

Homegrown talent helped the Trojans finish big

By Ray Nolan

Colby Community College
The Colby Community College Trojan wrestlers' season recently culminated in a fourth-place finish at the national tournament in Rochester, Minn. This was an amazing feat for the Trojans who started the season unranked as a team, and entered the nationals ranked fourth in the country. They did all this with a core group of wrestlers from northwest Kansas.

The team was led by Eric Luedke of Colby, who won his second national title. He won a national title his freshman season at 157 pounds. This season he won the 165 pound title. He was ranked number one in the country from start to finish. He is only the third wrestler in the long history of Colby College wrestling to win back to back national titles.

Zach Luedke finished fifth in the country this year at 174 pounds, and by doing so, earned his second straight All-American award. He

was a mainstay in the top ten rankings all year. Zach won his first three matches at the national tournament before losing in the championship semifinals by one point.

Two Trojan freshmen earned All-American honors, as well. Dan Prater (Pratt), who moved from 141 pounds to 133 pounds during the season, had to heal from a broken hand to finish seventh at the national tournament. At the West Central District Tournament he lost both his matches, but was selected as a wild card for the national tournament because the district coaches knew he was struggling with the broken hand. Dan began the season unranked.

Matt Schippers (Hoxie) finished fifth in the country at 149 lbs. He also started the season unranked only to rise to All-American status. Matt started the tournament with three straight victories before losing in the championship semifinals. Three more Trojans, all from

Kansas, competed at the national tournament. Sophomore Kyle Patton (Wellsville), one of only two Trojan national qualifiers (Prater being the other) not from northwest Kansas, lost two tough decisions, 3-2 and 2-1, before being eliminated. Kyle started the season unranked, but was ranked eighth at 125 pounds before the tournament. This was Kyle's second trip to the nationals.

Mat Gilliland (Hoxie), a freshman, won the West Central District title, and entered the national tournament ranked fourth in the country. He also was unranked at the start of the season. Mat lost two tough 5-3 decisions at the national tournament.



E. Luedke



Z. Luedke



M. Schippers



J. Schippers



K. Patton



D. Prater



M. Gilliland

Finally, Jason Schippers (Hoxie), also a freshman, went 2-2 at the national tournament. He lost his first bout at nationals, then showed heart by earning two wins by fall in the consolation bracket. He was eliminated in his fourth match.

Head coach Steve Lampe is very proud of this team. "I think the fourth-place national finish was a great feat for this group. I'm certain that this was the best performance by an all-Kansas team in NJCAA tournament history, at least in my 33 year span.

"This team was a slow starter but moved upward in early December. Most don't realize just how close they were to winning a national title. There were two 1-point losses in semifinal bouts by Zach Luedke and Matt Schippers, and two 1-point losses by Kyle Patton, and a horrible bracket for Mat Gilliland. He faced national finalist and 2003 All-American Justin Perch of North Idaho in his first bout and lost just 5-3.

"We weren't even rated in December and worked up to number

four," Lampe said.

"I still think we are a better team than Labette," he said.

Labette only started two Kansas natives this season.

It is also interesting to note that both Lampe and assistant Todd Voss are area natives.

The Trojans' improbable season is not only great because they came from being unranked to earning the fourth spot in the country, but they did it with homegrown talent, pretty much an uncommon feat in this day and age.

SportsLine

Lady Trojans home tonight, men on the road

The Colby Community College lady basketball team hosts Fort Scott at 7 p.m. tonight in the Fort Community Building in the playoff game. The Trojans bring a 11-5 conference, 24-6 overall record into the contest. Fort Scott is 7-11, 11-19. The Trojan basketball men are on the road to play Neosho County at Chanute, also tonight. The Trojans are 6-10, 15-14 and Neosho is 12-6, 23-7.

Colby, Hoxie games on the air

The Colby and Hoxie girls' state basketball games will be carried lived on 100.3 "The Ride" on Thursday, Mike Fell, KXXX-Q100.3 station manager said today. The Hoxie game starts at 3 p.m. and the Colby game at 4:45.

Brewster Lions to sponsor games

The Brewster Lions Club is sponsoring grade school basketball games, Tuesday, March 15, starting at 6:30 p.m. The intramural-type event is for Brewster elementary students in first through fifth grade. This annual fund-raiser is open to everyone and admission is \$2-adults and \$1-students. In addition to the games, the club will also be in charge of concessions, which open at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds will assist the Lions Club in its charitable mission.

Flag football scheduled

The Colby Recreation Department will be offering flag football on Saturdays beginning March 19 through April 16, said Ryan Sturdy, recreation director. The cost to participate is \$30 with times as follows: youth in third and fourth grades: 1- 2:20 p.m.; fourth and fifth grades: 2:30-4 p.m. "If there are first and second graders interested in flag football, call the Colby Recreation Department," Sturdy said. For questions or information, call 460-4440.

Atwood 3-on-3 entries due soon

The sixth annual Atwood Swimming Pool and Park Project 3-on-3 youth basketball Tournament entries are to be postmarked by Thursday, March 24. The tournament will be held on Saturday, April 2 beginning at 8 a.m.

Entry forms: <http://atwoodpoolproject.tripod.com>, or e-mail: argafive@ruraltel.net for an attachment of rules and entry form. Divisions are: Session 1— 5th-6th grade boys and 5th-6th grade girls; Session 2— 1st-2nd grade boys and 1st-2nd grade girls, and 3rd-4th grade boys and 3rd-4th grade girls; Session 3— 7th-8th grade boys and 7th-8th grade girls.

Soccer experts coming to area

One of the most respected and experienced soccer training organizations in the United States, *Challenger British Soccer Camps*, has been invited to offer one of their highly praised training camps to the growing soccer communities of northwest Kansas.

This week long camp will be offering the following programs: 2-three hour sessions, one being in Oakley and one in Colby. The dates for the camp are June 13-17.

The camp will run Monday through Friday and each child will be coached by a member of the British staff flown to this country exclusively to perform a series of summer coaching camp's for Kansas City-based *Challenger British Soccer Camps*. During the week of camp, the staff will hold a free coaching clinic for parents and coaches for those people interested. The soccer clinic will be from 9-noon in Oakley at the soccer fields, and from 5-8 p.m. in Colby at the soccer fields.

The camp will cover such areas as organization of practices, technical and tactical drills, systems of play etc. For more information on this camp or coaches clinic please contact Jodi Moellering at 785-672-3979 or jodimm@sbcglobal.net or sign up online at www.challengersports.com.

Academic honors go to three teams

Three Colby Community College athletic teams have been honored by the NJCAA as fall academic teams-of-the-year.

The men's cross country team was second in the nation with a combined grade point average of 3.26. The women's cross country team posted a combined grade point average of 3.30, earning 8th place honors.

The Colby Community College volleyball squad also placed 8th in the nation with an impressive combined grade point average of 3.48.

The men and women's cross country teams are coached by Jeff Becker. Pedro Gonzalez is the coach for volleyball.

"I'm very proud of these student-athletes and the coaches," said athletic director Carl Adams.

Trojan baseball 5-3, open conference today

The Colby Community College Trojans swept Arapahoe (Colo.) Community College Monday afternoon with the help of a late inning comeback in game two.

In game one sophomore right

hander Braden Ham threw a shut-out as the Trojans cruised to a 19-0 victory.

Game two was vastly different for the Trojans as they found themselves down 10-1 in the fifth inning.

Sophomore Steve Young hit a two run home run to bring the Trojans a little closer in the bottom of the fifth.

Down 10-4 in the sixth, the Trojans got two runners on base for

sophomore AJ Steele, who hit a three-run home run to center. Sophomore Ben Schmidt then brought home freshman Adam Hills with a double.

Freshman Paul Roh then hit a two-strike two-run home run to right field to tie the game.

The Trojans went ahead later in the inning when freshman Cory Raczynski scored on a ground ball up the middle off the bat of freshman Grant Gering.

The Trojans (5-3) open conference action today at home vs. Seward County at the college.

Victoria ends Golden Plains season

The Victoria Lady Knights defeated the Golden Plains ladies 60-48 Thursday in Phillipsburg, ending the season for Golden Plains with a record of 17-6 and their first loss in the last 14 games.

Victoria scored early and often in the first quarter in building a 15-10 lead and led 24-10 mid-way through the second quarter when the Golden Plains Bulldogs began

to make a comeback.

Golden Plains finally took their first and only lead of the game at 44-42 with 6 minutes remaining, but could not hold on for the victory.

Victoria salted away the win by making 12 of 15 free throws in the final 4 minutes of the contest.

Sophomore Katelyn Spreser scored 18 points and pulled down 7 rebounds to lead the charges. Junior Val Broeckelman tallied 13 points and hauled in 8 rebounds. Senior Niki Spreser netted 6 points and 10 rebounds, while junior Ashley Albers scored 6 points and dished out 2 assists. Junior Jessica Shaw pulled down a team-high 12 rebounds and sophomore Megan Juenemann scored 2 points.

State Playoffs

(Brackets will include local and area schools)

Class 4A Boys
Bicentennial Center, Salina
Today
8:15 p.m. — Scott City (21-2) vs. Andover Central (18-5)
Class 4A Girls
Bicentennial Center, Salina
Thursday
4:45 p.m. — Colby (20-3) vs. Altamont-Labette County (18-5)

Class 2A Boys
Bramlage Coliseum, Manhattan
Today
8:15 p.m. — Quinter (19-4) vs. Alma-Wabaunsee (20-3)
Class 2A Girls
Bramlage Coliseum, Manhattan
Thursday
3 p.m. — Hoxie (23-0) vs. Lyndon (14-9)
6:30 p.m. — WaKeeney (14-10) vs. Sublette (23-0)

Class 1A Girls
Gross Coliseum, Hays
Today
3 p.m. — Brewster (25-0) vs. Wetmore (17-8)
Class 1A Boys
Gross Coliseum, Hays
Thursday
3 p.m. — Brewster (24-1) vs. Waverly (19-6)
6:30 p.m. — Tribune-Greeley County (18-7) vs. Lebo (24-1)

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NOW PLAYING:
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
COLBY CINEMA & ARCADE
MAR. 3rd - MAR. 10
HITCH
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 & 9:15 (PG-13)
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:00 2:00
THE PACIFIER
Fri. & Sat.: 7:15 & 9:00 (PG)
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:15 1:31
COLBY THEATRE
MAR. 3rd - MAR. 10
BE COOL
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 & 9:15 (PG-13)
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:00 1:55
BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE
Fri. & Sat.: 7:15 (PG) 1:50
CURSED (PG-13) 1:26
Fri. & Sat.: 9:15
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:15

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