



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Christina Puttergill drove down the lane during the Colby College Lady Trojans' game against Pratt Community College on Wednesday at the Community Building.

Big three pointer leads to Colby win

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Colby College coach Dustin Pfeifer called sophomore Terrell Bruce's game-winning three pointer on Wednesday one of the biggest shots in the history of the college's basketball program.

Bruce made the shot with less than a minute left and his team trailing Pratt 59-57. Just seconds earlier, the sophomore forward had cut Pratt's lead to 2 with a three pointer. He was 0 for 3 from beyond the arc before making the shot.

Sophomore Michael Morris stole the ball in backcourt on Pratt's next possession. He passed it to freshman Vincent Dilliard. The freshman had the ball taken from him, but the Beavers' players accidentally stepped on the out of bounds line while trying to get possession of the ball. Pratt intentionally fouled Bruce. The sophomore missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw and the Beavers got the rebound. Pratt pushed the ball down court, but they were unable to get a shot off before the buzzer sounded and Colby prevailed 60-59.

"This was huge for our program," said Dustin Pfeifer.

The coach said it's really important that his team wins close games.

"Conference games are grind it out games," he said. "We proved it's tough to win on the road."

Pfeifer said three players who stepped up were freshman Hurley Johnson, who led Colby with 16 points, Morris and Bruce. The coach cited Johnson forcing his defender to get a five second call late in second half, Morris' steal in the final minute and Bruce's two three-pointers as some of the biggest plays in the contest.

Bruce said it was a huge win, but his team needed to continue to get better.

The game was a slugfest from start to finish, with neither team able to build up a substantial lead. The Beavers held a slim 35-33 lead at the half. Morris made a baby hook shot and freshman Corey Billingslea made a shot inside the paint early in the second half. Johnson knocked down a three-pointer that put the Trojans up 51-50. The Beavers' Terry Taylor banked in a three-pointer that put his team up 58-54 late in the half.

The Trojans' fell behind 8-2 early in the first half. Jon Cathey-Macklin of Pratt had a thunderous one-hand slam and the Beavers'

Taner Hayes knocked down a three. A three-pointer by Billingslea cut Pratt's lead to 8-5. A couple possessions later, Billingslea split the defense and fed freshman Carson Konrade down low for a reverse layup. Moments later, Johnson scored while drawing a foul. He made his free throw, tying it a 15.

Later, freshman Kevin Jefferson picked off an inbounds pass and pushed it down court where he finished the play with a huge two-hand slam. Johnson buried a three-pointer to make it 33-31 Colby near the end of the half. The Beavers' Terry Taylor responded by hitting a three of his own, regaining the lead for Pratt. Pratt scored one more point before the end of the half.

Colby shot about 38 percent from field, connecting on 23 of 61 shots. The Trojans went 7 for 28 from the three-point line and made 7-of-12 free throws. Colby was out-rebounded 32-23 and they only turned the ball over 6 times.

Bruce had 13 and Konrade added 9. Jefferson led the team in steals with 3.

Colby will play at 8 p.m. Saturday at Clout County Community College in Concordia.

Golden Plains junior will compete in Australia

By Andy Heintz
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Golden Plains High School junior Cole Christensen will be competing in the Down Under International Tri-Nations Meet from July 2 to 4 in Australia.

The Bulldogs' junior will be competing in the high jump in a meet featuring athletes from the United States, Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific Island nations like Tonga, Samoa and Fiji. Events include the 100-, 200-, 400-, 800-, 1,500- and 3,000-meter runs, 300- and 500-meter walks, long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus, javelin, hammer throw, 90-, 100-, 110-, 200-, 300- and 400-meter hurdles and the 200-meter steeple. The meet will have separate competition for athletes in three age groups, 14 and 15, 16 and 17, and 18 to 20.

The Down Under meet is run by the International Sports Specialists, established in 1989 by a New Zealander named George O'Scanlon. The organization started out just holding international football games, but they eventually branched out to hold other International Down Under sports events. Job Cyril, program director for Sports Specialists, described the track and field event as a mini-Olympics in Australia. Cyril said the athletes from the South Pacific nations use the meet to get ready for the Olympics.

Christensen finished eighth in the high jump in the

Kansas Class 1A state meet in Wichita with a leap of 5 feet, 10 inches last spring. The junior's best jump of the season was 6 feet, 2 inches at the regional meet in Hays and a meet at Quinter. Christensen said his goal is to jump 6 feet, 4 inches next season.

Cyril said Gary Sigle is the organizations conference coach who recruits Missouri and Kansas track and field athletes. The meet will begin on July 2 and end on July 4. The meet is only a part of a 12-day trip that starts on June 28. Christensen will fly from Denver to Los Angeles and leave that night for Australia. Christensen will spend seven days down under. Penny Vogler, Christensen's mom, said her son will get to do some sightseeing along with training and competition.

Once Christensen's time in Australia is up, he and the rest of the athletes will head home with a three day stop in Hawaii, where the athletes will have a reception and do some more sightseeing, Vogler said.

She said the trip costs about \$4,000, not including money for sightseeing and snacks. A raffle benefit held for Christensen by the family last year raised about \$1,400. Vogler said a ticket costed \$10 and a pack of three sold for \$25. The winner - Russ Emigh of Selden - got a \$500 gift card from Cabella's.

Vogler said the Rexford Lions Club plans a soup supper to raise money for the trip in the future.

Christensen said the only time he has been out of the country was when he vacationed in the Bahamas.



Christensen

Lady Trojans squad upsets Pratt at home

By Andy Heintz
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The Lady Trojans picked up their biggest win of the season, upsetting Pratt 63-54 Wednesday at the Community Building.

The Lady Beavers came into the game with a 10-4 record. Colby won at the free-throw line, hitting 26 foul shots, 14 more than Pratt. Freshman Morgan Rickwartz said the team had been doing a lot of free-throw drills in practice, and she spent a lot of time at the foul line during the game, hitting 9 of 14.

The Lady Trojans also won the rebounding battle, 44-33.

"We did a pretty good job rebounding last night," coach Brady Jasper said.

Sophomore Hannah Thornton said before the game coach Jasper wrote on the board that the team that gets the most rebounds would win the game.

"They are a big rebounding

team," she said. "Everyone fought so hard."

Thornton said it was a physical game, but the Lady Trojans just stuck out their elbows and fought through it. She said before the game the coach said the only record that matters is that all the teams in their conference had 0 conference wins, but that was about to change.

Colby trailed 27-24 at half-time. Sophomore Tayler Puttergill nailed a three-pointer from the top of the key early in the second half. Rickwartz said the basket really fired the team up.

Later in the half, Thornton scored off an offensive rebound, while drawing contact from a defender. She knocked down her free throw, tying it at 37. The Lady Beavers' Holly Martin scored a bucket down low while being fouled, giving her team a 44-43 lead. She missed the free throw.

Bursiek drove down the lane - forcing Pratt's Cari Guyton to leave Thornton and guard her -

and delivered a bounce pass to Thornton who scored. Colby took a 48-44 lead before Pratt called a timeout with 4:21 left.

The Lady Beavers Ann Pauly knocked down a three coming off the timeout, cutting the Lady Trojans lead to 48-47. Colby extended its lead to 50-47 after freshman Britney Schamberger knocked down two free throws. Freshman Christina Anderson grabbed a huge offensive rebound, and passed it to Vente, who knocked down a short jumper, giving Colby a 53-49 lead.

The Lady Trojans led 56-42 with 47.4 seconds remaining. Anderson grabbed a defensive board and got fouled in back court. She knocked down both her free throws. Colby went on to win 63-54.

With the win, the team improved to 6-9 and 1-0 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division. The team will play at 6 p.m. Saturday at Clout County Community College in Concordia.

Colby junior varsity beats rival

The Colby High junior varsity girls picked up a 29-23 win in Goodland on Tuesday, led by freshman Haileigh Shull with 15 points.

Junior Brenna McKee added 6, sophomore Karly Kriss 3, senior Caitlin Wark and junior Paige Ropchan 2 each and freshman Andrea Barton 1.

Coach Jack Elliot said it was a hard-fought game.

"The game was close through-

out and both teams played tough defense," he said. "Our mental and basketball IQs have to improve, but that will come with more court time."

The girls were 14 for 25 from the free-throw line. With the win, the young Lady Eagles improved to 5-1. They will play again at 8 p.m. Friday at Holcomb.

The Lady Eagles C-team improved to 2-1 after crushing Goodland 44-21.

Freshman Katie Elias had a team-high 8 points, freshmen Abby Friesen and Haley Mengel 6 each, Shull and freshman Andrea Barton 3 each, freshmen Tatym Rundel, Kaylie Wiens and Paige Armbruster 2 each and junior Ropchan 1.

Coach Kacie Goetz said the team is getting better.

Jayhawks blow out opponent

LAWRENCE (AP) - No. 3 Kansas was too much for UMKC.

Josh Selby had 16 points to lead six Kansas players in double figures and the No. 3 Jayhawks defeated UMKC 99-52 Wednesday night.

Kansas scored the game's first 15 points and extended the nation's longest homecourt winning streak to 68.

Tyshawn Taylor added 15 points for Kansas. Travis Releford and Elijah Johnson had 13 each for the Jayhawks.

Jay Cousinard and Bakari Lewis

each scored 16 points for UMKC (8-7).

The Roos had a plan in their attempt for an upset.

"We wanted to come out of the gates and get the first punch," Cousinard said.

Not Wednesday. Instead, it was Kansas that scored the first 15 points.

Five Jayhawks scored in the run, which Releford capped in style. When UMKC's Trinity Hall went up for a dunk, Releford blocked it to start a fast break, which Releford completed with a layup for a 15-0 lead with 14:28 remaining.

Roos coach Matt Brown called a timeout, one of four he used in the first half.

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