

Trojan 'terminators' sweep through Dodge

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With more than 50 kills in one match, terms like "rocket shot" or "skimmed her eyebrows that time" and "cover your face" can get a little redundant.

But "dirt dessert"? How often does that get used during a volleyball game story?

Definition of dirt dessert: when a player gets a kill so sweet, it's comparable to the sweetness of a classic dirt dessert (crushed oreos, chocolate pudding, cool whip, a few gummy worms to top it off).

Yum, yum. Yummy is a term for getting a kill off an opponent's pass that drifts over the net.

So sweet. A perfect way to describe the Colby Community College Trojans' latest triumph Wednesday night.

"We played really, really well. We're having a lot of fun," coach Cary Jones said about a 25-22, 25-11, 25-15 dismantling of Dodge City Community College before another lively crowd at the Colby Community Center. "We have a word of the week every week, and this week it is 'terminated.' We definitely terminated tonight."

Colby fan started quickly as outside hitter Lorena Rosario terminated 10 volleyballs during the opening set.

Not one match, 10 kills in one set.

They were 10 pivotal kills considering Dodge City's "pancake lake" approach led to some surprising early leads for the visitors.

Pancake lake: an imaginary place a player goes when they repeatedly pancake a ball headed to

Still perfect in the league

Jayhawk standings

1. Colby Trojans	8-0
2. Hutchinson	7-1
3. Seward County	6-2
4. Cloud County	3-5
4. Barton	3-5
4. Garden City	3-5
7. Pratt	2-6
8. Dodge City	0-8

the ground.

"They played some scrappy defense," Jones confirmed.

Yet no pancakes can withstand what the Trojans unleashed Wednesday night.

Besides Rosario's eventual 21 lethal shots, freshman outside swinger Adrianna Sosnowska hammered 13 kills while committing only one hitting error all match.

Yet one error was one more than sophomore middle Christina Ehr, who fired five kill shots and never missed (five for five).

Middle-blocking partner Taryn Lee sent six kills sizzling past the Dodge defense with just one miss.

"Our middles are doing a great job. One of them was sick, and Christina stepped right in and made the most of her playing time," the coach observed. "And don't forget what is going on behind them. We can't do this without great passing and great sets."

Sophomore setter Maisy Munson delivered 42 assists, served two aces and added five digs besides assisting on an occasional strong block.

Freshman libero Taylor Alderson made 12 digs and served a team-leading three aces. Meanwhile, co-libero Danielle Rodriguez often ignited the success with smooth passes.

"They're buying in and know their roles. A balanced attack is what makes this team great," Jones said.

Great's not too strong a term considering Trojans fans are currently watching victory.

According to the best available resources, no Colby Community College volleyball team has gone more than halfway through a Jayhawk League season without one defeat.

Colby's current record: 8-0 with six regular-season matches to go.

"It's a special team to appreciate, but we've got a ways to go to reach our goals," Jones proclaimed. "One is to host a regional tournament here, because we have an awesome home-court advantage. The crowds are getting bigger every home match."

Another tough road test on Saturday will help the Trojans reach their goals.

They play a 2 p.m. match against Hutchinson Community College, an early-season nationally-ranked team that lost in five sets at Colby last month.

Both teams are getting votes to be part of the National Junior College Athletic Association top 20 volleyball teams.

"That's something else we haven't had (a national ranking) in the middle of the season," Jones revealed. "It won't help us host (a regional), but it would be another nice goal to reach. We need some of those (top 20) teams to lose."



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Andjela Reljic fired another of Colby Community College's 52 kills during another Jayhawk League sweep against visiting Dodge City Wednesday night at Colby Community Center. The Trojans' attack often started with good passes from libero Taylor Alderson, left, and freshman Danielle Rodriguez (5).

The Trojans also play at Pratt Community College Wednesday evening. Their next scheduled

home match is set for Thursday, Oct. 15, against Seward Community College.

"It's possible there could be a three-way tie, but we'll do our best to stay away from that," Jones

Big-play Longhorns await Colby Eagles

'Horns tossed Cowboys last week

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These Longhorns can fly as the Goodland Cowboys found out against Holcomb last weekend.

Undefeated-no-longer Goodland (3-1 record) only allowed five Holcomb first downs last week, according to maxpreps.com.

However, five first downs doesn't mean much when team also scores five touchdowns.

The Holcomb Longhorns achieved this feat during a 34-12 trouncing of Goodland. Now they'll move on to face the Colby Eagles Friday night in Holcomb (7:30 p.m. kickoff).

How did the 2-2 Longhorns strike so quickly?

Mainly through the air considering quarterback Heath Tucker's eight completions covered 251 yards — more than 31 yards per pass.

Yet 31 or even 41 yards pale to what receiver Calen Rupp delivered when he touched the football. Rupp caught three Tucker pass-

es for 169 yards which averages at 53 per grab exactly.

Rupp took one of those throws 73 yards to a Holcomb touchdown.

The Longhorns broke free with 20 second-half points after leading just 14-6 at intermission. They didn't display much of a rushing attack beyond Tucker's 22 carries for 62 yards.

Other Longhorns rushed for only 38 yards, which could be good news considering Colby (0-4 record) is coming off a crushing collision with Hugoton last week.

Those Eagles gained more than 450 yards against Colby according to available stats, scoring a 56-0 victory.

Hugoton did defeat Holcomb, 20-7, one week earlier.

Yet the Colby Eagles must recover in time to take on another talented foe. Speed seems to be Holcomb's best strength, though the Longhorn line does feature 278-pound senior Jesse Jarnagin.

Jarnagin stands 6'2" while quarterback Tucker is listed at 6'3". Rupp carries his explosiveness in



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior Ashton Russ (22) put a solid hit on this Oakley ballcarrier during the varsity football season opener on Sept. 6. The Eagles will face another physical team at Holcomb Friday evening.

a 5'9", 171-pound package.

Despite last week's big win, the Longhorns surrendered 340 yards to Goodland. Cowboys quarterback Trey Teeter, a sophomore, passed for 185 yards on 13 of 30 completions.

Goodland gained 155 rushing yards against Holcomb, averaging

better than four yards per carry.

The Colby Eagles' success may depend on health and who's improved most from last week. Some key players suffered injuries, and state regulations prevent Colby coaches from providing more information about the extent of those injuries.

Trojan runners slip in national rankings

The Colby Community College men's cross country team dropped in the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) national polls for the second consecutive week.

The Trojan men dropped from fifth to tenth in the week 5 rankings.

The Kansas Jayhawk Community Conference is currently represented by six colleges in the men's

cross country national polls.

Garden City is currently the highest ranked team in KJCC Conference West in ninth, one spot ahead of Colby.

Central Arizona tops the polls

for the fifth week in a row followed by Region VI foe Allen County.

The Trojans run next at Fort Hays State University on Saturday, Oct. 12.

Kansas State gets ready for Big 12 favorite

MANHATTAN (AP) — The list of regrets was long, but for Tramaine Thompson one mistake seemed larger than the others.

Kansas State had just lost its first road game of the season at Texas, and the senior wide receiver was trying to explain what went wrong. He could have blamed the Wildcats' inability to stop the run. He could have pointed to their inconsistencies on offense or turnovers. Instead, he wondered why K-State was unable to match Texas in the first half.

That's not the sign of a team that is mentally strong or well prepared.

"We kind of took too long to get accustomed to the game and the atmosphere," Thompson said immediately following the loss. "We didn't bring the fight to Texas. They definitely hit us first."

That much was obvious from the opening kickoff. Texas jumped out to a 17-0 lead and maintained a double-digit advantage the rest of the way.

It was a disappointing start for the Wildcats, particularly because they were confident in their game strategy. Looking back, several players admitted the environment got the best of them.

It was K-State's first road trip of the year. With a young roster, many players' first taste of a road venue was the Big 12's largest stadium. It was an intimidating setting. More than 90,000 fans were rooting for them to fail and a massive videoboard towered above them in the south end zone. Austin didn't feel much like home.

For some, that was distracting. "When we're on the sideline we have to stay into it," linebacker

Mike Moore said. "Two weeks ago at Texas we were just kind of watching the game. We weren't in it as much as we should have been ... It was a new experience. For some of us it was just a shock."

K-State gets the chance to learn from that road trip Saturday with a game at Oklahoma State. Pickens Stadium, with a capacity of 60,218, doesn't have the same awe factor as Texas, but narrow sidelines bring fans much closer to the field and an enclosed setting magnifies noise.

The Wildcats haven't won in Stillwater since 1999.

"The sidelines are right next to you," K-State coach Bill Snyder said at his weekly news conference. "I'm as close to that wall as I will be to the fans during the course of the ballgame. Aside from that, a lot of fans, big sta-

dium and it's closed in."

Snyder expects his players to handle this road trip better than the first.

"It is like anything else in life," Snyder said. "You experience something on a given occasion and you have a much greater awareness of what that environment is all about when you repeat the action. Even our guys who have been in the program, played and traveled numerous times, it has been quite some time since we have traveled. That takes some acclamation on their part getting readjusted to it."

Pickers go 8-2 for week

In other college football news, Free Press couch potato R.B. Bell and Associated Press college football writer Ralph Russo both went 8-2 last week. Headley's 58-8 overall while Russo's 57-9.

Eagle girls improve on tourney scores

A very challenging Ulysses course couldn't stop the Colby High golfers from reaching some great success on Tuesday.

Miranda Kern tied her best 18-hole score this season (96) while reaching the tournament's varsity top six.

Senior Andrea Barton (103) and Haley Mengel (104) nearly reached the top 10 while new varsity teammate Elissa Zerr also delivered one of her career-best rounds.

Together, the Eagles achieved fourth place (427 team total) among eight rival teams competing.

"Ulysses has a very tough course and we were close to posting some really good scores," coach Rick Williams said. "I was happier with the way we played. Haley and Andrea both got off to bad starts, but then finished well. If they start better, they could go low for us."

Zerr's 124 completed the Colby team total. Jenna Crampton also represented the Eagles.

Not surprisingly, defending Great West Athletic Conference (GWAC) champion Goodland captured another tournament team title (372).

No team finished closer than Syracuse's 409. Lakin fired a 416 and Colby followed at 427.

Other varsity teams participating were Holcomb (429), Ulysses (430), Liberal (496) and Hugoton



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High's Jenna Crampton rolled in a putt during varsity tournament action earlier this season. The Eagles played at Ulysses on Tuesday.

(541).

Many of these same teams meet again on Monday when Ulysses hosts the GWAC tournament as Goodland attempts to repeat.

League golfers will tee off at 1 p.m. Other upcoming varsity events include Colby's football team visiting Holcomb Friday night and the volleyball team playing at Oakley on Saturday.

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