Page 10 Colby Free Press Wednesday, February 9, 2011

College men on winning streak

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PORTS

Gritty Trojans knock off top Western Division team

By Andy Heintz

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team shocked powerful Seward County 70-63 at the Community Building on Monday.

In an emotion-packed game, the Colby College team supplied what proved to be a winning combination of tough rebounding, disciplined offense and intense defense to upset the team from Liberal, which had been the top dog in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division.

The Trojans' victory came in the last game of coach Dustin Pfeifer's two-game suspension. Pfeifer and freshmen Hurley Johnson were suspended by the conference commissioner stemming from an incident with officials after a 65-64 loss to Barton County at Great Bend on Jan. 26. Johnson returned to the team against Seward County after serving his one-game suspension and made a huge shot that put the Trojans' up by four in the last minute.

Kansas State University basketball coach Frank Martin was in the crowd to scout the Saints' Jeremy Jones, but left before the game concluded. While the Saints' star player managed to score 20 points, he was matched by Trojans' sophomore Terrell Bruce, who also finished with 20.

Colby's guards stayed cool, calm and collected against a suffocating Saints' defense that forces an average of 23 turnovers per game. Despite facing defensive traps and constant pressure all night, the Trojans gave up only 7 turnovers.

"The guards did a good job of not forcing it when they were got a second technical and was Morris added 9 and pulled down 9

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trapped, and the other guards did a good job of coming to the ball," freshman Carson Konrade said.

The Trojans led 34-28 at the The Trojan men's basketball half. They trailed for most of the first half, but they mounted a fierce rally and pulled ahead at the end of the half.

The Trojans trailed 18-8 at one point in the first half, but managed to tie the game at 23 when freshman Kevin Jefferson knocked down a three pointer. Johnson got a steal and pushed it downcourt before dishing it off to freshman Vincent Dillard for a layup to give the Trojans a 28-26 lead. Konrade drilled a three pointer at the buzzer to make it 34-28 at the half.

Bruce got a roll on a three from the top of the key in the second half. The Trojans clung to a 46-44 lead with a little over 8 minutes left. Another three pointer by Bruce increased Colby's lead to

Jones was whistled for a technical foul for saying something to an official with 6:55 left. Bruce knocked down another three to put Colby up 61-57 late in the game. The Saints scored the next two points with about a minute remaining.

Johnson hit a running one hander off the backboard that upped Colby's lead to 4. The Saints were unable to get any points on offense and were forced to foul to stop the clock. Freshman A.J. eree. Barber was fouled, hitting 1 of 2. After another failed offensive possession, Seward fouled Johnson in the backcourt. He hit both his free throws

The Saints' Marky Nolen committed a hard foul on Michael Morris and then shoved Morris into Colby's bench. The officials hit Nolen with a technical. Nolen

ejected for arguing with the ref-

Nolen and Bruce exchanged words before Nolen was tossed, and it looked like a brief scuffle might break out between the teams. Then cooler heads prevailed.

Bruce hit 3 of 4 technical shots and Morris went 1 for 2 from the line as Colby pulled out a 70-63 win

The Trojans held Seward to 38 percent on 22-of-57 shooting. The Saints average 48 percent and score about 89 points a game.

"We play a great zone defense," said acting coach Rusty Grafel.

The coach said Colby's defense constantly switches from a 2-3 zone to either a 1-3-1 or a 1-2-2. Jefferson said stopping Seward County's transition game was one

below their average.

The Trojans also outrebounded The Saints 34-30.

'We crashed the boards hard," Morris said.

Colby shot 39 percent, connecting on 22 of 57 shots. The team went 9 for 28 from three-point After dropping eight straight

game suspension when Colby plays Dodge City at 8 p.m. tonight at the Community Building.

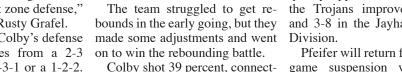
game against the Saints on Monday at the Community Building

throw line.

Colby College freshman Carson Konrade and Seward County's Rafriel Guthrie Jr. went after a loose ball during the Trojans'

rebounds.

Konrade finished with 13 points.



of the keys to keeping the Saints range and 17 for 26 from the free-

games, the Trojans have posted consecutive victories over two quality opponents. With the win, the Trojans improved to 12-13 and 3-8 in the Jayhawk Western

Pfeifer will return from his two-





Sophomore leads mens' team to win

Colby Free Press

77-71 at the Community Building on Saturday, snapping an eight-game losing streak. The Colby College men's victory came in the absence of coach Dustin Pfeifer and freshman Hurley Johnson, one of the team's top scorers, who were serving out suspensions handed down by the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference for an incident with officials after a game against Barton County Community College in Great Bend on Jan. 26. Pfeifer was suspended for two games and Johnson one. Acting head coach Rusty Grafel said their absence made the team determined to come out with more energy. Sophomore Terrell Bruce had a huge game against the Thunderbirds from Concordia, scoring 17 points and knocking down 4-of-5 three pointers. Bruce's two quick three-pointers at the start of the game got Colby off to a strong start.

Sophomore Michael Morris had solid night with 12 points on 5-of-8 shooting and sophomore Carson aheintz@nwkansas.com Konrade added 10 on 3-of-4 shooting.

The Trojans shot 53 percent from the field, 26 of Sustained energy. These two words neatly sum up 49, and were 9 for 17 (53 percent) from beyond the hy the Trojans were able to defeat Cloud County arc. The only area where Colby really struggled was from the free-throw line. The Trojans went 15 for 29 from the charity stripe. They missed several free throws in the final minutes that could have cost them if the game had it been closer.

Grafel said he challenged Bruce to be the player he's supposed to be.

Luckily for the Trojans, Burce was a major factor Saturday, and some would argue the deciding factor. But he was not alone out there.

"We needed everyone from the coach to the last guy on the bench," Bruce said.

Freshman Vincent Dillard came up big for Colby, finishing with 16 points on 7-of-10 shooting.

The Trojans led 36-30 at the half. A three pointer by the Thunderbirds' Todd Jonnston cut Colby's lead to 42-41. Then Dillard knocked down a three to make it 45-41 with 12:41 left.

A few possessions later, Morris slammed in a missed shot, giving the Trojans a 47-44 lead. Cloud County managed to tie the game at 47, but the Trojans regained the lead when freshman Kevin Jefferson finished a fast break with a two-handed dunk. Moments later, Konrade buried a three that put Colby up by five.

A Morris bucket inside gave the Trojans a 58-52 lead with 5:54 left. Freshman Corey Billingslea drilled a three from the right corner and Konrade got open underneath for a layup, giving Colby a 67-61 lead with 1:33 left.

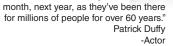
The Trojans struggled from the line in the final moments, with Morris and Jefferson each missing two straight at one point, but costly turnovers prevented the Thunderbirds from taking advantage. Morris put the exclamation point on the victory with a two-hand slam off a Cloud turnover in the game's final seconds.

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