

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College freshman Rochelle Boyce raced a throw to first base in the Lady Trojans' game against Barton County Community College on Sunday.

Wildcats fall to Wisconsin

By John Marshall

AP Basketball Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. - Kansas State's Jacob Pullen won the individual matchup of marquee point guards, scoring anywhere and everywhere while Wisconsin's Jordan Taylor clanged one shot after

When it was over, Taylor was the one headed to the next round of the NCAA tournament, leaving Pullen dejected and wiping away tears with his jersey.

when his shots weren't falling, Badgers up by three. Taylor made the biggest plays of two big free throws and blocking Pullen's tying 3-point attempt in the closing seconds to seal the Badgers' 70-65 win over Kansas State on Saturday.

"He was having a rough shooting night, but he was a taskmaster of his own skills and his own Ryan said. "He's not going to throw the rest of it away simply because things have gotten away from him. He's that dedicated to the floor.'

The anticipated duel of point guards was a one-sided show from a scoring standpoint, with Pullen matching a career high with 38 points and Taylor shooting just 2 of 16 from the floor.

Wisconsin's floor general made the plays when it mattered most, though, getting a steal in the post against a much bigger player to set up Mike Bruesewitz's tiebreaking 3 with 91 seconds left, then swatting Pullen's tying attempt after Finding ways to contribute even hitting two free throws that put the

Josh Gasser sealed it with two the game down the stretch, hitting more free throws, sending fourthseeded Wisconsin (25-8) into the round of 16 for the fourth time since 2000. The Badgers will face upset specialist Butler, a winner over top-seeded Pittsburgh, in the Southeast regional semifinals Thursday in New Orleans.

"I feel like I won the battle beabilities," Wisconsin coach Bo cause we won the game," said Taylor, who had 12 points, six assists and no turnovers in 40 minutes.

Pullen, like he has throughout his four-year career in the Little

being the leader on this team on Apple, poured his heart into what turned out to be his final game, almost single-handedly keeping the fifth-seeded Wildcats (23-11)

> He shot 6 of 8 from 3-point range and broke Mike Evans' school career scoring mark (2,115 points), but still left the court in tears that continued to flow in the postgame news conference, causing coach Frank Martin to stick up for his star player.

"I don't know. It's tough," Pullen said after being asked about his emotions. "You know, I want to win and..."

Pullen started to break down and Martin jumped in.

"That's what you wanted to see? That what you were trying to get out of him? Make him cry here in front of people? Good question," Martin said sarcastically.

"I'm a competitor, man. I just wanted to win the game," Pullen continued, getting a pat on the head from teammate Curtis Kelly. "I don't care about a scoring record or anything else, man. I wanted to get to the Final Four and I didn't get a chance to do that."

Lady Trojans keep up with Barton County

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Colby Community College softball team hung in with the Barton County Lady Cougars for seven innings before giving up six runs in the eighth to lose the first game of a double header Sunday at the college ball fields.

Colby jumped out into an early lead with one run in the bottom half of the first inning. In the top of the second, Barton tied it up with a base hit that drove a runner home.

In the bottom of the second inning, freshman Rochelle Boyce walked and got to second on a bunt by sophomore Alyssa Mustard, but was left on base when the inning ended.

Barton got two runners on base in the top of the third, but pitcher Kristi Sheets struck one batter out. Another was tagged out at third on an infield grounder to end the inning with the score still tied 1-1.

In the bottom of the third, sophomore Casey Dirkes hit a shot right to the Barton shortstop, who bobbled it, allowing Dirkes to make it safely to first. Freshman Odasie Wright hit the ball to the Barton third baseman, who also couldn't come up with it. Both runners were safe.

runners into scoring position with Glaze popped out. two outs, but freshman Dominique Padilla struck out swinging.

The Lady Trojans got Barton's next three runners in sequence with two ground outs and a strike-

In the bottom of the fourth, Boyce got a standup double and moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Mustard. She got home on an infield hit by sophomore Michelle Glaze to put Colby up 2-1.

Sophomore Audrey Lorenz walked, putting runners at first and second. Dirkes got an infield hit to the shortstop, who got Glaze out at third. Odasie Wright was thrown out at first on the next play to end the inning.

Sheets got two more strikeouts in the top of the fifth. A pop fly to center field ended the inning.

The Lady Trojans went down in sequence in their half of the fifth. Padilla and sophomore Courtney Bloski both grounded out to the shortstop and Kaitlin Wright struck out swinging.

The Lady Cougars tied the game at 2 in the top of the sixth. They had runners at second and third. A base hit drove in one, but Glaze threw all the way from right field to get the second runner at the plate and end the inning.

Colby went down one, two, three again in the bottom of the Sophomore Kaitlin Wright put sixth. Boyce hit right to the third down a sacrifice bunt, moving the baseman, Mustard struck out and

Barton got several runners on base in the top of the seventh, but Colby was able to get out of the inning without giving up any runs. However, the Lady Trojans couldn't get anything going in

their half of the inning either. The wheels came off the wagon in the top of the eighth, however. A base hit and a bunt put two runners on. Glaze missed a shallow fly ball, allowing one Barton runner to score. Lorenz came in to pitch with no outs and two runners on. A walk loaded the bases. Barton scored another run on a missed throw at home, putting them up 4-2.

The Lady Trojans got a runner out at second base on an infield grounder, but another scored. A base hit drove in a fourth run to make the score 6-2. Colby was able to throw a runner out at first, but one got home to make it 7-2. With runners at the corners, Dirkes fielded a grounder but missed the first baseman to let in one last run. Barton's Abigail Olmedo struck out swinging to end the Lady Cougar's scorefest.

Three straight walks to load the bases in the bottom of the eighth kept hope alive for the Lady Trojans. With Kaitlin Wright, Padilla and Boyce on base, two fly balls and an infield grounder left all three on base and ended the game

Jayhawks easily defeat Illinois

By Jeff Latzke

AP Sports Writer TULSA - One year ago, Kansas' players covered their heads in towels, drooping in the locker room after an upset loss that seemed unfathomable.

Now, they're jumping for joy.

In a bracket filled with upsets, the Jayhawks are the last favorite standing after a 73-59 win Sunday night against Illinois ensured they wouldn't make an opening-weekend exit from the NCAA tournament for the second straight year.

"Those guys have been reminded of Northern Iowa every day for the last 365 days," coach Bill Self said. "It was good to get that monkey off our back, so to speak, but there's bigger fish to fry.

"Now it's time to go play."

Twin brothers Marcus and Markieff Morris combined for 41 points and 24 rebounds, powering the Jayhawks ahead in the second half against an opponent that was no mid-major upstart. Demetri McCamey and Mike Davis both put their names into the NBA draft before returning for one last season with the senior-laden Fighting Illini (20-14), who were once ranked as high as No. 12.

The Morris twins scored 24 of Kansas' first 29 points in the second half, punctuated by consecutive two-handed slams by Markieff that made it 62-51 with 3:51 to play. After an Illinois turnover at the other end, the twins each followed Tyshawn Taylor in making leaping spins into teammates to

In the final minute, Self pulled his veterans, and they were able to give fist bumps to teammates all down the bench, and even the mascot.

"It feels good. It feels like we've got a lot of pressure off our shoulders," said Markieff Morris, who had 24 points and 12 rebounds. "It feels good to go to San Antonio.... Now that we got past this weekend, we got over the hump and we're ready for next weekend."

Kansas will play 12th-seeded Richmond on Friday in the Southwest regional semifinals, which will feature No. 11 seed VCU against 10th-seeded Florida State on the other side.

"There's a reason they're in the Sweet 16," Kansas guard Tyrel Reed said. "They're good teams. It doesn't matter what the number next to them said in the beginning, they're here now.'

The Jayhawks (34-2) avoided revisiting their loss to another No. 9 seed, Northern Iowa, exactly a year earlier and also on Oklahoma soil.

"I think there was a little bit of extra pressure today. I think in large part, we had the same exact record as last year, you go in as a No. 1 seed and last year's team didn't get it done," Self said. "This year's team had an opportunity to do something that last year's team didn't do.'

Davis led the Fighting Illini (20-14) with 17 points, D.J. Richardson scored 15 and Mike Tisdale chipped in 13 points and 11 rebounds.

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