

# Colby loses to Barton; player returns in game

By Andy Heintz

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Lady Trojans' freshman Hannah Thornton's return was not enough to get Colby a victory. The team fell to Barton County Community College 71-51 Wednesday at the Community Building.

It was the first game Thornton has played in since Colby's game against Independence Community College on Nov. 14. In her four plus games she averaged about 20 points and 7.4 rebounds. Thornton initially had to sit out a few games after suffering a concussion, but her prolonged absence from the court stems from having a bad reaction to some medication she was given to treat the concussion.

Thornton's return could not have come at a better time because freshman Kadee Arensdorf and sophomore Tasha Wagoner were both sidelined with injuries. Arensdorf hurt her left knee during the Lady Trojans' game against Butler County Community College on Jan. 20 and Wagoner suffered a concussion after catching an elbow to the head while battling for a rebound during Colby's game at Hutchinson on Saturday. Coach Brady Jasper said Wagoner will be ready to play on Monday against Pratt.

Thornton gave her team some good minutes. She scored off a few nice spin moves inside and she knocked down a pair of free throws. Unfortunately, the Lady Trojans' freshman had to exit the game sooner than she would have liked. She got knocked down while on offense early in the second half. She clutched her face in pain, which seemed to indicate she

had taken a shot to the face. She left the game and did not return.

Coach Brady Jasper said Thornton was okay and she would be ready to play Monday against Pratt. He said he wanted to get her a few minutes so she could get a feeling of what it's like to be back in action. Jasper said Thornton's presence helps Colby on both ends of the floor.

"Having a big body in the lane helps," he said. "She can play in there with bigger players."

The coach said Thornton allowed the Lady Trojans to establish an interior game on offense. Thornton has regularly practiced with the team over the last two weeks.

Freshman Destiny Stewart knocked down a three-pointer to tie the game at 3 early in the first half.

Stewart said making three-pointers was important part of her team's game.

"We don't have any really big players, so we have to get points anyway we can," she said.

Barton's Hannah Rotolo buried a three of her own to recapture the lead for the Lady Cougars. Barton's Annie Kassongo rebounded a missed shot and stuck it back in to extend her team's lead to 8-3. Sophomore Danisha Cole drilled a three-pointer to make it 8-6. Cole re-twisted her right ankle a few minutes later and was helped off the court. She returned later in the first half, but she was favoring her ankle. Cole had twisted the same ankle earlier in the season. She said her ankle was feeling better going into the game, until she re-twisted it. Jasper said Cole's injury represented a turning point in the game.

"We went from being down 8 to being down 18," he said. "The group of five we had in there had never played together before."

The Lady Cougars scored the next five points of the game and took a 13-6 lead. Stewart drove down the right side of the lane and laid the ball of the glass with her right hand to make it 13-8. Barton scored 15 unanswered points to take a 28-8 lead.

Thornton scored on a short drive down the left side lane to narrow the gap to 28-10. Later on, Thornton spun to her left and banked in a shot off the backboard to make it 35-19 Lady Cougars. Then Cole intercepted a pass and took it down court below the free-throw line before kicking it out to freshman Alecia Palm who buried a three-pointer to cut Barton's lead to 36-22. The Lady Cougars led Colby 41-25 at the half.

Thornton scored on a nice spin move inside early in the half before she had to leave the game. Palm drilled two more three-pointers and knocked down a long jumper in the second half, but Barton continued to expand its lead. The Cougars ended up winning 71-51.

Cole had a team-high 18 points. She also dished out 6 assists and grabbed 7 rebounds. Palm went 3 of 4 from the beyond the arc and scored 13 and Thornton added 8. Stewart scored 8 and made 2 of 4 three-pointers.

With the loss the Colby dropped to 2-20 and 0-8 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference. They play Pratt Community College at 6 p.m. Monday at the Community Building. The Lady Trojans lost at Pratt in overtime earlier this season. Thornton didn't play in the game.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Lady Trojans' freshmen Tamara Williams pushed the ball down the court on a fast break during Colby's game against Barton County Community College Wednesday at the Community Building.

## Brewster High teams sweep Golden Plains

By Bonnie Holm

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Two Brewster seniors combined for almost 60 points in Friday's girls and boys' basketball games against the visiting Golden Plains Bulldogs.

On the girls' side, Nichelle Erskine tied her career high scoring record with 34 points. Erskine was unstoppable inside, as she stormed the lane time after time to score on lay-ups.

The Brewster Lady Bulldog started strong and never faltered. They scored 20 to Golden Plains' 7 in the first quarter, including 14 by Erskine.

The Brewster girls continued to dominate offensively in the second quarter, and led 32-11 at halftime. Coach Carpenter began substituting freshman Jasmine Staten in for the Lady 'Dawgs to give the starters a rest. Staten pulled down a couple of key rebounds and the 'Dawgs continued to light up the boards offensively.

At the end of the third Brewster led 49-21. Golden Plains got things going offensively in the fourth, scoring 19, but the Bulldogs came away with a 65-40 win. Adding to Erskine's 34 points were senior

Rose Bear with 12, sophomore Kasey Hoyt, 9, junior Nicole Connell, 6 and freshman Amber Berry, 4.

With the Brewster gym doubly packed with Bulldog fans, the hometown 'Dawgs boys' team came from behind to beat Golden Plains 54-48.

Senior Devan Selby scored 24 points, including four key three-pointers. Both teams started the game with great offensive efforts, and Brewster led 12-11 at the end of the first quarter.

Golden Plains' Jordan Spresster attacked the boards in the second quarter, and Brewster had no answer for his inside game. Golden Plains led 33-24 at halftime. The Brewster boys started the third strong, outscoring Golden Plains, and narrowing the gap to five points to start the fourth. Great defense by the Brewster Bulldogs, and perfect free-throw shooting by Selby helped Brewster come from behind to win 54-48.

Selby had 24. Senior Ryan Allen had 9, Senior Seth Ackerman had 8, senior Troy Albers, 6, senior Spencer Holm, 5, and freshman Daymond Hanley, 1.

The Brewster girls will face Weskan at 6:30 p.m. Friday in a home game. The boy's game will follow at 8 p.m.

## Barton County denies Colby league win

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The Trojans men's basketball team is still searching for its first league win after failing to defeat Barton County Community College on Wednesday.

Colby's 64-51 loss extends the Trojans' losing streak to 12.

Colby got into a funk early in the second half and fell behind 50-30. Colby was able to whittle the Cougars' lead down to 8 late in the game, but that was as far as they got.

The Trojans got off to strong start. Freshman Michael Morris got ahead of the pack on a fast break and slammed it in with one hand to give the Colby a 6-2 lead. Moments later, Morris made a baby hook shot inside to extend

Colby's lead to 8-3. The Cougars rallied from the early deficit and took a 9-8 lead after Ebenezer Davis drilled a three. Sophomore Aireus Stephenson pulled down a rebound and laid it in to recapture the lead for the Trojans.

Later in the first half, freshman Regis Schafer buried a three-pointer to give Colby a 17-13 lead. Barton responded by scoring five unanswered points to go up 18-17. Sophomore Dominic Brewer hit a three-pointer to make it 20-18 Trojans. The Cougars made a bucket to tie the game at 20 with 2:44 left in the first half. Barton controlled the last few minutes of the half and took a 24-21 halftime lead.

Barton expanded its lead over the Trojans in the second half. The Cougars' Dennan Borrow knocked down a three-pointer to give his

team a 42-30 advantage. Later on, Colin Beatty of Barton intercepted a pass by Morris, sped down court and laid it in to make it 48-30. The Cougars extended their lead to 20, before Schafer hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to 50-33.

Colby began to eat away at Barton's lead. With the Cougars leading 50-35, freshman Corey Woofler picked off a pass and dished it to Morris who took one dribble and laid it in while being fouled to narrow the gap to 50-37. Moments later, Brewer made a shot from the free-throw line that hit the back of the rim and dropped in to cut the Cougars' lead to 51-39.

Colby got within 8 later in the game when Stephenson penetrated down the middle of the lane and made a short jumper with a defender in heavy traffic to make

it 53-45. The Cougars regained control of the game and stretched their lead into double digits in the half's final minutes. Barton's Joseph Reid made a transition layup while being fouled by freshman Zach Danner. He knocked down his free throw to give his team a 61-45. Barton went on to win 64-51.

Stephenson led the team in scoring with 14 and Morris posted a double-double, scoring 13 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Brewer had 12.

The Trojans shot 33 percent from the field and only made 3 of 26 three-pointers.

With the loss the Trojans dropped to 6-16. They take on Pratt Community College at 8 p.m. Monday at the Community Building.

## Rockies' pitcher signs three-year contract

DENVER (AP) — Closer Huston Street and the Colorado Rockies finalized a \$22.5 million, three-year contract on Wednesday, a deal that could be worth \$31 million over four seasons.

Street gets \$7.2 million this year, \$7.3 million in 2011 and \$7.5 million in 2012. The

agreement, which avoided arbitration, includes a \$9 million mutual option for 2013 with a \$500,000 buyout if the club declines to exercise.

Colorado also agreed Wednesday to a minor league contract with pitcher Tim Redding. The right-hander, who turns 32 on Feb. 12, went

3-6 with a 5.10 ERA in 17 starts and 13 relief appearances for the New York Mets last season.

Street is the cornerstone of a spate of players the Rockies have re-signed this month, including outfielder Ryan Spilborghs and second baseman Clint Barmes.

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