SPORTS

Illinois team no match for Trojans

By LES BROWN

Colby Free Press
LINCOLN, Ill. —The Colby
College wrestlers shook the dust off
their gear when they dualed Lincoln
(Illinois) Thursday evening. The
Trojans had not competed against
intercollegiate competition since
Jan. 18, but responded favorably in
their match-up with the NJCAA's
ninth ranked team as the top ranked
Trojans scored a 33-15 victory over
the Lynx.

The dual began at 133 pounds when the NJCAA's top ranked Erkin Tadzhimetov scored a 9-6 victory over Justin Collins to bring the team score to 3-0 in favor of Colby

Top ranked 141 pounder Bryan Miller then picked up a first period technical fall over Lincoln's Chris Ravenna to extend the team score lead to 8-0.

O. T. Johnson, ranked 3rd in the NJCAA poll, followed suit with his 22-8 major decision over Lincoln's Steve Woeckener at 149 pounds. Johnson's victory advanced the team score to 12-0 in favor of the Trojans.

Colby's Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov and Roshawn Haldarov then secured Colby's fourth and fifth consecutive victories when they each recorded first period falls over their opponents.

Abdurakhmanov's win over Frank Beasley at 157 pounds and Haldarov's defeat of Erik Bozman at 165 pounds stretched the team score to an insurmountable 24-0

Lincoln's Lamar Fenner, currently ranked sixth at 174 pounds, scored his third victory of the season over Colby's third ranked Alibek Pardakulov with a hard fought 6-5 decision. Fenner's victory brought the team score to 24-3. Fenner is the only junior college wrestler to have defeated Pardakulov this season.

The NJCAA's top ranked 184 pound wrestler, C. B. Dollaway, then scored a first period fall over Lincoln's A. J. Blahut to stretch the Colby lead to 30-3.

Lincoln earned bonus points at 197 pounds when Bryan Morgan scored a 3rd period fall over Colby's Derek Daugherty to bring the team score to 30-9.

Colby's Rio Mayo then surprised the Lynx's hometown crowd with a 4-3 victory over Pete Mueller at 285 pounds. Mueller had defeated Mayo earlier this season, so the win was huge for Mayo.

With the win well in hand, Colby elected to forfeit to Lincoln's Josh Collins at 125 pounds. This finalized the team score at a 33-15 win for Colby.

Coach Steve Lampe indicates he was impressed with the Lincoln team. "They were very fired up to compete against us and we witnessed a lot of great wrestling tonight. We seemed a bit road weary at times, but still looked tough.

"Mayo had an excellent match and looks greatly improved. Tadzhimetov struggled a bit, but was in no danger of losing the match. Miller, Johnson, Abdurakhmanov, Haldarov and Dollaway were simply awesome tonight. Daugherty competed well in his match, but just has not built up the stamina to go seven minutes yet. And Pardakulov has been fighting some illness this week, but he'll be there when we need him"

Next action for the Trojans will be the St. Louis Community College at Meramec Dual Tournament in Kirkwood, Missouri on Friday and Saturday. Colby has been paired with the defending NAIA national champion, Lindenwood University, during the tournament's first round.

Lampe confesses he was a bit nervous when he learned of his team's first round pairing, because Lindenwood is returning several All-Americans from last year's championship team. But he went on to explain he was put at ease by his team's business like approach to the match-up. "The team is geared up for the match-up and appear anxious about the opportunity to compete against one of the NAIA's perennial powers."

E-mail your sports news to colbysports@nwkansas.com

Hand me that ball, please



DARREL PAT TILLO/Colby Free Press

Jenna Johnson, 33, watched an Oakley 8th-grader kick the ball out of bounds Thursday night at the Community Building. Lauren Cox, 32, waited for a possible pass. The eighth-grade girls won both of their games (A-team and B-team) against Oakley, as did the Colby Middle School 7th grade teams. Full details will appear on Monday's sport's page.

Trojans sign pitcher

The Colby Community College baseball team will begin play soon, but received great news in January with the signing of Boulder, Colo., native Matt Dudley.

Dudley was a one of the most sought after players in next year's freshman class for Coach Ryan Carter. The 5'10" right-handed pitcher attends Boulder High School. Coach Carter commented on the signing of Dudley, "We are very excited to get Matt at Colby. He should make an immediate impact on our pitching staff next season with his great arm and great work ethic."

Colby begins their baseball schedule with a road tournament in Midland, Texas on Feb. 8. Their first home game is Sunday, March 2 against Lamar, Colo.

We want your news! Call 462-3963 The Colby Free Press



Tubbs and Sons 6X9 85% GDN