



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Senior Daniel Myers dove for a rebound Friday during a Colby High varsity boys basketball game at the Community Building. The Eagles came up short in the fourth quarter to lose to Hugoton, 47-40.

Triplains-Brewster girls third in home tourney

By Bonnie Holm
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The Triplains-Brewster Lady Titans women's basketball team won its final game at the Sagebrush Tournament in Brewster, beating St. Francis 49-38.

On Dec. 7, the Lady Titans lost to Logan in a nail biter in the second round, 45-44. Shayna Rogge had 20 points, followed by Brittany Plummer with 12, Dara Roulier 5, Alicia Barrie 4 and April Mays 3. The girls made only 32 percent of their free throws, which contributed to their loss.

In the finals on Dec. 8, the Lady Titans were determined to win a medal and came out strong against the St. Francis Lady Indians. Rogge led the team with 21 points and also pulled down 14 rebounds, followed by Plummer with 15

points. Roulier scored 9 with 14 rebounds, and Barrie chipped in 4 points. The team again struggled with free throws, making only 31 percent, but their toughness on defense and offensive rebounding pushed them to a victory and the bronze medal for third place.

After suffering their first loss of the season in the tournament opener, the Titan men won their games in the next two rounds, finishing fifth.

The Titans beat the Logan Trojans on Dec. 7 for the second time this season, 44-36. Leading scorer was senior Will Allen with 11, followed by Dan Brown and Michael Schmidt with 8 each, Daymond Hanley 7, Seth Smith 6 and Nathan Jorgensen 4. The Titans made 88 percent of their free throws.

In the final game on Dec. 8, the Titans beat the Healy Eagles 59-

29. All 12 members of the tournament team saw playing time, as the Titans outscored the Eagles 20-4 in the third quarter.

Leading scorer for the Titans was Schmidt with 26, followed by Allen with 7 and Nathan Jorgensen with 5, Layton Werth, Smith, Jace Jorgenson and Hanley 4 each, Ryan Gfeller 3 and Brown 2.

Selected to the All-Tournament team for the Lady Titans were Rogge and Plummer. For the Titan men, Allen won the three-point contest. Triplains-Brewster also won the School Sportsmanship award.

The Sagebrush Tournament champion on the men's side was Stockton, beating Weskan 58-52 in the finals. The Stockton women also won the tournament, narrowly beating Logan 31-29.

No. 9 Kansas blitzes Richmond 87-59

By Kathleen Gier
The Associated Press

LAWRENCE — The last time Richmond visited Allen Fieldhouse, the Spiders handed Kansas one of seven home losses in the Bill Self era.

The ninth-ranked Jayhawks weren't about to allow a repeat.

Richmond struggled against the stifling Kansas defense and shot just 32.8 percent for the game, settling for outside shots that simply wouldn't fall in an 87-59 loss Tuesday night.

The Spiders (9-3) scored a season-low 18 points in the first half and were unable to score over an 8-minute period, during which the Jayhawks went on a decisive 18-0 run.

Kansas' Jeff Withey was an imposing force inside, finishing with 17 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks. He moved to fifth place in program history with 219 career blocks.

"We needed to do a better job of penetrating," said Derrick Williams, who led the Spiders with 14

points. "I feel like guys were hesitating because he's a great shot blocker."

Four other Spiders finished in double-figures scoring, including a career-best performance from Alonzo Nelson-Ododa, who had 11 points and nine rebounds. All his points came in the second half, when he was 3 for 3 from the field and banked in a 3-pointer.

Travis Releford and Naadir Tharpe each added 11 points, and Elijah Johnson had seven assists for the Jayhawks (9-1), who will ride an eight-game win streak into a Saturday showdown at No. 7 Ohio State — a rematch of last year's national semifinal won by Kansas.

It sure didn't start Tuesday night.

Richmond appeared stunned by the boisterous crowd of 16,300, allowing the Jayhawks to get out to a quick lead. The Spiders' 3-point shooting allowed them to crawl within 15-11 with 11 1/2 minutes left before everything suddenly went cold.

Johnson started the Jayhawks'

big scoring binge with a third-chance basket, McLemore buried his second 3 of the half and fellow freshman Perry Ellis scored inside. On the next possession, McLemore scored and went to the foul line, missed the free throw and watched as Ellis put it back for a four-point trip and a 26-11 lead with 8:20 remaining.

Withey got into the act with a bucket and then a three-point play, and Johnson finished off the 18-0 run with a couple of free throws that made it 33-11 with 4:26 to go.

Williams, a burly junior forward, provided the basket that ended the Spiders' 8-minute-plus drought, and two more baskets by Richmond trimmed the lead to 15 points.

It was the closest the Spiders would get the rest of the way.

Boys basketball team plays exciting game

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High varsity boys lost a heartbreaking game Friday to Hugoton at the Community Building, coming up short in the final minutes, 47-40.

The Eagles (0-5 overall) had a hard time getting shots or free throws to fall in the first quarter, scoring 6 points and making just 2 of 8 free throws.

The teams were tied at 6 until Hugoton grabbed two steals in the last minute of the first quarter, scoring a three-pointer and a layup to take the lead, 11-6.

Colby went up 15-11 with 5:49 remaining in the half and by the end of the second quarter, the Eagles had outscored Hugoton 21-9.

Colby had improved its free-throw shooting, making 9 of 12 in the second, and went into the locker room with a 27-20 lead.

Hugoton was down 35-20 after Colby scored the first 8 points of the second half, but came within five, 35-30, at the end of third, with Colby still leading.

Hugoton made a basket to start the fourth, bringing the score to 35-32. With its next basket, Hugoton continued a 15-0 run to tie the game at 35.

Colby finally scored again, but Hugoton answered back to tie the score at 37 with 5:20 left.

Hugoton then made a three-point shot to go up 40-37 with about four minutes left. Senior Zane Winger made one of two free throws after being fouled with 3:29 on the clock to put the score at 40-38.

With about two minutes remaining, Hugoton made two free throws to lead 42-38. The teams traded turnovers twice, but no one scored.

Hugoton then missed two free throws with one minute left to give Colby hope of pulling ahead.

Senior Daniel Myers missed a three-pointer when Colby got the ball back and Hugoton rebounded with 40 seconds left.

Hugoton then turned the ball over. The Eagles took advantage and made a basket, but Hugoton landed a basket of its own to lead 44-40.

Colby fouled when Hugoton got the ball back, and the shooter made one free throw to put Hugoton up 45-40. Colby senior Todd Kane took the ball down the court, but turned it over.

Hugoton made one final basket to win 47-40, posting a 27-5 advantage in the second half.

Colby's main issue in the game was turnovers; the boys had a total of 21, 9 in the first half and 12 in the second. On the other side, Hugoton committed 17 fouls in the first half.

Winger and Kane led the Eagles in scoring with 9 points each. Winger was 3 of 6 from the free-throw line and Kane made 3 two-point shots and a three-pointer.

Junior Luke Cox followed with 7 points from 2 field goals and 3 free throws; junior Marc Bremenkamp scored 7 points, all from the free-throw line; senior Wyatt Binder finished with 6 points from 3 baskets; and Myers 2 points.

The varsity boys were to play at 8 p.m. tonight in Ulysses, but all the Colby High basketball games have been canceled due to the snow.

Trojans basketball squad overcomes Air Force Prep

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby Community College men's basketball team got another win last Thursday at the Community Building, overcoming Air Force Prep 56-48.

The Trojans had a 4-point lead, 26-22, going into the half and outscored Air Force by 4 once again in the second half, 30-26, to get the win.

John Clarke led Colby in scoring, landing a game-high 16 points from 3 three-point baskets and 7 of 7 free throws.

Jeremiah Ingram followed with 10 points, 5

rebounds and 1 block; Branden Williams had 9 points off of 3 three-pointers, 4 rebounds and 1 steal; Terry Starks scored 8 points and grabbed 4 rebounds, 3 steals and 1 block; Kris Rolle finished with 8 points, 9 rebounds and 1 steal; and Cody Sluder had 5 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals.

The Trojans were 18 of 26 from the free-throw line, pulled down 34 rebounds and committed just 12 fouls.

The men will take a couple of weeks off for the Christmas break and will be back in action at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, in Concordia against Cloud County Community College. Colby will play at home at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, against Seward County Community College.

Health key to Denver's success

By Eddie Pells
AP National Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — On almost a daily basis, John Fox needs about as little time to roll through the Broncos injury report as it takes cornerback Chris Harris to return an interception 98 yards for a touchdown.

In a league where injuries can make or break a team's season, it's Denver's lack of them, along with its ability to replace the few players who do go out, that has turned the Broncos into legitimate Super Bowl contenders with a nine-game winning streak.

Led by starting-caliber performances from Harris and running back Knowshon Moreno, Denver (11-3) heads into the final stretch of the season looking pretty much the way the front office envisioned the roster on opening day.

"All in all, I'd say our personnel department's done an outstanding job," Fox said.

Moreno ran for 118 yards on 22 carries against the Ravens last Sunday. He has rushed for 391 yards since filling in for one of

Denver's few injured stars, Willis McGahee, who went down with a knee injury on Nov. 18.

On the other side of the ball, Harris had the longest interception return for a touchdown in Denver's regular-season history on Sunday. His 98-yard return down the sideline was his second score this year. Both have come since he replaced Tracy Porter at cornerback opposite Champ Bailey.

"He's a tough cover guy in practice, whether he's going against (Brandon) Stokley, (Eric) Decker, or (Demaryius) Thomas, it's been that way all season," said Peyton Manning, whose own health, top

on Denver's list of preseason concerns, has held up so far this year.

Moreno was a first-round draft pick who lost his job and was working on the scout team as recently as four weeks ago. Harris was an undrafted free agent from Kansas.

Mix in 10-year veteran Dan Koppman at center and 15-year veteran Keith Brooking at linebacker and the picture is clear: By staying patient with the players they have and keeping a sharp eye on who's available in the free agent market, the Broncos haven't gone backward on the few occasions when they've lost starters.

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