



Trojans basketball team keeps finding ways to win

By Andy Heintz

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“Just win baby,” might as well be to motto for this season’s Colby Community College mens’ basketball team, and that’s just was the team did Friday and Saturday, coming from behind to win two games in the Ambassador Classic.

The Trojans (3-0) have suffered through some nerve-wracking moments in all three of their games, but in the end they have always been able to escape with a victory. Friday, the men had another close one, beating Trinidad State of Colorado 66-63.

Then Saturday night, the Trojans withstood a incredible performance by Parker McKee and defeated the Northwest Kansas All-Stars 79-68 in their second Ambassador Classic game.

Parker, the Colby High varsity girls basketball coach, was a thorn in the Trojans’ side throughout the game. He savaged their defense, burying three-pointers and drilling jumpers with defenders right in his face.

Colby jumped out to an early lead against the All-Stars. Sophomore Aireus Stephenson nailed a three-pointer from the baseline to give the Trojans a 5-0 lead. Freshman Jordan Michelson made a soft baby hook shot to give his team a 7-3 lead.

Minutes later, Jose Peña-Benjamin hit a three pointer to make it 10-7 Colby.

The game went back and forth for the next several minutes, with the Trojans eventually gaining the advantage. Peña-Benjamin tipped in a missed three pointer by sophomore Ethan Stover to give Colby a 37-27 lead with less than two minutes left in the half. The Trojans took a 39-28 lead into the

locker room at halftime.

McKee caught fire at the start of the second half, hitting a barrage of three pointers, layups and baseline jumpers. McKee’s hot streak erased the Trojans’ lead and helped the All-Stars gain a 50-47 advantage with 11 minutes to go.

A few minutes later, Parker’s twin brother, Carson McKee, buried a three pointer to give his team a 53-49 lead.

Freshman Michael Morris stopped the bleeding for the Trojans with a stick-back to decrease the All-Stars’ lead to 53-51. Moments later, freshman Corey Woofert got a big rebound and stuck it back in while being fouled by the All-Stars’ Jerad Johnson, Colby High assistant football coach. He hit his free throw to give Colby a 54-53 lead. Stephenson scored on a drive and Peña-Benjamin made a transition layup to increase the Trojans’ lead to 58-53.

Later, with Colby leading 61-57, Peña-Benjamin picked off a pass and took it down court for an uncontested layup with 5:30 to go. The Trojans continued to extend their lead after that.

Freshman Regis Schafer drilled a big three-pointer to give his team a 68-59 lead. Moments later, Colby forced the All-Stars to commit a turnover that led to a fast break dunk by Schafer. Morris grabbed a rebound and scored a bucket to give the Trojans a 75-61 lead.

The All-Stars were unable to mount a comeback and Colby picked up the victory.

Stephens led the team in scoring with 17 points and six assists. He still has not committed a turnover all year.

“Three games in a row and still doesn’t have a turnover, that’s amazing,” said Pfeifer.

Michelson and Schafer each had 11 points, and Michelson also had

seven rebounds.

Parker McKee finished with 31 points.

The Trojans rallied to beat Trinidad State 66-63 on Friday. Some tough free throw shooting down the stretch helped Colby pull out the victory. Peña-Benjamin and Michelson combined to hit 4 of 4 free throws in the last couple of minutes to help the Trojans seal the victory.

Stephenson penetrated down the middle of the lane and scored on a finger roll early on. Trinidad State got off to a quick start and led the Trojans 13-7.

Morris stole a pass, streaked down the court and slammed it in to cut Trinidad’ lead to 13-9. Several minutes later, Morris grabbed a rebound and put it back in to tie the game at 15. Morris found Peña-Benjamin for a fast break dunk to give Colby a 17-15 lead. The Trojans led 31-25 at halftime.

Trinidad took control of the game early in the second half and built a 10-point lead before the Trojans rallied. Stephenson buried a huge three in the game’s final minutes to put Colby in position to pull out a win. He scored 11 of his 15 points in the second.

Michelson hit two free throws to give Colby a 66-63 lead with 12 seconds left. Trinidad State missed two three-pointers before time ran out.

Michelson led the team with 20 points on 7 of 13 shooting.

“When he gets the ball inside, he is almost impossible to stop,” said Pfeifer.

Stephenson went 3 of 4 from the three-point line, all in the second half.

The Trojans will take on the Sterling College junior varsity in their last Ambassador Classic game at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College sophomore Dominic Brewer hung in the air a few seconds before taking a three-pointer during the Trojans’ game against the Northwest Kansas All-Stars in the Ambassador Classic tourney Saturday at the Community Building. Colby defeated the All-Stars 79-68.

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