

College basketball player leads nation in rebounding

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
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Kris Rolle, a sophomore on the Colby Community College men's basketball team from Miami, has started the season off on a sweet note.

For the past five weeks, Rolle has led the nation in rebounding with 13.7 rebounds per game, said Coach Rusty Grafel.

He's posted four double-doubles (10 or more rebounds and 10 or more points) in a row, Grafel said, and his stats from the last seven games were impressive.

On Nov. 20, Rolle grabbed 4 points and 17 rebounds against Northwest Kansas Technical College; on Nov. 23, he had 10 points and 12 rebounds against Trinidad State Junior College. Rolle scored 13 points and 12 rebounds the next day against Highland Community College, and on Nov. 30 against Northeast Community College, he finished with 15 points and 19 rebounds.

In December, Rolle continued his streak. On Dec. 1, he grabbed 12 points and 14 rebounds against Iowa Western Community College; on Dec. 11, he had 5 points and 12 rebounds against McCook Community College; and on Dec. 13, Rolle finished with 8 points and 13 rebounds against Air Force Prep.

"Up to this point, he is averaging 9.5 points and 13.6 rebounds," Grafel said.

Even as a freshman last year, Rolle was active on both sides of the ball.

In his first season as a Trojan, the coach said, he finished the year averaging 7 points per game and 8 rebounds. Grafel said in the first round of the regional tournament, Rolle posted 11 points and 10 rebounds against Cowley County Community College. Against Cloud County Community College to start the year, he had 6 points and 10 rebounds. Against Kansas State University-Salina, Rolle had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Against Trinidad State, he had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and against Colorado Northwestern he had 10 points and 16 rebounds.

"On top of him being a basketball player," Grafel said, "he is one of our team captains and



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
Kris Rolle powered himself to the basket Dec. 13 during a Colby Community College men's basketball game at the Community Building. Rolle landed 8 points and 13 rebounds as the Trojans defeated Air Force Prep 56-48.

an RA (resident advisor) for the residence halls.

"If any of you have watched Kris play, this just describes him as a person," the coach said. "He is one of the toughest guys that

will be on the court every night, and he can flat out rebound the ball against anybody."

His lowest rebound count in a game this year so far is 11, Grafel said, with the most being 17.

"He is a great young man, a captain on this team and a great leader for the entire team to look up to," Grafel said.

Champions aren't always season winners

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER – The Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons, who tied for the league's best record at 13-3, are well aware of one of the NFL's biggest truisms: more often than not, the regular season is for suckers.

Over the last decade, just two of the 13 teams that had the best regular season record – or tied for the best mark – went on to win the Super Bowl: the '02 Buccaneers and the '03 Patriots.

The last eight teams to enter the playoffs with the best record bowed out before they could put their fingerprints on the Lombardi Trophy and revel in a rain of confetti.

Both the Broncos and Falcons are promising to practice like champions this week and not allow rest and relaxation to turn into rust and ruin.

In the last seven seasons, three No. 6 seeds and a No. 4 seed ended up winning it all, giving hope to the likes of the Ravens, Redskins, Bengals and Vikings in this year's playoff pool.

A year ago, the Green Bay Packers rested their regulars in the season finale and they lost their

edge, becoming the first 15-1 team to lose its first playoff game – to a New York Giants team that was 7-7 in mid-December and went on to win it all.

"That's kind of what it was for us when I was in Indy," Broncos wide receiver Brandon Stokley said of the '05 Colts, who went 14-2 but lost to Pittsburgh in the divisional round. "We kind of rested the last week, then we had a bye. It's too much. So, I like just grinding every week, just playing football."

That's exactly what Peyton Manning's new team did, securing the AFC's top seed Sunday with its 11th straight win.

Along with the Falcons, Patriots and 49ers, the Broncos get a break this week, one that can prove a pitfall as much as a profit.

"We've just got to practice like we're playing this week," Denver receiver Eric Decker said.

Coach John Fox is using the bye week to stay sharp, calling for short, crisp practices today, Thursday and Friday and a mandatory weightlifting session Saturday, mainly to keep the team "focused, not concerned with flights to other states and those type of things, especially close states."

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K-State blooms behind 16 goals

By John Marshall
AP College Football Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – During his time as the retired coach of the Kansas State Wildcats, Bill Snyder conceptualized a plan for success in football and life.

When he was again the football coach of the Kansas State Wildcats, Snyder returned with his philosophy firmed up into a thesis of sorts, calling it "16 Goals for Success."

Commitment. Unselfishness. Toughness. Enthusiasm. Leadership. Responsibility.

Snyder's 16 goals aren't much

different than what football coaches across the country have preached, in one form or another, since the game started. It's just that he organized them into a manifesto along the lines of UCLA coach John Wooden's Leadership Pyramid.

"It's been a process over a long period of time," Snyder said. "Really, if you were to look at them, you would see they're intrinsic values that you would teach your children...."

Snyder's 16 goals are at the core of Kansas State's success, the driving force behind the seventh-

ranked Wildcats' run to one of the most anticipated bowl games this season, against No. 5 Oregon in the Fiesta Bowl on Thursday night at University of Phoenix Stadium.

Snyder's plan also is an apt way to describe the coach who followed the Manhattan Miracle with a second program resurrection, a 73-year-old who can still connect with players young enough to be his grandchildren, a man who has shaped the lives of so many.

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