

Men's track team 12th at nationals

The Colby Community College men's track team surprised a lot of teams last weekend at the National Junior College Athletic Association championships, finishing 12th overall.

"We got off to a great start," said Coach James Ortiz. "The distance medley relay team was the first event of the meet, and we finished second, upsetting a lot of schools. That set the tone for the entire meet."

The meet was March 2 and 3 in Charleston, Ill. The first day was a big one for the Trojans, who finished the day in a tie for second in the team standings.

"We knew day 2 was going to be a challenge for us, since we didn't have many athletes competing on Saturday," said Ortiz. "Our goal was to stay in the top 10. We sat in the top 10 for 19 events and the 20th event knocked us out of 10th. We fought off as many schools as we could on day 2, and fell one point short."

At the end of day one, the Trojans were in a three-way tie with Iowa Central and Paradise Valley for second place in the team standings with 22 points.

On Friday, the distance medley relay team of James Leonard, Aaron Spann, Raymond Velazquez and Jonathan Burgess finished in second place with a time of 10:17.85.

Edward Limo came in third in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 8:40.82. He also finished third in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 15:03.73.

The 4 x 800-meter relay time of Leonard, Burgess, Velazquez and Nelson Justiss finished fifth with 7:57.91.

Burgess finished in seventh place with a time of 8:53.96 in the 3,000-meter run.

The 4 x 400 meter relay team of Renaldo Gibson, James Carey, Spann and Brandon Parson placed eighth with a time of 3:22.58.

Jason (Chris) Theriot placed

ninth in the triple jump.

"We are not disappointed," said Ortiz. "Based on rankings, we weren't supposed to be in the top 20. Our guys did a great job fighting for two days straight. This is our second top-15 finish in a row at the Indoor Track and Field Championships. Hopefully, no one will be so surprised next season. We have four All-Americans after the championships – Edward Limo who is a two-time All-American, the distance medley relay team and the 4 x 800 relay team."

Iowa Central was the top program in the competition. Barton County Community College was second. Colby Community College finished ahead of the Region IV champions, Johnson County Community College, who finished 13th.

"The men's cross country team took ninth earlier this year, and now indoor track was 12th," said Ortiz. "It's a great time to be a Trojan."

Lady Trojans struggle during long road stretch

The Colby Community College softball team lost seven games on the road between March 2 and Tuesday.

The Lady Trojans began with a doubleheader against Independence Community College.

Colby lost game one 8-0 in five innings. Losing pitcher was Dominique Padilla and leading hitters were Odasia Wright and Michelle Glaze, both one for two.

The second game also went to Independence, 9-1. Losing pitcher was Lori Harshbarger. Leading hitter was Audrey Lorenz, who was 2 for 3 with 1 run scored and a double.

The team traveled to Concordia on March 3 for a two-day tournament.

The Lady Trojans lost to Western Nebraska 9-0 in five innings, then lost the next game against Iowa Western 7-1; game three to Highland 14-3; game four to Cloud 7-6 and the final game to Kansas Wesleyan 10-2 in six in-

nings.

"We fell into a slump on our road trip," said Coach Ryan Sturdy. "We struggled at the plate and did not make average plays on defense. We started to come out of it the last two games at Cloud and on Tuesday during a doubleheader with Garden City."

In a Jayhawk Conference doubleheader Tuesday against the Lady Broncbusters in Garden City, Colby lost game one 13-7.

Losing pitcher was Michelle Glaze. Leading hitter was Deadra Trujillo who was 3 of 3 with 2 runs, 3 runs batted in, a double and a home run.

Game two was much closer with Garden City defeating Colby 17-15. Losing pitcher was Ashley Archer. Leading hitter was Trujillo who was 4 for 4 with 3 runs, a run batted in and 2 doubles.

"We didn't have energy and intensity when we played at Independence and Concordia," said Sturdy. "We played very well

against an extremely good team in Garden City.

"We have refocused and are doing the little things correctly again. We competed well yesterday and that should give us some much-needed confidence going into the weekend, when we play Brown Mackie and Butler."

After playing some of the top-ranked teams in the country since March 1, Coach Sturdy said, he believes his team is better-prepared for the season ahead.

"This was a tough stretch for us, but that should also motivate the ladies to continue to get better each day," said Sturdy. "If we play like we did at Garden City, we will compete and give ourselves an opportunity to win games."

Colby is currently 3-12 overall and 0-2 in the conference.

The next home action for the Lady Trojans will be Saturday against North Platte Junior College at Carl Adams Softball Field on campus.

Kansas State gets No. 8 seed in east region of college basketball tournament

MANHATTAN (AP) – Kansas State coach Frank Martin had been doing his research ever since the Wildcats were eliminated by Baylor in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 tournament.

On Selection Sunday, he started to notice which teams landed No. 4 and No. 5 seeds.

"I thought our schedule, records and everything else were almost one and the same," Martin said. "I started seeing the brackets and some of the teams that they put in certain seeds, and I thought that maybe we could have gotten a higher number."

Instead, Kansas State was slotted eighth in the East Region and will play No. 9 Southern Miss in the second round, with the prospect of facing top-seeded Syracuse with a victory.

"The seeding does not mean anything to me," said the Wildcats' Jordan Henriquez. "We'll just get out there and play our game. Playing in Pittsburgh, with some of us being East Coast guys, will give us a chance to have a lot of our families at our games."

The Wildcats (21-10) finished fifth in the Big 12, and had a pair of marquee victories over eventual Big 12 tournament champion Missouri and a road win over Baylor.

But a lopsided loss to the Bears in the rubber match of their three games this season appeared to cost them.

"I'm just happy with the opportunity we have to make the tournament," junior guard Rodney McGruder said. "I'm happy that we are fortunate enough."

It's the third straight appearance for

Kansas State under Martin and the fourth in five seasons since he took over for Bob Huggins.

And with some good fortune for both teams, the Wildcats could face Huggins' West Virginia team for a spot in the Final Four.

But that's far down the road.

Right now, Kansas State had better worry about Southern Miss.

The Golden Eagles (25-8) finished second in Conference USA behind balanced scoring and stingy defense. Larry Eustachy's team has six players who average better than nine points per game, including leading scorer and league newcomer of the year Neil Watson.

"When Larry Eustachy coached at BCS schools, his teams were known as the hardest-playing teams in the country,

Four-pound catch



ROBERT HANZLICK
Bruce Bandy of Commercial Sign in Colby caught a four-pound trout out of Villa High Park lake Sunday afternoon in Colby. The state stocked the lake with hundreds of rainbows this year.

Junior varsity falls to Cheylin

By Rebecca Bange
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School junior varsity boys played a tough game against the Cheylin Cougars in McDonald.

They had 17 points in the first half on Feb. 17, and their final score was 29. The Cougars finished with

52 points.

The leading scorers for the Bulldogs were Camron Spresser and Jose Bernudez with 8 points each. Also scoring were Trey Schwarz 7, Chance Hoeting 4 and Grant Spresser and Tomas Ferencak each with 1.

"We have improved a lot over the season, and I am looking forward to next season," Camron Spresser said.

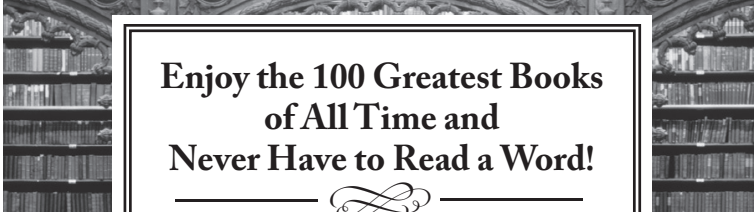


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