

Trojans coach followed quite a path to Colby

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Booted off his college basketball team four times. No McDonald's or Walmart in sight of his home for four years. An 0-for-57 record greeted his first head coaching position. Antowin Edwards' road to Colby Community College has taken some unusual turns through the years, yet it's all led to a philosophy that defines his career goals: No matter where you're at, just keep working to get better and better. "My main goal is to build positive and successful citizens," this Austin, Texas native said as he noted how 17 of his beloved 24 sophomores at Colorado Northwestern Community College graduated with 10 moving on to four-year basketball programs. "That's very rewarding, to help kids get better and move on with their goals and education," he explained. "Not everyone gets a chance like this, so why not play like your lives depend on it?" Edwards understands the message after growing up in a rough Austin neighborhood. He was talented enough to earn a basketball scholarship at Park

University in the Kansas City area, but admittedly "still didn't know what he was doing". "I was combative with the coach. I wasn't happy about my minutes (of playing time). The hardest thing was accepting that some players were just better than me," he recalled. "I got kicked off the team four times for being a knucklehead, and four times I got reinstated. The coach (Claude English) understood I needed basketball more than basketball needed me." Edwards finally understood his opportunity and the rest has been positive history. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and human services, then a master's in education with an emphasis on at-risk students. His career path featured several years at a juvenile corrections facility as Edwards worked to help young people turn their lives around. However, he soon realized many of those same principles connected to his No. 2 love behind wife and family: basketball. "I love basketball. I can watch basketball whether it's 12-year-olds or a league for (age) 40 and over," Edwards proclaimed while also mentioning there were NBA games on television Tuesday



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
New coach Antowin Edwards showed plenty of passion during his Colby Community College debut on Monday. The Trojans are home for this weekend's Ambassador Classic starting tonight.

night. "I'm just thankful for the opportunity to coach something I love so much." It was again coach Claude English — now Park University's athletic director — who gave Edwards his first shot at coaching. He worked as a men's assistant for 10 seasons with the Park Threshers. The setting seemed perfect

since Edward's wife, Jamila, is a pediatric social worker at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. However, Jamila could see her husband's No. 2 love needed to expand its boundaries. "She didn't like the idea at first," Edwards revealed. "But she realized I loved basketball so much, it didn't make sense for me

to be a career assistant." So he began pursuing the head coaching position, a field with probably less openings than great teaching opportunities. The coaching search carried Edwards clear out to Rangely, Colo., where Colorado Northwestern Community College is located in a town of about 2,500. A town where those aforemen-

tioned McDonald's and Walmart where nowhere to be found for about 75 miles in any direction. "The only restaurant chain in town was Subway," he revealed. Yet neither those inconveniences nor an 0-57 record during two previous seasons could stop Edwards from getting better and better. His Colorado Northwestern team scored three, seven, 11 and 14 wins during each of his four seasons. He coached "like his life depended on it" — because it does for most coaches — and even Colby Community leaders like athletic director Ryan Sturdy took notice. After all, Edwards' Spartan basketball teams beat the Trojans in three of four Ambassador Classics. What better choice to coach the Trojans during this weekend's Classic — and Edwards couldn't be happier. "There was support (in Rangely), but nothing like here at Colby," he said. "Not just the local businesses, but especially the people. I love the genuine kindness in a town like this. Everywhere I've gone, people ask 'how are you doing' and 'hey, you're the new coach. We're excited to have you here'." The excitement carried over to Colby's 81-62 season-opening win over Tabor College's junior varsity squad Monday night. A good win that follows Edwards' philosophy perfectly: let's keep getting better.

Trojan takes great pride in his defense

By Rusty Grafel
Colby Community College

The season has officially started and with a blink of an eye, we are two games in already. For the first two games, I was pleased with how our guys played and effort they gave in both games. We played the Lamar (Colo.) College junior varsity and won 106-51. On Saturday night, we played Sunrise Christian Post Grad and won 72-65.



Jamal Jones

It was a good home opener for us and we were able to do some good things in both games! We are far from where we need to be but as long as we keep improving each day and each game we will get where we need to be. Our third sophomore we would like to spotlight is Jamal Jones. Jamal is also a team captain for the CCC Trojans alongside of Jeremiah Ingram and Terry Starks. Jamal played in 22 games for us last year and averaged 1.6 points per game. Jamal has a great characteristic about him in that he will play as hard as he can for as long as he can. He's a great leader by example and we don't have to tell him to play defense. He takes pride in being a great defender. Here is a little more about Jamal: Hometown: Wichita. Previous

school: Word of Life. Birth date: Nov. 28, 1993. Parents: Charles and Jamie Jones. Major: General Studies. Favorite quote: "If it doesn't kill you, it will make you stronger." Favorite Food: cinnamon stack from I-Hop restaurant. Favorite thing about Colby Community College: the people. Favorite movie: Shuttas. Favorite athlete: Derrick Rose. Role model: President Obama. Favorite Song: Lil Boosie by Bankroll. I wish the Colby Community College women's volleyball team good luck in their regional tournament at Hutchinson Nov. 10-11. Also, I congratulate the men's cross country team for the first place finish at regionals and the road to a national title this weekend! Good luck to the CCC wrestling team as they head to a second tournament of the season. The men's and women's basketball teams start The Ambassador Classic on Thursday and have games through Saturday. If you have nothing going on, come out and watch three filled days of basketball starting at 2 p.m. Until next time, go Trojans! Editor's note: Grafel is the Trojan men's basketball coach who has agreed to provide more insights into Colby College athletes and programs.

Colby wrestlers win at Cowboy Open

Colby Community College freshman Jared Johnson pinned an NCAA Division I opponent to highlight his perfect 5-0 performance for the Trojan wrestlers at Saturday's Cowboy Open in Laramie, Wyo. Johnson, a 174-pounder, finished all five of his foes with first-period pins. While three required less than one minute, perhaps Johnson's most impressive effort was a 1:01 victory over Kyle Pope from the University of Wyoming Cowboys.

Colby High alums Beau Brown (165 pounds) and Quade Woofter (174), both freshmen scored one pin apiece during the Trojans' season debut.

Like Johnson, Woofter and

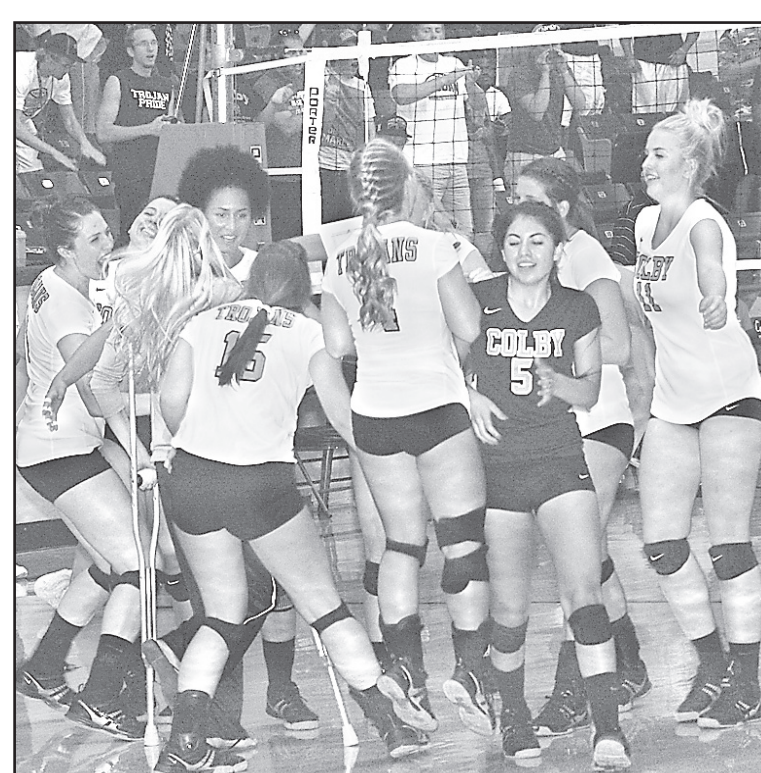
freshman heavyweight Devanti Ragland "stuck" NCAA Division I foes. Brown flattened University of Northern Colorado's Dylan Arthur in 3:50. Ragland downed the University of Idaho's Tyrel Beare with 34 seconds remaining (5:26). Brown needed just 1:15 to pin Northwest (Wyo.) College's Chase Medina. Woofter also received a forfeit win during the tournament. All Colby College results were obtained through www.nwcaonline.com. The Trojans wrestled in weight classes from 141 pounds through 285. Here are the other available results: 141 — Freshmen Jairo Garcia

and Austin Marshall both finished 0-2. 165 — Brown went 1-2 with losses to Mike Billingsley of Air Force Prep (2:39 pin) and Levi Reynolds of Western Wyoming College (38-second pin). 165 — Freshman Calvin Ochs went 3-2 with wins over Anthony Ball of Colorado State University-Pueblo (11-9 decision), Donovan Maes of Northern Colorado (14-12) and Anthony Thomas of Colorado State University-Pueblo (1:55 pin). 174 — Johnson (5-0 record) scored pins over Dylan Berget from University of Great Falls (Mont.), Ken Banning of Mesa (Colo.) University (:23), Kyle Foy of Western Wyoming College

(:39), Arthur (1:10) and Pope. 174 — Woofter went 2-2 with a forfeit win over University of Nebraska-Kearney's Nick Null. His two defeats were to Northwest (Wyo.) College's Jacob Beck (3-2) and Cole McArthur (2:51 pin). 184 — Rakim Deans went 1-2 with a 12-10 victory over Danny Bergstrom (school not available). He lost to Boise State University's Andrew Tiedman (3:57 pin) and Augustine DeSantis of Colorado State University-Pueblo (15-8). 197 — Freshman Kane Washington finished 0-2. 285 — Ragland went 2-2 with pins against Bear and Mesa (Colo.) University's Corby Wyatt (:48). He lost to Boise State's Gaylen Edmo in :37.

Regional draws near for Trojans

The pairings are set for Sunday's National Junior College Athletic Association Region VI volleyball tournament at Hutchinson Community College. On Sunday, the second-seeded and Jayhawk Conference co-champion Colby Community College Trojans (24-8 record) will play a 2 p.m. semifinal match against Seward County (23-14). It follows the noon semifinal between No. 1-seed Hutchinson (24-10) and Barton (13-18). A win moves Colby into the Sunday 6 p.m. match, a loss would mean an elimination showdown at 4 p.m. The tourney continues into Monday with a championship match set for 1 p.m. If necessary, a second finale would play at 3 p.m.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Colby Community College's volleyball players celebrated a spectacular win over nationally-ranked Hutchinson College in September. Now the rivals could meet again for a regional championship and national tournament spot.

Dolphins story adds a punch

MIAMI (AP) — Miami Dolphins general manager Jeff Ireland suggested offensive tackle Jonathan Martin physically confront guard Richie Incognito — even saying he should "punch" him — as a means of dealing with how he was being treated. ProFootballTalk.com reported Wednesday night. According to the report, which cited multiple league sources, Martin's agent, Rick Smith, called Ireland before his client left the team Oct. 28 and complained about the manner in which the second-year player was being treated by Incognito. In response, Ireland suggested Martin respond to Incognito physically.

Tonight brings two Top 10 showdowns

Two Top 10 college football battles tonight means those amazing pigskin pickers must be included today. Free Press crazy guesser R.B. (Rude Bum) Headley usually just naps through paper editions all week until about Friday afternoon, when he realizes another college football weekend has arrived. However, he also feels some urgency with a 92-28 record that's eight games behind Associated Press college football "expert" Ralph Russo. No. 3 Oregon at No. 5 Stanford Russo: Can Cardinal defense lock up Ducks again? Oregon 35-21. R.B.: Actually, holding Quacks to 35 points could almost be called a lock-up. The genius school that gave us Condoleezza Rice has enjoyed four extra days to get ready, but that probably still won't be enough for an upset repeat. Oregon 36-28. No. 12 Oklahoma at No. 5 Baylor Russo: Bears' only victory against Sooners came two years ago with Robert Griffin. Baylor 45-38. R.B.: Wouldn't it be fun to

see a new team like Baylor play for the national title. It won't likely happen, but unbeaten Bears can outscore OU. Baylor 42-40. No. 10 LSU at No. 1 Alabama Russo: Tide has been tuning up for a month. Alabama 31-17. R.B.: I hate to agree so much, and Tigers have won in Tuscaloosa before. Eight games back, I have to take another crazy risk. LSU 31-27. Where else do they disagree? Russo: No. 7 Auburn over Tennessee; RB's upset special goes with Tennessee. Russo says Virginia Tech will knock off No. 14 Miami; R.B. will ride with the Hurricanes to recover from loss to Florida State. Russo says Texas Tech 31, Kansas State 30; R.B. also takes Wildcats. Russo takes Wyoming over No. 17 Fresno State, R.B. says take Bulldogs. Other picks are No. 15 Oklahoma State over Kansas, No. 21 Wisconsin over BYU, No. 9 Missouri over Kentucky, No. 3 Florida State over Wake Forest. R.B. takes Pittsburgh to surprise No. 24 Notre Dame.

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