

Trojans win Tournament of Champions

By LES BROWN

Colby Free Press

The nation's top ranked junior college wrestling team once again proved that it was deserving of that designation, as it won the Woofert Construction/Roofmasters Roofing Tournament of Champions Saturday in convincing fashion.

The two-day event, which was held in the Colby Community Building, attracted seven teams currently ranked in the top ten of their respective NJCAA division and three additional teams brought in some talented individuals.

In the end, the Trojans were twice as good as the competition as their final team score of 101.5 points more than doubled Ridgewater College's second place tally of 50.5 points. Lincoln College rounded out the top three with a team score of 49 points.

Colby placed six wrestlers in the championship finals of the event and likely should have had a seventh finalist, if not for some bad luck. Five of those six finalists went on to earn championship honors in their respective weight divisions. Two other wrestlers advanced to the consolation finals, thus giving the Trojans medal winners in eight of the ten weight classes.

Colby's Erkin Tadzhimetov earned the tournament championship at 133 pounds when Neosho County's Chad Willard was not able to compete in the finals because of an injury. Tadzhimetov continues

to hold the ranking as the NJCAA's best 133 pounder and is a perfect 13-0 against junior college competition this year.

Oberlin product Bryan Miller was very impressive in earning championship honors at 141 pounds. Miller scored a technical fall in the championship quarterfinals and won by fall in the semi-finals to advance to the finals. In the finals Miller met up with Neosho's Kevin Artis, who was a 3rd place medalist at last year's NJCAA national tournament. Miller controlled the match between the two returning All-Americans en route to an 8-2 victory. Miller is currently ranked as the nation's top 141 pound junior college wrestler.

The Trojan's O.T. Johnson walked away with the tournament championship at 149 pounds after surviving a battle with Neosho's Aurel Ciufulescu. Ciufulescu was a 4th place medalist in the 2000 NJCAA national tournament and is currently ranked third in the nation at 157 pounds.

The evenly matched opponents, who were also both returning All-Americans, battled from the neutral position for 6 minutes and 57 seconds without a single takedown being scored, but it was Johnson's escape three seconds into the third period that allowed him to escape with the 1 point victory. Johnson is currently ranked third in the nation at 149 pounds.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby Trojan wrestler O.T. Johnson won the 149 pound division at this weekend's Tournament of Champions. Johnson, above right, beat Mark Dickman of Meremac, Mo., before beating Aurel Cinfelscu of Neosho Co. to take the championship.

Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov earned Colby's fourth consecutive championship when he scored a technical fall over Ellsworth's Dustin Bliven in the championship finals. Abdurakhmanov, who is the nation's top ranked junior college wrestler in the 157 pound weight class, has compiled a 9-0 record

against junior college competition this season.

C.B. Dollaway scored the Trojan's fifth tournament championship of the day. Dollaway's performance was quite impressive as he outscored the nation's third ranked junior college wrestler 18-2 en route to a victory by technical

fall in the championship match. Dollaway, the nation's top ranked 184 pound junior college wrestler, is now 13-0 against junior college competition.

The Trojan's sixth finalist, Roshawn Haldarov, appeared to have championship honors locked up until he gave up a takedown and near fall points late in the third period.

With these late points, Ellsworth Community College's Adam Benton was able to escape with a 9-7 upset victory over the nation's third ranked 165 pound wrestler.

Rounding out Colby's medal winners were Davey Dyke and Alibek Pardakulov.

Dyke picked up fourth place honors after upsetting Neosho's Hector Mendez, who is currently ranked fifth ranked.

Dyke is not currently ranked in the polls, but his performance at this event will certainly improve the likelihood of him being ranked in the near future.

Pardakulov dropped into the consolation bracket after being upset in the quarterfinal round. Pardakulov held a commanding 6-1 lead in the second period of his quarter final match and appeared to be in the process of picking up another five points when Lincoln College's Lamar Fenner was able to use Pardakulov's momentum against him.

Fenner was able to roll through on the throw and scored a fall. Af-

ter winning his next three matches, Pardakulov met up with Fenner again in the consolation finals. He was again in control of the match and appeared poised to pick up near fall points when a questionable officiating call led to Pardakulov's disqualification for an alleged illegal hold.

Colby's 285 pounder, Rio Mayo, also competed in the tournament. Colby was open at 197 pound as a practice room injury kept Logan Prideaux from competing.

Coach Steve Lampe indicated he was pleased with his team's performance in the event, especially in the championship finals.

Lampe went on to point out that his current varsity team's combined record against junior college competition this year is a staggering 77-15, with a 74-7 portion of that record coming from the eight individuals who earned medals in this weekend's tournament.

Lampe closed by saying that he was appreciative of the crowd that showed up on Saturday to support the team as they earned the tournament championship.

Next action for the Trojans will be a road trip to Fort Dodge, Iowa on Thursday to dual the defending NJCAA national champion, Iowa Central Community College.

On Friday the Trojans compete in a series of duals in Worthington, Minnesota and then close out the week by competing in the Blue Jay Open on Saturday.

Instant karma's gonna get you a Super Bowl

karma (kär'ma) **1** the totality of a person's actions in any one of the successive states of that person's existence, thought of as determining the fate of the next stage **2** fate; destiny

Do you believe in karma? If you've ever used the phrase "what goes around, comes around," you do. Or, "you'll get yours." Or "he/she had it coming."

These are all examples of karma. And karma is why the Oakland Raiders are going to win the Super Bowl. Specifically, Rich Gannon's karma alone would guarantee a victory in San Diego.

But before we talk about that, let's see how karma has defined the match-ups for conference championship weekend, which will feature the Raiders against the Titans, and the Eagles against Buccaneers.

The Titans are in next weekend because one, they beat the Steelers because of the Steeler's bad karma from their victory over the Browns. In that game, the Steelers got a touchdown because you can't challenge a referee on 'down by contact' calls. And two, no Titan was picked to go to the Pro Bowl (which nobody cares about anyway unless you're not picked. But that's another column).

If you're still with me, let's move on to the NFC. The Buccaneers are in because San Francisco never had a chance yesterday. This was due to the 49ers win over the Giants, which was refereed by the same guys who can't find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. San Francisco shouldn't have won that game, I don't care how great a comeback it was. I knew it, you knew it, we knew it, everyone knew it. Heck, even the 49er's knew it at half-time Sunday, when they gave up against Tampa.



Darrel Pattillo
• On the Ball

The Eagles are in the NFC championship because, let's face it, having a good team will still get you places in the NFL.

Now, here's where it gets tricky: The Buccaneers will beat the Eagles next weekend because of Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden's positive karma, and the Raiders will stomp the Titans because of the Titan's negative karma, which they got because of that atrocious 'running into the kicker call' against Pittsburgh. Gruden has positive karma because the Raiders got robbed last year against New England.

So it all comes down to who has the most karma, and that's fitting in a year of football where team performance didn't seem to matter. Botched calls by officials have determined the final outcome of too many games this year.

The Oakland Raiders will win this year's Super Bowl because Rich Gannon deserves it. Five years ago he had a shot with the Kansas City Chiefs, but the rocket scientists running that team saw fit to hand it over to Elvis Grbac. Gannon had taken over from Grbac and had the Chiefs heading for the playoffs.

So, in summary, the Raiders will win the Super Bowl, defeating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, probably by a score of around 30-24.

This is why Ronald Reagan had an astrologer on his payroll, you know.

Darrel Pattillo is the sports editor for the Colby Free Press. His column appears on Mondays.

Orange and Black Classic is next week

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The brackets have been released for next week's Orange & Black Basketball Classic. Games will be played at the Colby High School gym and the Colby Community Building. On Thursday, Jan. 23, the action starts at 3:30 p.m. at both places.

In the girl's bracket, Brewster takes on Beloit at 3:30 p.m. at the high school, followed at 5:15 by Goodland vs. Ulysses at the Community Building.

McCook takes on Scott City at 7 p.m. at the high school, followed by the Colby Lady Eagles taking on Liberal at 8:45 at the Community Building.

The first game for the boys will

be at 3:30 p.m. at the Community Building, with Hays taking on McCook, with Beloit playing Liberal at 5:15 at the high school. Colby plays Ulysses at 7 p.m. at the Community Building, with the last boy's game of the night at 8:45 when Goodland takes on Scott City.

All four semi-final games will be played at the Community Building, starting at 3:30 Friday afternoon.

On Saturday Jan. 25, the third place games will start at 4 p.m., with the girl's third place game taking place at the high school, and the boy's at the Community Building.

The girl's championship game will be played at 6 p.m. at the Community Building followed by the boy's championship game at 8 p.m.

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