

Heading to McCook



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press  
The Colby High School tack team warms up prior to track practice Monday afternoon. The Eagles head to McCook Friday, March 28 for their first track meet of the year.

Sweet Sixteen matchups set

At The Carrier Dome Syracuse, N.Y. <b>Semifinals</b> Friday, March 22 Southern Illinois (28-7) vs. Connecticut (26-6), 7:38 p.m. Maryland (28-4) vs. Kentucky (22-9). Championship Sunday, March 24 Semifinal winners <b>SOUTH REGIONAL</b> At Rupp Arena Lexington, Ky. Semifinals Thursday, March 21	Duke (31-3) vs. Indiana (22-11), 7:38 p.m. Kent State (29-5) vs. Pittsburgh (29-5). Championship Saturday, March 23 Semifinal winners <b>MIDWEST REGIONAL</b> At The Kohl Center Madison, Wis. Semifinals Friday, March 22 Oregon (25-8) vs. Texas (22-11), 7:55 p.m. Kansas (31-3) vs. Illinois (26-8), 25 minutes after previous game	Championship Sunday, March 24 Semifinal winners <b>WEST REGIONAL</b> At The Compaq Center San Jose, Calif. Semifinals Thursday, March 21 Oklahoma (29-4) vs. Arizona (24-9), 7:55 p.m. UCLA (21-11) vs. Missouri (23-11), 30 minutes following previous game Championship Saturday, March 23 Semifinal winners
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Williams: Revenge not a motive in NCAA matchup with Illinois

By STEVE BRISENDINE  
Associated Press Writer

LAWRENCE (AP)—Kansas coach Roy Williams remembers what happened a year ago, when Illinois manhandled the Jayhawks in the NCAA Tournament’s round of 16. He remembers that season-ending 80-64 loss — not to avenge it, he said, but to avoid repeating it. “I’m sure it’s in my mind that, ‘They kicked our tails last year, and boy, we really have to be prepared,’” said Williams, whose team meets Illinois on Friday in Madison, Wis., in the semifinals of the Midwest Regional. “Our players understand that they kicked our rear end last year, and they’re not going to lose that memory. “But the fact of the matter is, that game has nothing to do with the game we’re getting ready to play now,” Williams said Monday. The Illini have won 11 of their last 12 games. “Their last 12 games, they’ve played

as well as anybody in the country,” Williams said. “But I also think we’re better than we were last year.” Illinois, then the No. 1 seed, outrebounded fourth-seeded Kansas 45-30 in last year’s meeting. “It wasn’t just that they beat us on the backboards,” Williams said. “We’ve had teams beat us on the backboards and we’ve won the game. They beat us in every aspect of the game: offensively, defensively, rebounding.” Illinois’ dominance on the boards did have one lingering effect, Williams said: “It provided our guys some motivation to work harder in the offseason and get stronger.” Williams said guard Kirk Hinrich, who had 15 points and eight assists in Saturday’s 86-63 win over Stanford despite spraining his ankle two nights earlier against Holy Cross, would take only limited practice time on Monday. “If we had to play a game today, yes, he could play,” Williams said. “The good news is that we don’t have to play.” While Hinrich’s play sparked the Jayhawks, Williams said, there still were signs that the junior wasn’t at full strength. “I thought he was sensational in Saturday’s game,” Williams said, “but he got beat on drives a couple of times, he didn’t penetrate all the way to the basket a couple of times. “Emotionally, he gave us a tremendous lift, and he hit some shots.” Should Kansas beat Illinois on Friday, the Jayhawks could face a familiar opponent in the regional final: sixth-seeded Texas, which meets Oregon in the other semifinal. The Jayhawks and Longhorns are two of four Big 12 teams — the most from any conference — in the round of 16. Missouri and Oklahoma are both playing in the West Regional. “I think that speaks really well for our conference,” Williams said. “I think having six teams in the tournament was really important.”

NBA commissioner happy with Nuggets

DENVER (AP) — NBA commissioner David Stern says he is pleased with the direction of the Denver Nuggets despite the team’s struggles in recent years, and that the city would be an excellent site for the NBA All-Star Game. Stern made his comments during an **Trojans sweep doubleheader at home** The Colby Trojan Softball team took two games from Butler County on Sunday, winning 3-2 and 8-4. The Lady Trojans are now 4-2 in the JayHawk West Conference and 9-10 overall. Next action for Colby is a doubleheader Friday in Salina against Brown Mackie. The Trojans also will play in the Johnson County Tournament on March 23 and 24.

informal news conference before the Nuggets’ game with the Detroit Pistons on Monday night. He was in Denver as part of a tour that will include stops in Portland, New Orleans, Utah and Seattle. Stern said he is not concerned about owner Stan Kroenke’s low profile because he believes new general manager Kiki Vandeweghe has the franchise headed in the right direction. The Denver Nuggets have not reached the playoffs since 1995 and has finished no higher than fourth in the Midwest Division for the last 12 seasons.

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