

Colby wins classic games

By Andy Heintz

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Trojans' basketball coach Dustin Pfeifer emphasized that he didn't want to single anyone out for praise after the Trojans 72-63 victory over Southeast Community College of Nebraska in an Ambassador Classic game on Saturday.

The second-year coach said the win over the Storm from Beatrice at the Community Building was a team effort.

"I'm so proud of our guys," Pfeifer said. "We coach for these type of moments."

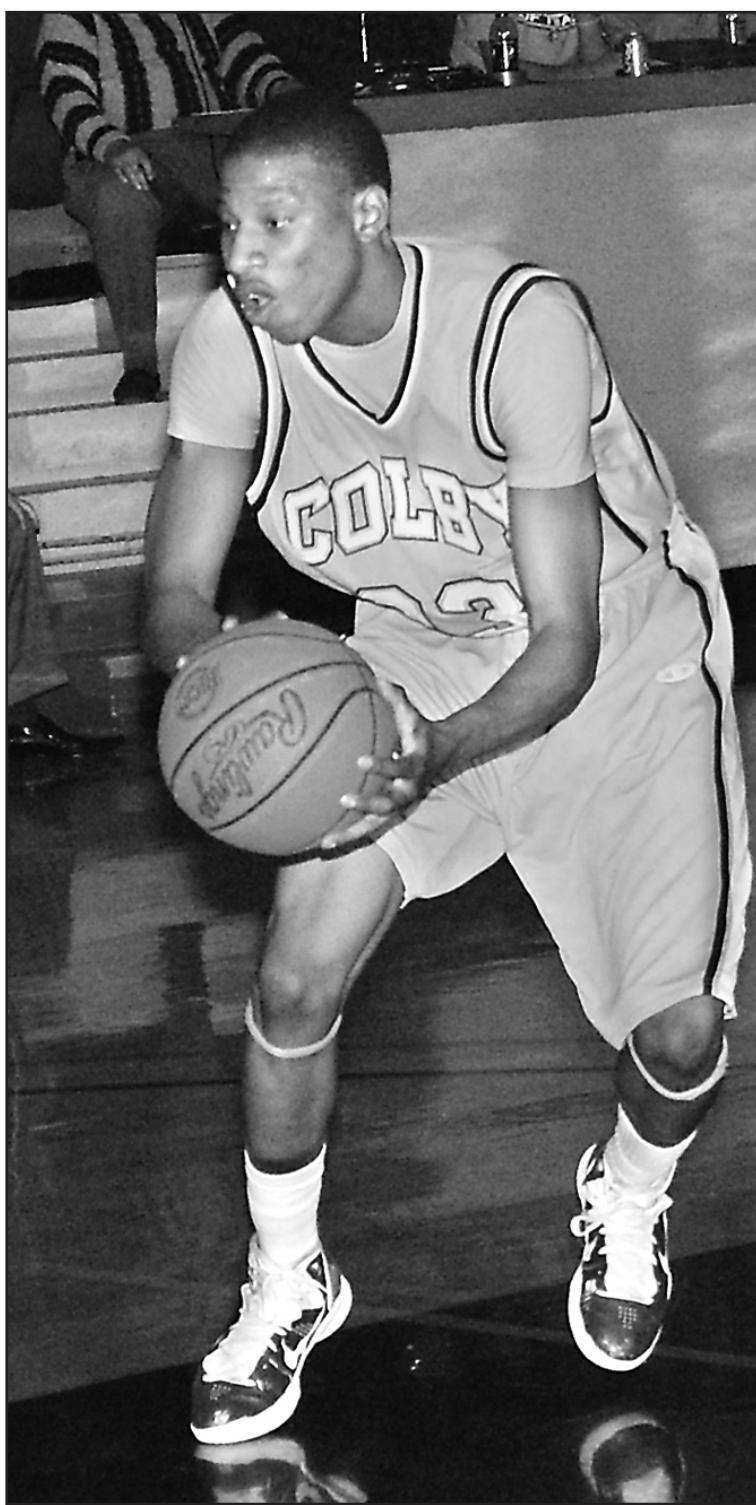
The coach said the fact that his team was able to pull out a victory without two of its top scorers — sophomore Michael Morris and freshman Hurley Johnson — made the win even more impressive. Morris suffered an ankle injury against Raleigh's Finest Preparatory Academy the previous night and Johnson's mother died of cancer last Monday. Johnson went home to Florida to attend her funeral.

While Pfeifer went out of his way to not single anyone out, even he acknowledged the near flawless performance of freshman guard Kevin Jefferson. The coach said he and his staff had really challenged Jefferson to step up before the game.

If Jefferson's performance is any indicator, it appears the freshman guard took their words to heart. He scored a team-high 21 points on nine-of-11 shooting. Johnson also knocked down three of four three pointers.

Sophomore Terrell Bruce also played a vital role in the Trojans' victory. Bruce scored 14 points, knocking down four of six field goals and going two for three from beyond the arc. Bruce grabbed eight rebounds, including one huge offensive board in the final minutes.

Colby was leading 67-63 with less than two minutes left and freshman A.J. Barber was at the line getting ready to shoot his second free throw. His shot was off the mark, but Bruce grabbed the rebound. Several seconds later, freshman Carson Konrade buried a three-pointer from the left corner that helped seal the victory. Barber added 12 points and Kon-



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby College freshman Corey Billingslea penetrated down the middle of the lane during the Trojans' Ambassador Classic game against Raleigh's Finest Preparatory Academy from Oklahoma City on Friday at the Community Building.

rade had 11.

Colby jumped out to 12-2 lead early in the game. The Storm responded by going on a 15-2 run. The Storm's defense tightened up after Colby's initial success.

Southeast led 24-21 before Jefferson tied the game with a three-pointer with three minutes left in the half. Late in the half, Jefferson

picked off a pass at mid-court and buried a three-pointer several seconds later, giving Colby a 29-27 lead. The Trojans led 35-29 at the half.

Colby widened its lead in the second half. The Trojans extended their lead to 54-43 after Barber nailed a three pointer. The Storm battled their way back into the

game. Southeast's Antione Green hit a three that cut Colby's lead to 59-53. The Trojans' lead had shrunk to 63-61, when Jefferson hit another three.

The Storm had possession and were trailing 66-63 with 1:58 left. The Trojans got a stop on defense, and Barber was fouled after pulling down a rebound. He made his first free throw, but his second attempt was off the mark. Bruce grabbed the rebound and Konrade buried a three moments later. The Storm never recovered and Colby picked up a 72-63 victory.

The Trojans held off Raleigh's Finest 82-78 in its second Ambassador Classic game on Friday.

The Road Runners from Oklahoma City had a fast-paced, free-wheeling style that was different than the traditional teams the Trojans' play.

Jefferson said every time Colby started playing at Raleigh's pace, the Road Runners took advantage of it, but when the Trojans forced Raleigh to play their style of play, they ruled the game.

Konrade led Colby in scoring with 19 points. He hit five out of 10 three pointers, four of them in the second half. All of Konrade's second-half three's were from the left corner.

Bruce posted a double-double, scoring 15 and grabbing 12 rebounds. Morris sprained his ankle in the first half and had to be helped off the court by Bruce and Athletic Trainer Kip Nelson.

Colby led 73-61 at one point in the second half, but the Road Runners had whittled the Trojans' lead down to two with less than 30 seconds left. Freshman Vincent Dillard was fouled in the back court with 6.6 seconds left. He hit both free throws, extending Colby's lead to 82-78. Raleigh turned the ball over on its next possession and time expired.

The Trojans' record is now 4-2. They play in the Northeastern Junior College Classic on Friday and Saturday in Sterling, Colo.

Colby plays Casper College from Wyoming on Friday and a team from Buckley Air Force Base from Aurora, Colo., on Saturday. Pfeifer said Johnson will return to the court this weekend, but he is unsure if Morris will be ready to return to action.

Lady Trojans lose two at home

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The Lady Trojans went winless in the Ambassador Classic this weekend, losing to Colorado Northwestern Community College from Rangely, 71-59, on Saturday and to Western Nebraska Community College from Scottsbluff, 67-49, on Friday.

Freshman Morgan Rickwartz had a breakout game against Colorado Northwestern, scoring a team-high 14 on six-of-14 shooting. Freshman Kelli Crittenden added 11 and freshman Liga Vente chipped in 10.

The Lady Trojans struggled from the field, connecting on just 21 of 60 shots.

"We need stronger guard play and we need to finish our inside shots," said assistant coach Chris Lehecka.

Colby handled the ball better than it had done in the previous night's game, committing 13 turnovers. The Lady Spartans applied a full-court press on the Lady Trojans the entire game. Sophomore Hannah Thornton said the key to breaking the press was making a middle pass to half court.

The game was tight in the early going. Freshman Taylor Puttergill banked in a short shot, giving Colby a 12-10 lead. Later on, Vente stole the ball and took it down court for a layup to make it 15-12 Lady Trojans.

Colorado Northwestern took control of the game and led 32-25 at the half, and held on in the first part of the second half.

Vente hit a turnaround jumper in the lane, narrowing the gap to 52-47 with about five minutes left in the game. The Lady Spartans ran the shot clock down before shooting on their next possession. The shot was off the mark, but one of Northwest-ern's players got the rebound.

The Lady Spartans once again ran the clock down to the last second, but this time Tamekia Hunt made a three, extending lead to 55-47. Moments

later, she hit another three. Then Northwestern's Shameka Smith hit a three, extending the Lady Spartans' lead to 61-47.

Colby coach Brady Jasper said these sequences were the turning point in the game.

"They didn't hit many three pointers, but they hit them at the right time," he said.

The Lady Spartans were nine for 26 from beyond the arc. Colby was unable to make a comeback and Northwestern picked up a 71-59 win.

Turnovers and poor shooting helped lead to Colby's 67-49 loss to Western Nebraska on Friday.

Vente had a double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Thornton scored 12 while Crittenden had 10 points and a team-high four assists. Colby committed 22 turnovers, while the Lady Spartans turned the ball over just 13 times.

The Lady Trojans struggled from the field early, scoring only two points in the first 13 minutes. The Lady Cougars built up a 22-2 lead before Colby mounted a comeback. The Lady Trojans went on a 14-0 run and trailed 22-16 at the half.

Colby struggled at the beginning of the second due to defensive pressure. Thornton was whistled for a technical foul after vocally disagreeing with a referee's call.

Crittenden and Rickwarz made a couple of jumpers early in the half and Vente was able to score inside. But Western Nebraska took control and led 47-27 with a little over 10 minutes left. They went on to win 67-49.

The Lady Trojans are now 2-3. Colby will play in the Pizza Hut Classic in Casper, Wyo., from Thursday to Saturday. They play Casper College, ranked third in the National Junior College Athletic Association, on Thursday, Eastern Utah from Price on Friday and No. 6 North Idaho from Coeur d'Alene on Saturday.

Re-energized Broncos blow past Chiefs

DENVER (AP) — A dozen years after retiring, John Elway still can spark the Denver Broncos.

Energized by the Hall of Fame quarterback's pep talk last week, the Broncos rolled to a 49-29 win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday in their highest-scoring game in five years.

Relying on a steady rushing attack, a solid defense and a quick early lead, the Broncos (3-6) snapped a four-game skid and pulled within two games of the Chiefs (5-4) and Raiders in the middling AFC West.

They may have just won back some disgruntled fans, too.

When the Broncos last took the field at home, they were humiliated 59-14 by Oakland.

"We owed this to them," said linebacker Mario Haggan, who had a career-high three sacks.

Maybe No. 7 is available for more inspirational speeches. Elway's words at practice certainly hit home.

"Sometimes, it takes someone coming in to say something," Brian Dawkins said. "You say it a little bit in-house, but especially a guy with John's stature and what he means to this organization and

to us, for him to say it, I think it resonated with a lot of guys."

Possibly with Knowshon Moreno and Kyle Orton, both of whom had career days for Denver.

Moreno went over the 100-yard rushing mark for the first time in his 1 1/2 seasons in the NFL, gaining 106 yards, while Orton tossed four TD passes for the first time as a pro.

"It was a good day," said Moreno, who also added a touchdown catch. "We were just clicking."

Especially early when the Broncos raced out to a 35-0 lead behind three touchdown passes from Orton, a 1-yard run by rookie Tim Tebow and a 75-yard fumble return for a TD by linebacker Jason Hunter. The only time the Broncos scored more than 49 points was in 1963, when they put up 50 on the Chargers. They also had 49 against Philadelphia in 2005.

This from a team that has struggled early in games all season,

scoring just seven points in the opening quarter of their first eight games combined.

"We started fast, which is something we talked about a lot," coach Josh McDaniels said. "That was a really good thing for our football team tonight, to be able to play from ahead and then just build on a lead as the game went along."

Behind by such a big margin early, the Chiefs all but abandoned their top-ranked rushing game as Jamaal Charles was held to 41 yards and Thomas Jones managed only 3.

The last time Charles stepped foot on this field, he couldn't be stopped, rushing for a franchise-record 259 yards. On Sunday, he never had a gain longer than 7 yards.

That was even with linebacker D.J. Williams sitting out the first series as part of a team-imposed penalty following his arrest on suspicion of drunken driving.

Williams, the team's leading tackler, paced the sideline as Wesley Woodyard started in his place.

It was a tumultuous week for Williams, arrested a little before 3 a.m. Friday when police spotted him driving his car without headlights. He was cited for DUI and taken to a detox facility.

Williams was stripped of his captaincy for the season and fined by the team. He faces a multigame suspension from the league because this was his second arrest, although that's not likely to happen until next season. He's due in court Dec. 13.

"It's always fun to have D.J. on the field," Haggan said. "I love the way he plays."

Trailing big, the Chiefs had no choice but to resort to the right arm of Matt Cassel, who threw for a career-high 469 yards. He hit Dwayne Bowe for two touchdowns as Bowe finished with a career-high 13 catches.

Huskers and 'Hawks end storied rivalry

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Of all the goodbyes during Nebraska's last go-round through the Big 12, this is one of the hardest.

No. 9 Nebraska and Kansas will be playing Saturday night for the 105th straight year, marking an end to the nation's longest continuous series as the Cornhuskers prepare to head to the Big Ten next year.

Nebraskans and Kansans share a border and a way of life, not to mention a passion for their favorite teams. Cornhuskers fans typically bask in their gridiron victories over Kansas in the fall, only to have the Jayhawks exact revenge on the basketball court each winter.

Generations of Kansas fans have their favorite haunts in Lincoln; same with the Nebraska fans

who travel to Lawrence.

"It's like losing a friend," said KU radio analyst David Lawrence, a former Jayhawks offensive lineman.

The Huskers are 90-23-3 in the all-time series that dates to 1892. Nebraska has won three of the last five meetings after beating the Jayhawks every year from 1969-2004. The Huskers have won 20 in a row in Lincoln.

They won't meet again unless it's in a bowl or nonconference game, meaning Minnesota-Wisconsin will become the longest uninterrupted series at 104 straight years.

"The whole conference realignment issue, you've got to deal with rivalry games being interrupted," Kansas offensive lineman Brad Thorson said.

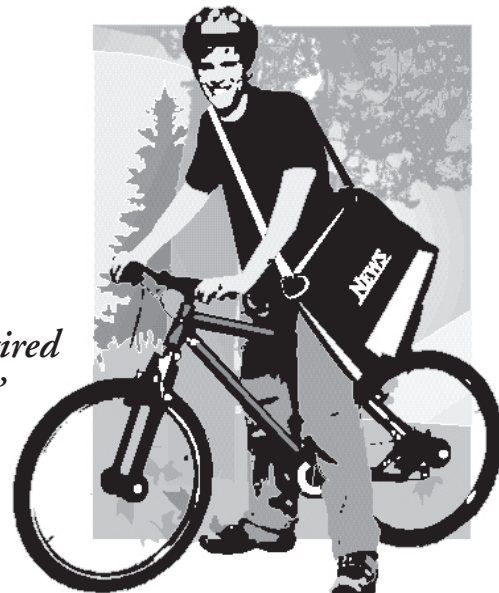
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