

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby College sophomore Brooke Bursiek got ready to drive the baseline during the Lady Trojans' game against Seward County

Community College from Liberal on Monday at the Community Building.

Slow start dooms Trojans

By Andy Heintz

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The Lady Trojans were unable to recover from a poor shooting performance in the first half in a 72-55 loss to Seward County Community College on Monday at the Community Building.

The Colby College team was ice cold from the field in the first half, making about 11 percent of its shots on 4-for-35 shooting.

The women trailed 35-15 at the half, but came out energized in the second.

"We knew we were going to have to make a run," sophomore Tayler Puttergill said.

Sophomore Brooke Bursiek nailed a three-pointer early in the half. Later in the half, Bursiek banked in a three pointer off the backboard to make it 46-30. Then

sophomore Crystal Kinderknecht found Thornton, the league's leading field-goal shooter and No. 2 scorer, on the right block for a layup.

Freshman Morgan Rickwartz knocked down her second three pointer of the half, narrowing the gap to 46-35 with 13:30 left. Coach Brady Jasper said it's important for his guards to knock down threes and shots around the perimeter because it gives the Lady Trojans' offense some balance.

Freshman Liga Vente then cut the Lady Saints' lead to single digits with a bucket.

The Lady Saints staved off Colby's run, however, and rebuilt their lead. Seward County's Ashley Knoll got a good position inside and scored while being fouled by Rickwartz, extending the Lady Saints' lead to 52-37. She made

her free throw.

Later, Cloud County's Hannah Rotolo stripped the ball from Rickwartz in the backcourt and took it down for a layup to make it 56-39.

Vente rebounded a miss by freshman Christina Anderson and scored while being fouled. She made her free throw. Freshman Kelli Crittenden got a steal, pushed the ball downcourt and found a cutting Thornton for a layup, narrowing the gap to 64-49 with 3:23 left.

"When we push the ball, we can open up more scoring options," Bursiek said.

Knoll knocked down a shot from the right baseline, giving Seward a 68-51 lead. The Lady Saints won 72-55.

Thornton had an excellent game, finishing with 23 points and 13 rebounds, 8 offensive. She

went 9 for 18 from the field and was perfect, 5 for 5, from the foul line.

"She's becoming the go-to player on the team," Jasper said.

Vente added 12 on 4 of 8 shooting.

Colby shot only 26 percent from the field, 19 for 74, while Seward County hit 47 percent on 27 of 58 shooting.

The Lady Trojans were outrebounded 45-32. Thirty-five of Seward County's rebounders were defensive.

Both teams had 13 turnovers. The Lady Trojans shot a poor 5 for 17 from the foul line.

With the loss, Colby dropped to 8-17 and 3-8 in the Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division.

Women lose home contest

By Andy Heintz

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The Lady Trojans basketball team had trouble taking care of the basketball in a 64-48 loss to Cloud County Community College on Saturday at the Community Building.

The Lady Trojans trailed the team from Concordia 29-18 at the half. The game was close in the early going, with the teams tied at 9 at one point.

The Lady Thunderbirds' Britany Griswold, who led Cloud County with 18 points, scored inside, extending the lead to 17-12. Later in the half, Griswold knocked down a shot from the left elbow to give her team a 25-14 lead.

Sophomore Hannah Thornton, who led Colby with 20 points on 6-of-11 shooting, scored inside while drawing a foul. She made her free throw, cutting the Thunderbirds' lead to 8. Cloud County's Fernanda Mansilla found Kylie Moore inside for a layup toward the end of the half, however, and the Lady Thunderbirds went into the locker room with a 29-18 lead.

Thornton said the team started off well, but then made some silly mistakes, and "everyone's head went down."

The Lady Thunderbirds continued to get good looks at the

basket in the second half, extending their lead to 41-19.

"We didn't talk enough on defense," Thornton said.

Later, Colby sophomore Eli-na Gutmane picked off a pass and passed it ahead to freshman Morgan Rickwartz for a layup. Then sophomore Tayler Puttergill hit a desperation three pointer from the top of the key as the shot clock expired, narrowing the gap to 51-34 with 6:54 remaining.

Colby cut the lead to 55-42 after Thornton got around her defender and scored inside. The sophomore forward provided the bulk of her team's points in the second half.

After that, though, Lady Thunderbirds went on a 9-1 run and led 64-43 with two minutes left. They prevailed 64-48.

The Lady Trojans had trouble taking care of the ball throughout, with 23 turnovers. Cloud County turned the ball over just 13 times.

Colby only shot 29 percent, 15 of 52, while Cloud County hit 43 percent, 25 of 58. The Lady Trojans made 57 percent of their foul shots, going 16 for 28, and they were outrebounded 45-32. Thornton said the team could have boxed out better.

Rickwartz and freshman Kelli Crittenden had 6 points each. Thornton had 11 rebounds, 8 defensive.

Jayhawks beat rival

LAWRENCE (AP) – Take the Big 12's highest-scoring teams, make them bitter rivals and put them on national television with a chance to shine and what do you get?

Plenty of offense and not much defense in No. 2 Kansas' 103-86 victory over No. 19 Missouri on Monday night.

"I don't know if there was a lot of defense played," Missouri coach Mike Anderson. "But a lot of scoring took place."

The Jayhawks (23-1, 8-1) started the game leading the nation in field goal percentage at 52 percent. On Monday, they shot at a 61 percent clip, and needed to, because Missouri (18-6, 4-5) hit a hot 52 percent.

"We didn't really guard them very well the entire night," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

Marcus Morris had 22 points and reserve Mario Little added 17, sparking a second-half charge that enabled the Jayhawks to run away in the second half and post their

12th straight victory over their archrivals in Allen Fieldhouse.

Markieff Morris added 16 points for the Jayhawks, who have won at least 22 games for 23 consecutive seasons.

"Every time we run our offense, we feel like we are going to get a good look," Little said.

Laurence Bowers, who fouled out with a little less than 5½ minutes to go, had 19 points for Missouri and Phil Pressey had 17. The Tigers hit 7 of their first 9 shots in the first half and led by as many as six points before falling behind by four at halftime.

By the time Little threw down a dunk for a 93-85 lead with a little more than 5½ minutes left, the loud, sellout crowd was yelling for the 100.

With 2:34 left and much of the buzzing crowd on its feet, the Jayhawks whipped the ball around and got Tyrel Reed an open look for a 3-pointer from the wing that made it 100-84, triggering a deafening roar from 16,300 fans.

Lady Bulldogs squeak by Dighton

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains junior varsity girls' team came from behind to win by 1 point against the Dighton Lady Hornets in a two-quarter game on the road.

The girls slipped by Dighton 14-13 on Jan. 28. The Lady Bulldogs fell behind 7-1 in the first quarter.

After some encouraging words from the coaches between quarters, Paulita Ramirez put in 3 quick buckets in the second quarter to get the offense rolling. Jordan Christensen helped her out and the girls

ended the game with a 14-13 win.

The Bulldog boys junior varsity team played a full game before the junior varsity girls that night. They managed to put in 12 points in the first quarter, but were only able to add 4 in the second. They trailed 26-16 at the half.

The two teams scored 9 each in the third and the 'Dogs added 11 in the fourth. But the Hornets added 15 in the fourth and prevailed 50-36.

Ethan Walter had 9, Tristan Schwarz added 7 and Kalyn Weber chipped in 6. Other scorers included Chance Hoeting and Andrew Luna with 4 points each and Grant Spresser and Josh Barnhard, 3 each.

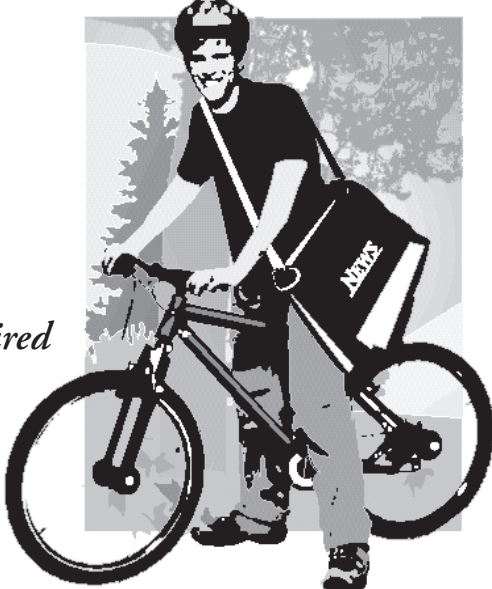
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