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Colby College alum Elzbieta Klein has moved on to become a key player for the Big 12 Conference's West Virginia University Mountaineers.

## Ex-Trojan starting in Big 12

Former Colby Community College player Elzbieta Klein will be a big part of West Virginia University's quest to climb the Big 12 volleyball standings this fall.

Last season, the 6'2" Klein was West Virginia's leading hitter during seven different matches. She also delivered 10 kills or more on seven occasions, including a 14-kill/11 dig effort against Texas Tech on Oct. 13.

Overall, the Trojan alum drilled 165 kills for fourth on West Virginia's team. She also totaled 98 digs, 15 total blocks and 13 ace serves. She served three aces against Pittsburgh, Pa.-based Duquesne University on Oct. 6.

Klein achieved all these highlights during her first season with the NCAA Division I program playing its first year against Big 12 Conference competition.

However, the Mountaineers didn't fare well with an 0-16 Big 12 record.

Klein was an all-region and all-conference player for Colby College in 2011-12. She ranked No. 5 nationally among all National Junior College Division I players with over four kills per match.

# Trojans look dangerous as season nears

By R.B. Headley

Colby Free Press  
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Don't let this friendly team photo to the right fool you too much.

Volleyballs have not been feeling like a part of Colby Community College's terrific team bonding experience during recent weeks.

Instead, they were taking a real beating during Thursday's team practice and flying full-speed into some real sharp blocks. They also carried a message if any upcoming opponents had actually taken notice.

Friendly times will not carry over to the other side of nets.

"You saw it. That's why I'm excited," coach Carey Jones said about the Trojans' hitting, blocking and all-around strong team play. "We have six returning players, and the freshmen we've brought in are great. They've got a lot of versatility to fill areas where we've been lacking."

In other words, it's a full array of dangerous talent leading the Trojans into next week's season opener. They officially begin Colby fall sports in one week at a North Platte, Neb., tournament (Aug. 23-24).

On Labor Day weekend, these Trojans make their home debut with the Colby College Invitational.

Once a few minor pre-season injuries are healed, the Trojans will definitely be ready for both challenges.

"We spent a couple days on a



COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Colby Community College volleyball team enjoyed some quality bonding time while visiting the Thomas County Fair recently. However, look out for this lineup as the Trojans will fea-

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## Niners anticipate good hits on Chiefs' Smith

from nfl.com

Alex Smith said it well when talking about this week's matchup against his old San Francisco 49ers teammates.

"It's another preseason game. Then again, it's not."

There will be some different emotions and potentially awkward pregame exchanges when

the quarterback takes on his former team Friday. But Smith mostly has to worry about running his new Andy Reid-led offense in his second preseason start with the Kansas City Chiefs. It's only the preseason, but the defense Smith faced in practice every day actually will get to him now. The 49ers are looking forward to the

matchup.

"There's a first time for everything," linebacker NaVorro Bowman said Thursday, via The Associated Press, with a smile. "We never got a chance to hit him. This time we can. We're looking forward to it. I know Alex knows we're coming. It's football, man."

Said cornerback Carlos Rogers:

"He'll probably come after me because we were always talking junk during practices."

Smith's divorce from the team that drafted him No. 1 overall in 2005 was made easier with the knowledge that he helped finally turn around the 49ers' fortunes.

"If I'd left two years ago before (Jim) Harbaugh got there, I

would've held onto a little more, regret or bitterness about what had happened," Smith told Comcast SportsNet Bay Area's Matt Maiocco. "But the last two years, I really feel like I made my peace with the fans, the organization."

It's a fun storyline, but it would be a lot more fun if this week's game actually counted.

It's a fun storyline, but it would be a lot more fun if this week's game actually counted.

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