

College loses close game

By Andy Heintz
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Coach Dustin Pfeifer and sophomore Michael Morris both attributed the Trojans' 75-69 home loss to Trinidad State Junior College on Monday to a lack of energy. The men took the lead once and tied the game a couple of times, but never could surge ahead.

"If we would have kept our energy up, we have won that game," Morris said.

"We were a step slow to everything," Pfeifer added.

Colby shot almost 37 percent and made only 9 of 18 free throws. Trinidad State shot nearly 52 percent and won the rebound battle, 36-33. The Trojans committed 9 turnovers and Trinidad State 15.

Trinidad State's Bryce Clark led his team in scoring with 21 points and his teammate Ryan Gesiakowski had 15. The 6' 6" and 6' 4" sophomores were able to score inside throughout the game.

The Trojans had a balanced scoring attack, with four players in double figures. Freshman Hurley Johnson scored a team-high 16, connecting on 5 of 10 field goals and knocking down 3 of 5 three-pointers. Morris, who recently returned from an ankle injury, scored 13 points and grabbed

12 rebounds, 7 on offense. Morris went 6 for 11 from the field. Bruce had 12 points, but went just 4 for 13, and Billingslea had 11 on 4-of-6 shooting. Bruce also grabbed 8 boards.

Colby made only 9 of 18 free throws. The Trojans committed 9 turnovers and Trinidad State 15.

The Trojans trailed 41-37 at the half. Bruce and Johnson both knocked down three-pointers and the game was tied at 49 about six minutes into the second half. Then Trinidad State ripped off six straight points, and its lead eventually ballooned to 64-54. Then Bruce nailed a three, cutting the margin to 7. Later, Johnson buried a three-pointer, narrowing the gap to 69-63.

Colby trailed just 73-69 with about 32 seconds left, but the Trojans couldn't get anything to fall in the closing seconds and Trinidad State prevailed 75-69.

The Colorado team jumped out to an 10-3 lead early on. The athletic squad used their speed to beat Colby down the court and score transition baskets in the first half.

Clark of Trinidad made a reverse layup in transition to put his team up 18-5 at one point. Then Colby freshman Carson Konrade hit one of his signature three-pointers from the right corner. Moments later, Billingslea drilled



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

A Trojans' player delivered an acrobatic pass between a couple of Trinidad State Junior College players, while Colby freshman

Corey Billingslea (right) looked on Monday at the Community Building. The Colorado team beat Colby 75-69.

a three, cutting Trinidad State's lead to 18-11.

Billingslea got a steal and passed it down court to freshman A.J. Barber, who dished it to freshman Kevin Jefferson for a layup, narrowing the gap to 18-15. The Tro-

jans managed to tie the game at 20 after Billingslea made a layup off a nice bounce pass from Barber.

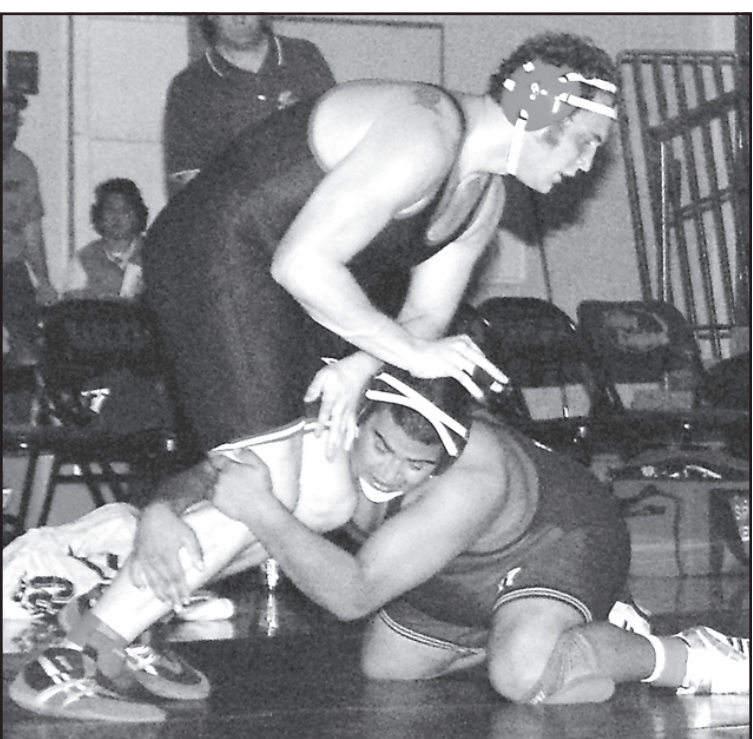
Colby scored the games next five points before Trinidad State mounted a rally. The Colorado team took control for the remain-

der of the half and went into the locker room with a four-point lead.

The coach said his guards set the tone when his team plays well, and they didn't do that in the contest.

"We were out of sync offensively and defensively," Pfeifer said.

With the loss, Colby dropped to 9-4. The men will play McCook Community College at 7 p.m. Saturday in Nebraska.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby College sophomore Fabian Guerrero went for a takedown during the Trojans' dual against No. 5-ranked Labette County Community College on Friday at the Community Building. Despite picking up some big victories Colby lost to the team from Parsons 26-12.

Gritty Trojans battle fifth-ranked squad

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Despite a gutsy effort, the Colby Trojans' wrestling team fell to No. 5-ranked Labette Community College 26-12 in a dual meet at the Community Building on Friday, but managed to best a couple of nationally-ranked wrestlers.

Colby Community College wrestlers won four matches while the Cardinals from Parsons, a traditional powerhouse in junior college wrestling, won six.

In one of the featured matches, Trojans' freshman Jace Campbell, ranked fifth in the nation in the 141-pound class, beat No. 4 Deandra Carter of Labette 3-2. Campbell went up by one in the final seconds of the third period when Carter got a locked-hands penalty. That is called where the offensive wrestler's hands, arms or legs are interlocking or overlapping but not in near-fall situations, cradles or when the defensive wrestler is standing on his feet.

Colby freshman Marco Tamayo upset No. 7 Ty Fittje 6-4. The match was tied at four after

three periods, but the game freshman won with a takedown in sudden death.

Trojans' sophomore Fabian Guerrero, ranked No. 12 at 285, won a 3-2 decision against Tanner McCleary. Guerrero got a point off an escape to go up 3-2 in the second period and never relinquished the lead.

"Fabian wrestled a good, hard match," coach David Nordhues said.

Colby freshman Jensen Foss defeated Kyle Buckley 7-3 at 184. Freshman Collin Gorham - in his first dual this season - fell to Diamond Wilson 8-7. Gorham took a 7-6 lead after getting a takedown in the third period, but Wilson earned two points off a reverse and won the match 8-7. The coach said he thought Gorham wrestled very well.

The Cardinals got six free points because Colby freshman Blake Steiert, ranked No. 6 in his pound class, was sidelined with an injury and no one was available to fill in. Steiert would have faced defending national champion Walker Clarke.

Nordhues said Steiert should be wrestling at the University of Nebraska, Kearney Loper Open on Saturday.

Trojans' sophomore Jerad Schroeder fell to

No. 8 ranked Michael Perez 2-1 at 149.

Colby freshman Cody Stewart was pinned by the Cardinals' John Hambleton at 165 and Trojans' freshman Sean Cherry lost 10-0 to Gage Martin. Colby freshman Nick Rimpley lost to No. 8 Kayton Marshall 9-1 at 157 in the last match.

"I felt like we battled all seven minutes of each match," Nordhues said.

While the coach said he was never happy with a loss, he said the dual will help his team build confidence.

The Trojans wrestled in the Bob Smith Open on Saturday at Fort Hays State University.

Tamayo and Schroeder both went 3-2. Tamayo won 3-1 and 8-7 decisions and took one match by a pin. Schroeder won two of his matches by pinfall.

Guerrero went 2-2. He pinned one of his opponent and won a 4-2 decision. Rimpley and Campbell both went 1-2. Rimpley's sole win was an 11-8 decision while Campbell pinned his opponent. Freshman Kane Lovorn, Foss, Gorham and Cherry all went 0-2.

The coach said he felt like his team was continuing to improve. The squad will be in Kearney at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

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