

Trojans' rally leads to win

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Effort was the short, yet appropriate, answer from freshman Carson Konrade when asked what sparked the Colby men's basketball team to a huge second-half comeback over Barton County Community College on Tuesday.

The Trojans overcame a 22-point halftime deficit on their way to a heart stopping 77-75 win over the Cougars from Great Bend at the Community Building.

Freshman Vincent Dillard said the Trojans had been through so much this season, they were meant to come back and win the game. He said the captains – sophomores A.J. Barber, Michael Morris and Terrell Bruce – pulled the team together to make the comeback. Coach Dustin Pfeifer echoed Dillard's sentiments.

"The sophomores sparked the comeback," he said.

Barber said the team came out and executed in the second half. He said getting rebounds inside was another element that helped key the comeback.

Sophomore Michael Morris attacked the glass on both ends of the floor in the second half.

After only shooting 30 percent, or 9 for 30 in the first half, the Trojans shot 55 percent, 18 for 33, in the second.

The Cougars dominated the first half, thanks to several second-chance points coming off offensive rebounds combined with the Trojans' poor field-goal shooting.

"Our feet were in the sand in the first half," the coach said.

The game stayed close in the opening minutes. It was knotted at 5 after Barber drilled a three from the left side.

Barton County took control and led 19-11 with 10 minutes left in the half. DeVonte Grant of Barton drained a three from the right, extending the Cougars' lead to 34-17 with 2:45 left in the half. The Tro-

jans trailed 44-22 at the break.

Colby began showing signs of life at the start of the second half. Morris tipped in a shot and Barber nailed a three. Freshman Hurley Johnson came up big for the Trojans in the first 10 minutes of the second half, hitting three three-pointers and getting an old-fashioned three-point play on an acrobatic layup.

Pfeifer said the team calls Johnson "instant offense" because he can put points on the board so fast when he's hitting his shots.

"When he's on, he's on," the coach said.

Johnson was fouled on a three-point attempt with 9:33 left. He made 2 of 3 free throws, narrowing the gap to 59-51. Konrade drilled three-pointers from the right and left corners, cutting the Cougars' lead to 60-57 with 8:38 left.

A free throw by freshman Marty Wendel tied the game at 64 and transition layup by Konrade gave Colby a 66-64 lead. Moments later, sophomore Terrell Bruce drilled a three, extending the Trojans' lead to five with 4:35 left.

The Cougars struggled at the foul line down the stretch, missing six straight shots at one point. But The Trojans were unable put them away and the Cougars only trailed 71-69 with three minutes left.

Dwayne Brunson of Barton County tied the game at 74 with a powerful one-handed jam with a little over a minute left.

Konrade was fouled while taking a three-pointer from the top of the key with 58.6 seconds left. He sank all three free throws, giving Colby a three-point lead. Morris rebounded a missed three on defense and was fouled with 14.4 seconds left and Colby leading 77-75. He missed the front end of a one-and-one and Barton County got the rebound. The Cougars got two good looks at the basket, but both shots rattled in and out, and the Trojans picked up the win.

The Trojans finished the season on a 5-game home winning streak.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby College freshman Hurley Johnson went up for a shot with a hand in his face during the Trojans' game against Barton County Community College on Wednesday at the Community Building.

Dillard said the team feeds off the crowd.

"It's a lot easier when fans get going and get loud," Konrade said.

Konrade was the team's high point man, finishing with 20 on 7-of-12 shooting, Johnson added

16 and Barber chipped in 12. The three combined to hit 10 three-pointers. Konrade went 3 for 6; Johnson, 3 of 7; and Barber, 4 for 8. Morris posted a double-double, finishing with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Trojans were outrebounded

College men lose on road

The Colby College Trojans' men's basketball team lost a close game to Hutchinson, the No. 23 ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association, 84-78 on Saturday on the road.

Sophomore Terrell Bruce was on fire from three-point range, knocking down 6 of 7 three-pointers and finishing with a team-high 18 points. However, Bruce's hot hand was not enough to get the Colby College team a victory.

"We played good enough offensively to win the game," coach Dustin Pfeifer said, "but we didn't play good enough defensively."

The coach said the Blue Dragons have size at every position, which makes them hard to match up with on defense.

The Trojans trailed 37-32 at the half. The second half was

neck and neck, with Hutchinson outscoring Colby by only a point, 47-46.

Freshman Vincent Dillard scored 16 points on 6-of-11 shooting. Freshman Carson Konrade finished with 11 at 3 for 5. Konrade drilled 3 of 4 three pointers.

Freshmen Kevin Jefferson and Hurley Johnson had 10 each. Jefferson went 3 for 4 and Johnson 3 of 14.

The Trojans shot about 44 percent from the field, 24 of 54. Hutchinson went 24 of 42 for 57 percent.

Colby was 13 for 26 from beyond the arc and Hutchinson 5 for 10, or 50 percent each. Both teams shot a lot of free throws. The Blue Dragons went 31 for 40 or 78 percent while the Trojans made 17 of 26, 65 percent. Colby was outrebounded 38-19.

Sophomore shines in Jayhawks' victory

LAWRENCE (AP) – Elijah Johnson got a chance Monday night to show he can play point guard for No. 3 Kansas because two teammates slipped up.

First, Tyshawn Taylor was suspended earlier in the day for violating team rules, leaving the position wide open. Then, heralded freshman Josh Selby, coach Bill Self's first choice to run the point, left the little orthotic device he wears in his left shoe at home.

So Self gave Johnson the nod, and the little-used sophomore responded with a head-turning 15 points, three assists and solid de-

fense in a 92-65 romp over Oklahoma State.

"It was a good decision because I thought Elijah played great," Self said. "Hopefully, this will be a confidence boost for him. I'm not going to make any brash statements on who is going to be our starter for the rest of the year. But the ball's definitely in his court."

Marcus Morris had 27 points for the Jayhawks, who hit eight of their first 10 shots and pulled away from the outmanned Cowboys with an 18-2 spree that produced a 52-28 halftime bulge.



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