

# Maryland too much for KU

By STEVE BRISENDINE

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Drew Gooden challenged his Kansas teammates to make big plays in the Final Four.

They did, almost pulling off a stunning comeback. He didn't — not enough of them, anyway.

That put an end to Gooden's All-American season — and to Kansas' hopes of its first NCAA title since 1988. Instead, the Jayhawks dropped to 1-3 in three Final Fours, yet another disappointment for coach Roy Williams.

"You know, it always hurts," Williams said. "It makes no difference — Final Four, second round, whatever."

The Jayhawks (33-4) cut a 20-point deficit to four points late in the second half, but Maryland held on to win 97-88 Saturday night in the Jayhawks' first NCAA semifinal since 1993.

The Jayhawks lost 72-65 to Duke in the 1991 title game and 78-68 to North Carolina in the 1993 semifinals.

"I was as about as proud of my team as I've ever been in my entire life," Williams said. "They kept believing that they could get it done, made a fantastic comeback ... but we couldn't quite get it over the hump."

Kansas got double-doubles from forward Nick Collison (21 points, 10 rebounds) and freshman point guard Aaron Miles (12 points, 10 assists) and 17 points from guard Jeff Boschee.

Gooden, a 6-foot-10 junior forward who was the Jayhawks' leading scorer and rebounder and the MVP of the Midwest Regional, scored 15 points — five under his season average — and didn't break into double figures until late in the second half.

But his second 3-pointer with 19.8 seconds left could get the Jayhawks no closer than 92-88.

"I didn't play good at all. I didn't get my shot off," Gooden said. "I got in foul trouble and struggled from there. Things didn't go my way tonight."

The memory of Saturday night's loss

might even be enough to keep him out of the NBA draft this summer.

"It will be a tough decision," Gooden said. "No one wants their college career to end like this. I will have to look at it and deal with it and make a decision later."

Gooden's struggles started early, and not even his late surge could put the Jayhawks in the title game after they lost an early 13-2 lead.

"Early on, we were up 13-2, so I'd say we were in sync," Collison said. "After that, it seemed like we just weren't moving the ball well enough. After we made the run, the rest of the first half we weren't really in sync."

In the first half, Gooden had as many goaltending calls against him as field goals (1-for-5, four points).

His first two shots didn't even get a chance to fall through — they were swatted away by the Terrapins' Chris Wilcox.

"I knew what we had to do," said Wilcox, who had three blocks against

Gooden in the first half. "I knew if I didn't come and play well, then we were going to lose this game. I think I'm a big part of this team."

Wilcox's play changed the game, Williams said, by taking the Jayhawks' inside attack away in the first half.

"When it was 13-2, we made three 3s during that time," he said. "We got nothing inside except Nick Collison's opening drive."

His subpar performance closed an otherwise stellar season for Gooden, who averaged 20 points and 11.5 rebounds as the Jayhawks went 16-0 in the Big 12 — the first team to go unbeaten in the conference's six-year history — and reached their first Final Four in nine years.

In four Midwest Regional games, he averaged 16.8 points and 13 rebounds.

On Saturday, though, Gooden didn't score until he hit a hook shot with 10:39 left in the first half. He didn't break into double figures until a 3-pointer with 3:53 left gave him 12 points.

# Roy: "A heck of a basketball team"

By STEVE BRISENDINE

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Roy Williams ended his 14th season at Kansas just like the first 13 — in tears.

There was no shame for Williams, though, in losing or showing his emotions.

"Guys make fun of me this time of year because I'm crying," Williams said after Kansas' second-half comeback fell short in a 97-88 loss to Maryland in the NCAA semifinals.

But Williams said it was "dadgum right" of him to cry, not because he still doesn't have a national championship, but "because these kids mean something to me." The team finished 33-4, including 16-0 in the Big 12 regular season, and was ranked No. 1 for four weeks.

"Yeah, it hurts," he said. "I hurt for the players. I don't hurt one iota for Roy Williams."

As the seconds ticked away in Kan-

sas' season Saturday night, senior guard Jeff Boschee realized it was the last time he would wear a Jayhawks uniform.

"Your season may be over, but you should be proud of what you did," he said. "You really don't realize how fast it goes until it is over."

Williams' regard for this Kansas team has been summed up in one word: "trust."

When junior forward Nick Collison suggested shortening practices, Williams trusted that Collison — a coach's son — knew what he was talking about, and cut back the workouts.

"I wouldn't have done that two years ago," Williams said earlier in March. "But this is a mature team, and I trust this team."

Williams also trusted Aaron Miles enough to make him Kansas' starting point guard as a freshman. Before long, Miles was playing as if he were a senior.

He had 12 points and 10 assists against Maryland, and his aggressive defense late in the second half helped Kansas cut a 20-point deficit to four points before Maryland finally pulled away.

"I told my guys to believe that we could come back," Williams said. "I don't think anyone believed it more than Aaron Miles."

But then again, Kansas made a habit of impressing Williams this year, despite its season-opening defeat to Ball State and a lackluster loss to UCLA in the middle of its conference season.

"This bunch was a heck of a basketball team, and they took old Roy for a really good ride," he said. "I'd have liked to have gone a couple more days, but they took me for a great ride."

The Jayhawks could go on another ride next season.

Boschee, the Big 12's all-time leading 3-point shooter, is gone. So are backup forward Jeff Carey and a hand-

ful of bit players: guards Lewis Harrison and Brett Ballard, and forwards Todd Kappelmann and Chris Zerbe.

But guard Kirk Hinrich (14.8 ppg) will rejoin Collison (15.8 ppg, 8.3 rebounds a game) and Miles in the starting lineup.

Only All-America forward Drew Gooden's future is uncertain.

Before Saturday night, the 6-foot-11 junior was expected to leave early for the NBA, and Gooden did nothing to discourage the speculation. But after his performance against Maryland, he hinted he might return to school.

Gooden finished with 15 points and nine rebounds, but he also had three shots blocked and didn't break into double figures until late in the game.

"It will be a tough decision," Gooden said. "No one wants their college career to end like this. I will have to look at it and deal with it and make a decision later."

# Colby Striders begin track season tomorrow

The Colby Striders Track club will begin practice tomorrow at 6 p.m. at Dennen Field.

The Colby Striders is open to all individuals age 6-18. Middle and high school students are eligible to participate upon completion of their respective track seasons.

The Colby Striders are sponsored

by interested parents who volunteer their time and energy to help young people participate in track and field.

Practice will on Tuesdays and Thursdays and some Fridays from 6-7 p.m.

The Colby Striders Track Club is a member of the Amateur Athletic Union

# Eagle track team opens season in McCook

BY DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagle track squad opened its season in McCook Thursday, with the girl's team finishing fourth and the boys taking sixth place.

Individual highlights for the boys included Brent McCoy taking second in the 100 meter race, with a time of 10.97.

The foursome of Rusty Raymo, Jordan Harris, Brett Mariman and Jason Sim-

mering raced to a second place finish in the 4X400, with a time of 3:33.2.

Ivy Ramsey won two races for the Lady Eagles, winning the 1600 meters with a time of 5:48.4, and the 800

meters, with a time of 2:28.4.

The team of Ivy Ramsey, Emily Sloan, Summer Stephens, and Amanda Seeman won the 4X800 with a time of 10:29.2.

Next up for the Eagle track team is a trip to Norton on Friday.



# Trojans drop two in home double-header

The Colby Trojan baseball team dropped two games at home Saturday, in Jayhawk West conference action, losing to Pratt Community College 10-2 and 3-1. Colby is now 10-16 overall and 2-6 in the Jayhawk Conference.

**Game 1**  
Pratt 0320005 10 14 1  
Colby 0000020 2 6 1  
WP: Tharp  
LP: A. Wernke 3-2  
2 hits: Pratt-Bradley, Saunderson

3 hits: Pratt-Smith, Lane  
2b: Colby-Prickett  
Pratt-Smith 3  
2 rbi: Pratt-Saunderson  
3 rbi: Pratt-Smith, Lane  
**Game 2**  
Pratt 0020001 3 2 1  
Colby 0000010 1 5 3  
WP: Hall  
LP: C. Wernke 1-3  
2 hits: Colby-Prickett  
2b: Colby-Prickett

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