



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby Trojan E.J. Drayton went for a lay-up last weekend against Casper. Drayton, Justin Williams (#1), and the rest of the Trojans will play tonight and Saturday night in the Western Sprinklers Classic. Games get underway at 6 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

Classic tips off tonight in Colby

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Trojan men's basketball will try to get to 7-0 for the first time in head coach Brian Ostermann's tenure Friday night when they take on New Mexico Junior College at 8 p.m. in the Colby Community Building. The Western Sprinklers Classic tips off at 6 p.m. when Garden City takes on Southwestern Iowa at 6 p.m.

"New Mexico likes to run up and down the court," Ostermann said this

morning. "Southwestern (who Colby will play Saturday night) plays a more traditional game, but they'll run when they have to."

Ostermann prefers the former style, due the depth and talent he sees on this year's Trojan squad.

"If we're running up and down the court," he said, "that means there'll be more possessions in the game, and in a game with more possessions, talent will win. And we have talent and a deep bench."

New Mexico is 6-3 so far this year, while Southwestern is 3-1. Jayhawk West conference rival Garden City (5-2) is in town for the tourney, but doesn't play Colby. They'll tip-off the Classic at 6 p.m. Friday night.

The Trojans begin conference play Jan. 4, against Butler County at the Colby Community Building.

The Northwest Kansas All-Star dance team, sponsored by the Colby College dance team, will dance during half-time of Saturday night's game.

Hinrich shines as Jayhawks advance

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Now that Kansas opponents no longer have Drew Gooden to worry about, it figures that Kirk Hinrich and Nick Collison will draw a lot more attention.

Hinrich, whom coach Roy Williams calls the best guard in the country, seemed to always be drawing a crowd during the Jayhawks' 81-57 victory against Holy Cross Tuesday night in the Preseason NIT.

He wound up with 13 points on 3-of-5 shooting, while Collison carried the load with 20 points and 8 rebounds.

The No. 2 Jayhawks (1-0) will host North Carolina-Greensboro Friday night in the tournament's second round.

"I'd like to see (Hinrich) take more (shots) if they're good shots, but I thought they really were concerned about Kirk Hinrich, and that's what he's going to have to face — and Nick's going to have to face," Williams said Thursday.

"Last year Drew took more shots and scored more, so he was the focus of the other team's defense.

"They really worked him," Williams said.

"I would like Kirk to shoot more and shoot the same percentage, and I do think we've got a couple of things that can help him get the shots.

"At the same time, we're just trying to give him the advantage, and if they come running at him, then somebody else has the advantage and Kirk's the kind of player that will give it up.

"I think if you look back, I would have wanted Kirk to shoot more in probably 75-95 percent of the games he's played," Williams said.

It's something Jim Hinrich, Kirk's dad and high school coach, always wanted as well.

"I talked to his dad one time and his dad said he felt probably the same way in high school," Williams said.

"He wanted him to shoot more in high school. But we're not out there playing, and for the most part Kirk

makes really good decisions."

Another big difference from last year is the absence of guard Jeff Boschee, the Big 12's career leader in 3-point shooting.

So far, nobody has stepped forward to completely fill that void.

But Williams is not about to lose any sleep over that.

"I don't get concerned and look at that stat sheet and say, 'Well, we only shot five 3-pointers,' because I'm interested in winning," Williams said.

"If it helps you to win to shoot more 3-point shots then I want us to do it, and if it doesn't help us to win and we don't need to do it, then I really don't care. I've always said if I had my druthers, I'd have my best 3-point shooters shooting 3-point shots and other than that nothing but dunks.

"But that doesn't happen. I'm not that concerned. I know everyone else seems to be, but we were all right the other night and we shot five 3-point shots. I saw some teams shot 25, 27 and lost."

Griese will help Beuerlein against Colts

DENVER (AP) — Broncos quarterback Brian Griese won't play against the Colts because of a sprained left knee, but still feels he can be useful.

Griese said he can serve as a second

set of eyes for Steve Beuerlein, who'll make his first start in nearly two years, giving him a look at the big picture instead of just what's in front of him.

"As a quarterback, you're really fo-

cused on what your reads are during a game," Griese said. "You're looking for blitzes in certain situations, so if he comes off the field, I can give him a cursory view of what happens."

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