuesday to one-year contracts with the Kansas City Royals.

Gordon gets \$1.15 million after making \$457,000 last season.

He was the second pick in the 2005 amateur draft and was once thought of as the cornerstone of the team's future. But his career has been slow to de-

velop and he missed 79 games last year after undergoing hip surgery. He wound up batting .232 with six home runs and 22 RBIs in 49 games.

Tejada got a raise from \$437,000 to \$950,000. He can earn another \$50,000 in performance bonuses: \$25,000 each for reaching 23 and starts.

Pitching out of the bullpen most of the year, Tejada was 4-2 with a 3.54 ERA in 35 games last season. In six starts in September, he was 3-1.

## Lady Trojans take on top team

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The Colby Community College women have suffered through a trying season so far, losing players to injury and defection, but showed last night that they haven't given up.

The Lady Trojans battled against the top team in the conference, No. 15 Seward County from Liberal, last night at the Community Building. Colby lost 70-46, but challenged the Lady Saints all through the first half and halfway through the second.

Colby trailed by 10 at halftime, 33-23, but closed to within five with 16:44 to go. Seward County began to pull away, and eventually put the game out of reach with a 12-1 run to make a 20 point lead with

7:50 remaining in the contest. Danisha Cole led the Lady Trojans with 18 points and 7 rebounds. Tasha Wagoner had 10 points, despite hitting just one shot from the field. She was 8 of 11 from the free-throw line. Tamara Williams led in rebounds with 8.

The Lady Trojans kept the game close in the first half with a suffocating zone defense, limiting Seward County's ability to get into the paint and score inside. The Lady Saints helped Colby's effort by settling for outside shots. The women held Seward County to 30 percent shooting in the first half and 37 percent for the game.

With the loss, Colby dropped to 2-17. The will play Butler County Community College from El Dorado at 6 p.m. tonight at the Community Building.

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