Trojans win Tournament of Champions

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 Woofter 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.

as good as the competition as their final team score of 101.5 points College's second place tally of 50.5 points. Lincoln College rounded out the top three with a team score

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. consolation finals, thus giving the Trojans medal winners in eight of the ten weight classes.

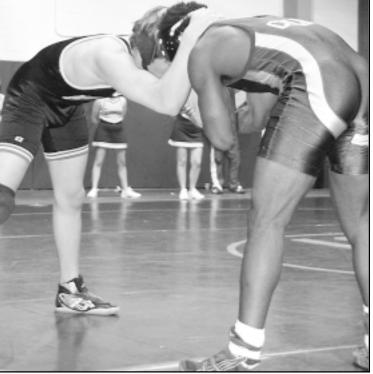
Colby's Erkin Tadzhimetov an injury. Tadzhimetov continues at 149 pounds.

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 be-In the end, the Trojans were twice tween the two returning All-Americans en route to an 8-2 victory. Miller is currently ranked as the more than doubled Ridgewater 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 medallist in the 2000 NJCAA national tournament and is currently ranked third in the nation

The evenly matched opponents, Two other wrestlers advanced to the 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 earned the tournament champion- escape three seconds into the third Dustin Bliven in the championship ship at 133 pounds when Neosho period that allowed him to escape finals. Abdurakhmanoy who is the County's Chad Willard was not able with the 1 point victory. Johnson is to compete in the finals because of currently ranked third in the nation



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 against junior college competition earned Colby's fourth consecutive this season. championship when he scored a nation's top ranked junior college

C.B. Dollaway scored the technical fall over Ellsworth's Trojan's fifth tournament championship of the day. Dollaway's performance was quite impressive as he outscored the nation's third wrestler in the 157 pound weight ranked junior college wrestler 18class, has compiled a 9-0 record 2 en route to a victory by technical on the throw and scored a fall. Af- Open on Saturday.

fall in the championship match. ter winning his next three matches, Dollaway, the nation's top ranked Pardakulov met up with Fenner 184 pound junior college wrestler, is now 13-0 against junior college competition.

The Trojan's sixth finalist, Roshawn Haldarov, appeared to ficiating call led to Pardakulov's have championship honors locked disqualification for an alleged ille up until he gave up a takedown and near fall points late in the third pe-

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

winners were Davey Dyke and Alibek Pardakulov.

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.

the quarterfinal round. Pardakulov ment championship. held a commanding 6-1 lead in the 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

again in the consolation finals. He was again in control of the match and appeared poised to pick up nea fall points when a questionable of-

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 perfor-Rounding out Colby's medal manceintheevent, especially in the championship finals.

Lampe went on to point out that Dyke picked up fourth place hon- his current varsity team's combined ors after upsetting Neosho's Hector record against junior college competition this year is a staggering 77-15, with a 74-7 potion of that record coming from the eight individuals who earned medals in this weekends tournament.

Lampe closed by saying that he was appreciative of the crowd tha Pardakulov dropped into the con- showed up on Saturday to support solation bracket after being upset in the team as they earned the tourna-

Next action for the Trojans will second period of his quarter final be a road trip to Fort Dodge, Iowa on Thursday to dual the defendin 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 Fenner was able to roll through week by competing in the Blue Jay

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; 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 49'ers 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 knewit, we knewit, 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 Pittsbur gh. 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

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

& Black Basketball Classic. munity Building. 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.

Colby Free Press takes on Beloit at 3:30 p.m. at the The brackets have been re- high school, followed at 5:15 by leased for next week's Orange Goodland vs. Ulysses at the Com-

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

The first game for the boys will

In the girl's bracket, Brewster 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 Community Building followed played at the Community Building, by the boy's championship game starting at 3:30 Friday afternoon. at 8 p.m.

BUSINESS

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

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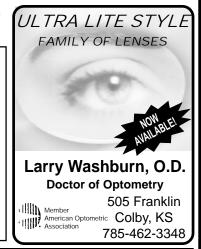


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Tomorrow: How the

Eagles did against

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