

Trojans head to nationals

By Andy Heintz

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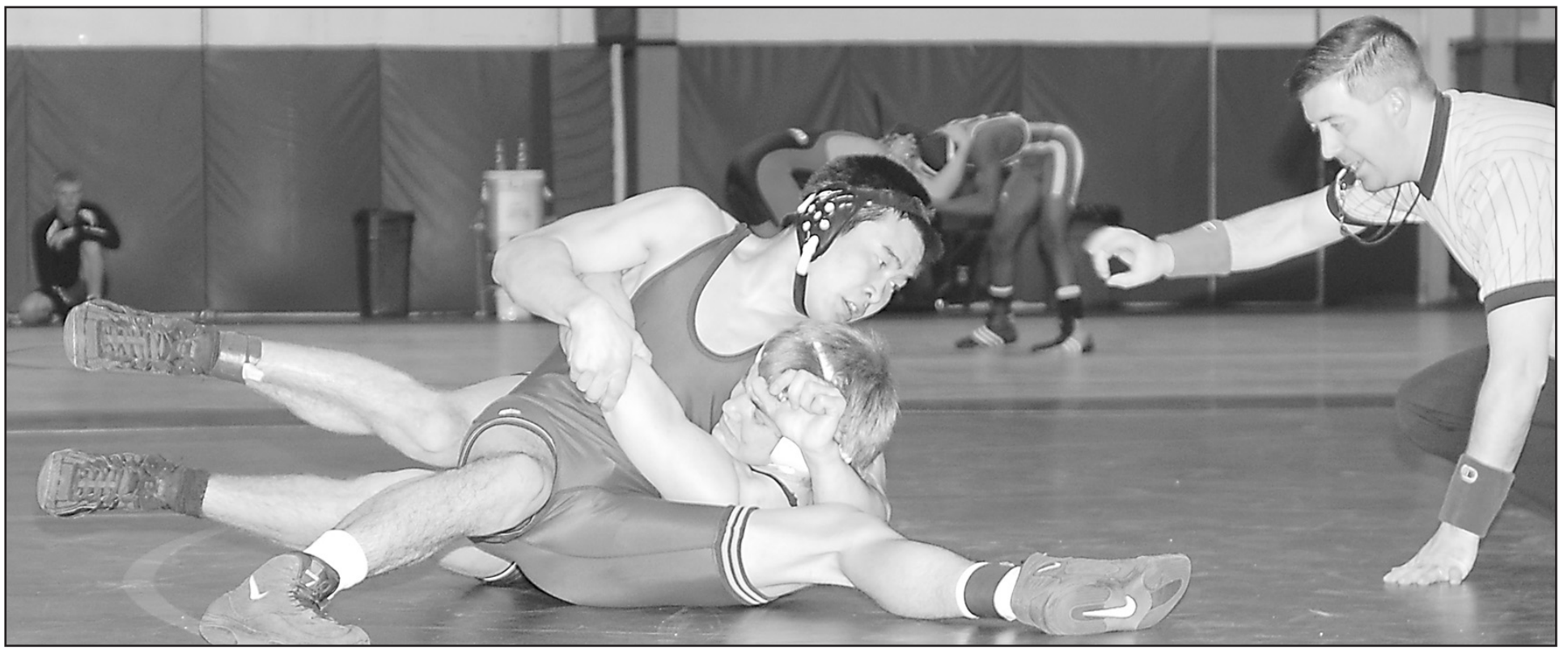
The Colby College Trojans wrestling team saw six of its wrestlers qualify for the junior college 2010 nationals at the west central regionals here Saturday at the Community Building, a fitting finalé for outgoing coach Steve Lampe.

Sophomores Ganabayar Sanjaa and Bekzod Abdurakhmonov took first in their weight classes, hoping to repeat as national champions.

Other Colby wrestlers who qualified for nationals include sophomore Nick Kriss and freshmen Luis Camacho, Patrick Fletcher and Brent Luedke. Kriss and Fletcher both took third and Camacho and Luedke finished fourth.

Colby finished fifth out of six teams at regionals with 51 overall points. Labette County Community College took first with 93.5 points, and Northwest Wyoming from Powell came in at a close second with 91.5. Other teams that competed in regionals were Pratt, Western Wyoming from Rock Springs and Neosho County Community College.

Sanjaa went 3-0 in the 149 pound class. He beat Raufeon Stotts from Western Wyoming 10-3,



Colby College sophomore Ganbayar Sanjaa got his opponent in a headlock during the west central regionals Saturday at the Community Building. Sanjaa took

first in the 149-pound class. The Trojans had six wrestlers advance to the junior college nationals in Des Moines on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and Feb. 27.

pinned Northwest Wyoming's Bobby Robbins in the first round and won his second-round match against Western Wyoming's Hayden Petersen by a technical fall. Coach Steve Lampe said he thought Sanjaa had wrestled really well.

Abdurakhmonov beat Labette's Allen Rutherford 6-4 at 165 in the championship and pinned Travis Budke of Pratt in his first match. One of Abdurakhmonov's legs stiffened up before the third round of his match with Rutherford, but he managed to work through the stiffness and win the match. Lampe said Abdurakhmonov's leg is

fine now.

Kriss lost to Labette's Walker Clarke in a 3-2 decision in his first match at 197. He pinned Kriss Powell of Neosho in his second and dominated Pratt's Tyler Downs 12-3 in his third.

Fletcher beat Labettes' Drew Weske in a 7-4 decision to take third at 285. He pinned Pratt's Hamm in his third match, lost to Jake Kober of Neosho in a 13-6 decision in his second and pinned Western Wyoming's Rusty Farnsworth in his first.

Camacho lost his first two matches at 141, but he won his next two to snare fourth. Camacho

pinned Neosho's Josh Wolfe and defeated Cameron Joseph of Labette 14-8. He lost his first match to Pratt's Ramon Willis 13-5 and was pinned by Justin Schumacher of Western Wyoming.

"He stepped up and got it done," said Lampe.

Luedke went 1-2 to take fourth at 133. He pinned Neosho's Montana Carson and got pinned by Devin Bingham of Pratt. He lost to Western Wyoming's Jacob Bassett 11-5.

In other action, freshman Cody Wark went 1-3 at 125. He almost pinned Collin Hase of Labette in the first period of a match to de-

cede fourth place, but Hase was able to get away and win by fall later in the period.

"Cody did a great job," said Lampe.

Sophomore James Hirsch was pinned twice but he won his third match by default when his oppo-

nent was injured at 157.

Lampe said people will be surprised at how this team will finish at nationals. Competition will start at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Des Moines, and at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Second-half run by Garden City dooms Trojans

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The Garden City Community College women went on a big run in the middle of the second half to put Colby away for good Sunday at the Community Building.

The Lady Trojans kept the score relatively close most of the game, but the Lady Broncbusters' run turned a 10-point lead into a 20-point lead, and Colby never recovered.

Garden City won 78-56.

"Fatigue played a huge factor," said freshman Hannah Thornton. "They had a bench they could keep rotating in and out of the game."

Thornton said Garden City had a stronger and more physical team as well. She added that she has not been 100 percent since returning from an injury that kept her sidelined for most

of the season. Thornton said she had been feeling sick in the days leading up to the game.

The Lady Broncbusters built up a 34-24 lead with three minutes left in the first half. Thornton made one of two free throws to cut the lead to 34-25, then scored inside to narrow the gap to 34-27 with 2:17 left.

Garden City responded by scoring the game's next five points. The Lady Broncbusters' LeMesia Abbott buried a three-pointer to extend the lead to 39-27. Colby Sophomore Tasha Wagoner hit a tough turnaround fall away jumper from above the free-throw line as the shot clock expired to make it 39-29. The score remained the same for the rest of the half.

Colby went basket for basket with the Lady Broncbusters early in the second half. Freshman Alecia Palm buried a three-pointer, Thornton and freshman Destiny Stewart made layups

and Wagoner scored on a drive and made four straight free throws to keep the game close.

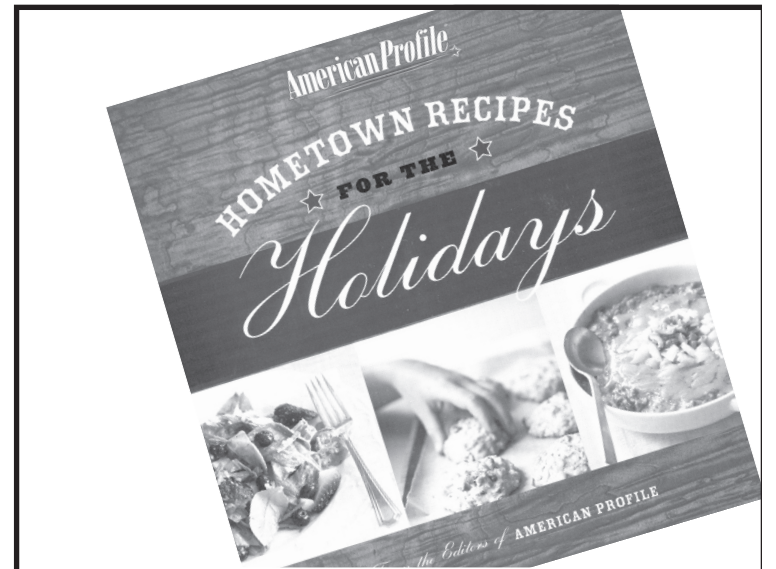
The Lady Trojans trailed Garden City 52-42 when Garden City went on a big run that ended any hopes Colby had of making a comeback.

The Lady Broncbusters Marisela Rodriguez was a dominant force down low during the spurt, making four shots around the basket. Garden City eventually stretched its lead to 69-46.

Wagoner banked in a short shot off the glass to cut the lead to 70-52 with 4:21 left, but Colby was too far behind to make a comeback. The women lost 78-56.

Wagoner had a team-high 27 points and Thornton added 11.

Sophomore Danisha Cole was absent from the court and bench for the second straight game, although she did watch the game from the student section.



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