

Trojans show heart, but come up short

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If wins were based on effort and determination, Colby College would have had no worries Sunday against Butler.

Unfortunately for the Trojans, that's not the way it works.

With their two top scorers, Mike Boyd and Koance Davis, out with a suspension for participating in a fight Jan. 9 at Dodge City, the Trojans rallied from deficits of 21 points in the first half and 18 points in the second half to get as close as two, but ran out of gas in the final minutes, falling to the Grizzlies 83-72 at the Colby Community Building.

Andrew Engel led the way with 24 points and Jordan Ottoway scored 20 for the Trojans whose record fell to 5-12 overall and 2-2 in league play, but head coach John Woods was proud of the way his undermanned team kept fighting after a horrendous start to the first and second halves.

"It would have been easy to give up down 21 in the first half and 18 in the second half," said Woods. "We could have just said enough is enough, but we've got some guys with character who don't like to lose."

In spite of their valiant comeback attempt, a loss was the final result for the Trojans who didn't hit a field goal in the final four minutes of the game after Tashaun Kelly's herky-jerky putback layup cut the deficit to 71-68.

It was in the last four minutes that Boyd and Davis's absence showed up most.

"Let's face it, there wasn't a lot of go-to guys on the floor," said Woods. "We have guys that can score, but their not used to being a go-to guy. They had some big shoes to fill."

The wind really seemed to go out of Colby's sails down 75-70 with just under three minutes left when Erick Peguero threw a no-look pass intended for Anthony Rohr that resulted in a turnover and two free throws for the Grizzlies Logan Stutz.

Stutz, who finished with 19 points on 7-11 shooting, started a string of eight consecutive free throws Butler made down the

Brewster boys fall to Hitchcock, Neb., 47-36

The Brewster Bulldog boys basketball team fell to 6-6 on the year after losing to Hitchcock, Neb., 47-36 Tuesday in Brewster.

The Bulldogs trailed only 35-34 entering the final period, but were outscored 12-2 in the fourth quarter.

Brewster led 23-19 at halftime as well before Hitchcock went on a 16-11 third quarter run to take a one point lead.

Brewster was led by Michael



Colby College sophomore guard Andrew Engel, front, soared to the basket during Sunday's 83-72 loss to Butler County at the Colby Community Building. Engel led the team with 24 points.

stretch to ice the game.

"Erick being a freshman, he was trying to make something happen instead of making a fundamental pass. He's not used to that kind of pressure," said Woods. "Those two guys (Erick and Anthony) aren't used to playing with each other. Let's face it, Anthony's not used to anyone passing him the ball."

Butler, who dressed only eight players themselves, kept the Trojans at bay with big three-pointers throughout the second half.

With 12:35 to play, Peguero's putback narrowed the deficit to 59-55.

Butler's Marcus Batiste, who had 19 points on 8-9 shooting, nailed one of his three three-pointers on the next possession to push the lead back to seven.

Peguero's jumper at the 6:15 mark got the Trojans as close as 66-64, but right back came the Grizzlies Maurice Colter with a three-pointer to make it 69-64.

After Kelly's layup cut it cut it to 71-68, Avery Richardson answered with a three-pointer to once again make it a two-possession game.

"We talked about how to defend the high screen, but just when we

thought we'd stopped it, they'd stop behind the screen and knock down another one," said Woods. "We knew they would be hard to guard, because they have five players who can shoot the three."

For the game, Butler knocked down 10-24 three-pointers. Colby was 8-27.

Everything was falling for Butler early in the first half as they jumped to a 13-0 lead before Kelly scored the Trojans first points at the 16:22 mark.

"I think they doubted they could be in the game without Mike or Koance," said Woods.

"I'm not sure what they were thinking."

The lead grew to as much as 31-10 before Colby started to slowly chip away.

A Peguero scoop layup started a 17-4 Trojan run that cut the deficit to 35-27.

Butler was able to regain the momentum and carry a 50-39 lead into half.

The Grizzlies shot close to 56 percent in the first half and were 6-13 from behind the three-point line. Colby's hot finish to end the half allowed them to shoot 39.5 percent.

Despite the disappointing be-

ginning and end to the game, Woods noted the performances of Engel and the Colby native Rohr, who played the most minutes he has all season and finished with 11 rebounds off the bench.

"I told Andrew we needed a big game out of him and he played well, but the guy I was most proud of was Anthony Rohr," said Woods.

"He played great post defense, blocked out, took a charge; he's very unselfish and that's his role. For him to take advantage of the situation, it's nice to see."

Rohr's performance should earn him additional minutes when the Trojans host Cloud County 8 p.m. tonight at the community building.

Colby will again be without Davis and Boyd. Davis is serving a three-game suspension while Boyd got two games.

Everson Lacerda and Ottoway started in their place Sunday and should do the same tonight.

Woods saw enough against Butler to make him believe they can steal a win against a 10-7 Cloud team.

"I honestly believe if we play as a team, we can beat Cloud," said Woods.



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press
Lady Trojan guard and Oberlin native Lauren Fortin finished with a season-high 24 points as Colby moved to 8-10 and 3-1 in league play with a 65-48 in over Butler County Sunday at the community building.

Lady Trojans rally for third league win

By **Trent Rose**
Colby Community College Sports Information

The Colby Community College women's basketball team (8-10, 3-1) defeated Butler County 65-48 Sunday at the Community Building.

After a sluggish first half in which the Lady Trojans trailed by nine points, shot just 28 percent from the field and committed 10 turnovers, Colby responded with a 40 point second half to run away with their fourth win in five games.

"We got a lot of baskets in transition, and I thought we were the more aggressive team," said Lady Trojan head coach Tom Stephens.

Butler shot close to 44 percent in the first, but followed it up with a 7-35 (20 percent) shooting effort in the second half.

"They don't have as good of shooters as some of the other teams in our league, but we were able to get a hand up and bother some shots," said Stephens.

The defense also forced the Lady Grizzlies into 10 second half turnovers.

Colby began the second half with a 7-0 run, which turned into a 32-10 spurt after Lauren Fortin's three-pointer made it 57-44 with 5:30 to play.

Butler never threatened the rest of the way as their outside shots continued to clank off the iron.

Fortin led the Lady Trojans with a season-high 24 points, 19 of those came in the second half.

"That's what I like about our offense, anyone can go off on any night," said Fortin.

She was 10-19 from the field and 3-7 from three-point range.

Sandra Sormaz added 18 points and 11 rebounds, Whitney Archer had 10 points and 8 rebounds and Katie Spresser had 10 rebounds.

Colby returns to action 6 p.m. tonight when they host Cloud County at the Colby Community Building.

Cloud County, 14-2 and 3-0 in league play, is ranked 16th in the country.

Trojan wrestlers sweep past Jamestown duels

The #4 ranked Colby Community College wrestling team competed at the Jamestown Duels in Jamestown, NY Saturday and won all four dual meets.

The wins allowed the Trojans to finish the dual season with a perfect 7-0 mark.

The Trojans defeated Mercyhurst Northeast of Pennsylvania

29-15, host school Jamestown CC 44-10, Springfield CC of Massachusetts 60-0 (forfeit due to failure to appear for match), and Niagara CC 44-12. Colby native Cole Garcia finished 3-0.

Colby will be back in action 8:30 a.m. Saturday when they travel to Worthington, Minn., for the Blue Jay Open.

Lady Eagles call on fans to unite this weekend

Wanting to add to their home court advantage, the Colby Lady Eagles are asking supporters to wear the same colored shirt each night of the Orange and Black Tournament.

Eagles fans are encouraged to wear white Thursday, orange

on Friday and black on Saturday. The Colby Lady Eagles, 10-0, begin Orange and Black tournament play 6:30 p.m. Thursday against Goodland at the Colby Community Building. The boys play Goodland after the girls game.



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