

Lady Trojans are headed to Nationals

By Matt Dickson

Colby Community College

It has been nine years in the making for Tom Stephens and the Lady Trojans Basketball team.

For the first time in Colby Community College history the women's basketball team will go to nationals.

The 67-62 victory over Barton County Tuesday gave guard Shareka Purnell the best 20th birthday present she could have asked for. The victory ran the Trojan's record to 31-3 on the year.

The national tournament begins

Tuesday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

Colby's first game is 6:15 p.m. against Salt Lake.

If Colby wins, they play 6 p.m. Wednesday. If they lose, they play at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Colby led by as much as seven in the first half 34-27. The leaders on the team stepped up and had great a great night as Barton would not back down.

The two teams split in the regular season. Barton suited up 10 sophomores and the experience showed as they rallied to within two points twice in the game.

In the second half, the sophomores for the Trojans took over. Tournament MVP Rita Kollo finished the game with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Jamie Schroeder scored 15 points. Shareka Purnell had what was probably her best game scoring 14 while adding seven assists and five rebounds.

"Shareka is the best point guard in the region. She understands the game," said Colby coach Tom Stephens. "We had a good crowd and good support all year from the fans. It was a battle and we knew it would be. The ladies really battled hard.'

the team made goals at the start of the season. One of them was to win in every stadium they lost in last season. That goal was accomplished.

Another goal was to win the Jayhawk. Now that they have done that the expectations have been raised.

Colby over Cloud County

The Colby Community College Lady Trojan Basketball team advanced to the Jayhawk final game defeating Cloud County 69-58 Monday.

The win advanced Colby's streak

was against Barton 64-61 on Jan. stripped the ball from Cloud and 11.

The Trojans walked over the Lady T-Birds by being successful from the outside and playing stingy defense which included a mix of zone in the second half.

At one point late in the game the Trojans led by 20 points. Kollo was player of the game with 26 points and 15 rebounds.

Suzana Sormaz and Ivana Mijalcevic had 11 points each, while Schroeder put in 10.

in the second half after Cloud cut a nine-point Colby lead to five. Kollo

The Lady Trojan sophomores on to 17 games. The last Colby loss hit a 10-foot shot and Purnell sunk a lay-up.

Kollo quickly followed with a three-pointer, and after the sevenpoint swing, coach Stephens went to a zone. The zone forced shots from the outside by Cloud where they struggled all night going 15 percent from beyond the arc.

Kelsey Nelson had 21 for Cloud and Stanecia Graham had 18.

Barton reached the final game by beating Labette, the #1 seed from the East Jayhawk. Colby defeated The turning point in game came Barton County 48-46 earlier in the season.

Colby also won a doubleheader

Colby won game one 4-3. Roh

Chatwood, Cory Razcykowski and

Brian Sulzman each had two hits.

The team had 13 hits total. T.R.

Keating got the win for Colby pitch-

Game two was close as Colby

Dan April led Colby at the plate.

Colby plays Yavapai at Prescott,

won 2-1. All the runs were scored

by the second inning. Adam Hills

thirds innings. Steve Blankenship

the exiled Terrell Owens, ending a

Owens was due a \$5 million ros-

ter bonus on Wednesday, so the

Eagles had to cut him or trade him

before then to avoid paying him the

had two of Colby's five hits.

Sunday at Cloud County.

ing the entire game.

got the save.

Self hoping his young team is ready for NCAA

and two sophomores, coach Bill Self figures Kansas is too young to come down with a bad case of nerves.

In fact, nerves have hardly been a problem all year for the No. 12 Jayhawks, who are both one of the youngest and hottest teams heading into the NCAA tournament.

They have, after all, won 15 of their last 16 games. And they're fresh off a victory over Texas, which helped them avenge their only loss in two months and win the Big 12 tournament championship.

"This team's pretty loose," Self said Tuesday. "And a lot of that's youth. That's a bunch of young guys out there. They don't know any better. Even when we're not playing well they seem to enjoy playing with each other and they have even enjoyed practice."

The Jayhawks (25-7) will play Bradley (20-10) on Friday night, a four-seed vs. a 13 in the Oakland Region.

"We'll try to keep the guys loose," Self said. "They should be fairly confident right now. And they're focused. One of the things about the NCAA tournament ... you need to understand it's a business. But you also need to enjoy the moment, too. This is why these kids come to school and play at programs like Bradley and Kansas, so they'll have a chance to play this right now and everybody's very, week.

LAWRENCE (AP) — With a hasn't played since losing in the fistarting lineup of three freshmen nals of its conference tournament, exactly a week before Kansas met Texas in the Big 12 finals.

Might the Braves slip something into their game the Jayhawks do not expect?

'Bradley's had two weeks since they've played, so they could put in something we haven't seen," Self said. "Our focus is what we do and dealing with what we know Bradley does. If we sprinkle anything else in, it will probably be done by today or tomorrow at the latest."

Bradley's record is its best in 10 years. The Braves tied for fifth in the Missouri Valley regular-season race with an 11-7 mark, then won their first two games in the Missouri Valley tournament

"They played really well in their tournament, and I'm sure they were sitting on the edge of their seats all week," Self said. "They deserved what they got. They deserved to get in, no question. They could have been a better seed in my opinion. I don't know if the layoff helps or hurts.

While coaching at Illinois, Self became well acquainted with the Bradley program and the fan support it enjoys in Peoria.

"I bet there's a lot of energy in Peoria right now," he said. "It's hard to imagine how a community embraces ball like Peoria does. I imagine those players are on cloud nine two runs scored. very excited for them."



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press Trojan softball pitcher Jere Ebert aimed at home plate Tuesday during Colby's games against Seward Community College.

Softball team wins

against Seward Tuesday in Colby. The Trojans won game one 4-1.

Amanda Bell was the winning struck out 14. in seven innings.

game two 4-3.

the second game we scored first and then didn't hit for the next six innings. The team battled and didn't give up. "

CCC Softball takes 4th at Mid-West Juco Classic Colby defeated Neosho 5-0.

Amanda Bell earned the win for Colby. She gave up five hits and threw eight strike outs in seven innings. Leading hitter for Colby was Erin Throckmorton. She went 3-4

Colby College wins two doubleheaders

Colby Trojan baseball team won four hits and struck out eight. a doubleheader Tuesday at Garden City.

Colby won game one 8-2. Jason Chatwood, Paul Roh and led Colby going 3-4 at the plate. Royle Beach each had two hits to lead Colby. Roh also had a home run. Roh had three RBIs. The team had eight hits.

Adam Skelton earned the victory. He gave up six hits and struck out seven in seven innings.

Colby won game two 9-2. Chatwood led Colby at the plate going 4-5.

Chatwood and Evan Friedland He gave up three hits in six and twoeach had two RBIs. Colby had nine hits.

Josh Turner led Colby on the mound. In seven innings he gave up Ariz., Monday.

Julpepper sent to Miami

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -Daunte Culpepper's seven up-and- tumultuous, two-year relationship down seasons in Minnesota came to with the wide receiver. an end. The Vikings agreed to trade the three-time Pro Bowl selection to the Miami Dolphins for a secondround draft pick.

The Philadelphia Eagles released money.



Colby won a doubleheader threw her best game of the year. In

pitcher. She gave up four hits and Leading hitters were Heather Ebert, 2-2 and two RBIs, and Shawna Cox who was 2-3 including a double and

Colby went 10 innings to win

'So they might as well enjoy it big things we can't lose focus of."

Keeping the season going is certain to be a big motivation for the Jayhawks, who have great team chemistry between the freshmen and sophomores who play and the handful of seniors who mostly watch and mentor.

"There's nothing more fun than what happened this weekend (at the Big 12 tournament). Hopefully, we can have the same type of success," said senior guard Stephen Vinson. "We're having fun, and that's the bottom line. We just want the season to continue going. Just keep having a good time with each other.'

The Jayhawks will be heavily favored over the Braves, one of a league-record four Missouri Valley Conference teams to make the tournament. But Bradley will have an extra week to prepare because it



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They're always excited in successful season.

"I think we just want to go into the (tournament) with the mind-set we Ebert. She went 2-4 with a home did going into the conference tournament in that we just want to take every possession and do our best team," said Colby coach Carl with each possession," senior forward Christian Moody said.

Bell won the game for Colby on while you're there. That's one of the Lawrence about their basketball the mound. She gave up three hits team. And this youthful bunch is and struck out five in six innings. having no trouble enjoying their Jere Ebert started the game on the mound.

run

"These were two big wins for the Adams. "In the first game we played very well. Amanda Bell

with two doubles. T

Colby lost to Northern Oklahoma 8-5.

Friday, Colby plays visiting Leading hitter was Heather Western Nebraska at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, the Trojans host the Colby Classic. Colby is 4-0 in conference play and 16-8 overall.

March 8 - Powderpuff League

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STRIKE ZONE ~ League Bowling Results ~

Place

Place

Team	Won	Lost	Pla
Service Oil	22	14	1
Weiser	18	18	2
Farm Credit	18	18	3
Golden Harvest Seed	14	22	4
First high Individual game: Deb	ora Metzle	er. 201	
First high Individual series Deb			
		, 020	
March 7 - Pinbusters Leag	ue		
Team	Won	Lost	Pla
Colby Automotive	70	14	1
Twisters	58	26	2
Mufflers Plus	52	32	3
Donelan Jewelry	45	39	4
Colby Bowl	41	43	5
United Commercial Travelers	30	54	6
Pepsi Cola	23	61	7
Cox Communications	17	67	8
First high Individual game: Aaron Rondeau, 245			
First high Individual Series: Aa	ron Ronde	au, 637	
March O. King Dig Loogue			

March 9 - King Pin League			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
Thunderballs	35	7	1
Colby Automotive	32	10	2
Orschelns	28	14	3
Warks Embroidery	28	14	4
Colby Bowl & Fun Center	14	28	5
5 Pony Men	14	28	6
www.visitcolby.com	10	32	7

T - J's Tire	7	35	
First high Individual game: R	on Owings	s, 267	
First high Individual series: F	Ron Owing	s. 698	

8

March 8 - Ladies Nite Out			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
Lobo Liquor	24	12	1
Who-No's?	23	13	2
Strike-Outs	23	13	3
Don's Electric	20	16	4
Straight Line	18	18	5
Bottle Gallery	17	19	6
Sunflower Bank	16	20	7
Camouflage Lawn Care	16	20	8
Twisters	13	23	9

First high Individual game: Lesley Wagoner, 176 First high Individual series: Lesley Wagoner, 476

March 10 - Ten Pin League				
Team	Won	Lost	Place	
Cal Williams	21	11	1	
Classic Trojans	20	12	2	
Comfort Inn	18	14	3	
Hurtt Enterprises	16.5	15.5	4	
KNEA/S.P.	14	18	5	
Colby Bowl	12	20	6	
Satan Haters	12	20	7	
First high Individual game: Connie Menges, 219 First high Individual series: Connie Menges, 591				

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