



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby College freshman women's basketball player Alecia Palm (pictured here taking a three pointer against Colorado Northwestern Community College on Nov. 13, while Colby College athletic director Kip Nelson watched) and the rest of the Lady Trojans' team lost to Cloud County from Concordia 90-60.

Colby women's basketball team loses to undefeated Cloud County

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The injury-plagued Lady Trojans basketball team suffered two losses last week. They were whipped by undefeated No. 19-ranked Cloud County Community College 90-60 on Saturday at the Community Building and the Lady Eagles suffered a heartbreaking 63-56 overtime loss to Pratt Community College on Wednesday. Numerous injuries have hampered the team's ability to play to its full potential and forced some of Colby's players to play for long periods every game. Freshman Hannah Thornton, the team's leading scorer who averages over 19 points a game, has been sidelined due to kidney problems and a concussion she suffered in the Colby Ambassador Classic earlier in the season. Coach Brady Jasper said she wouldn't be returning to action until after Christmas Break. Colby found itself on the wrong end of a 15-6 game four minutes into the first half. Freshman Tamara Williams drove in from the free-throw-line for a layup to cut the Lady Thunderbirds' lead to 8-15. Cloud scored a bucket and then Tamara converted on another drive to the hoop to make it 10-17. Cloud's Maggie Schuetz nailed a three-

pointer to put her team up 24-12 with 11:26 remaining in the half. The Lady Trojans' defense forced a turnover in the Thunderbirds' backcourt; freshman Crystal Kinderknecht recovered the ball and got fouled while attempting a layup. She made both free throws to make it 24-14. The Lady Thunderbirds continued to expand their lead throughout the half and led 47-28 at the half. The second half was more of the same. Cloud was able to beat Colby down court for easy layups and the Lady Trojans' offense looked stagnant for much of the second half. On several possessions they had to settle for last second shots or one-on-one drives to the bucket. Unfortunately for Colby the Lady Thunderbirds collapsed the lane whenever they would try to drive to the hoop. "We weren't moving or setting enough screens on offense," said Danisha Cole. "We were not hustling back on defense." Colby may have been a little fatigued in the second half because it is hard for seven players to compete against a whole squad of healthy players. The Lady Trojans looked good in spurts in the second half. Cole nailed a couple three-pointers at one point in the half, but the team was unable cut into Cloud's lead. "We knew Cloud was a good team," said

Jasper. "They have good shooters and there's a reason they are undefeated." Cole led the team in scoring with 18 and sophomore Tasha Wagoner had 15. Palm drained a three-pointer to erase Pratt Community Colleges' three-point lead and tie the game at 50 in the games final moments on Wednesday. The Beavers were able to score a bucket to go ahead 52-50. Then Cole was fouled with 3.5 seconds left in the game and her team still trailing by two. She sank both free throws to tie the game at 52. This remained the score in the final seconds of regulation. Pratt scored the first couple buckets in overtime and Colby was unable to recover. Cole led the team in scoring with 20 points on 7-of-18 shooting. Williams had a monster game scoring a career high 19 and grabbing a career high 13 rebounds. She was 9-of-17 from the field. Wagoner added 8. The losses dropped Colby to 2-11 on the season and 0-1 in conference play. They will play in the Western Nebraska Classic on Friday and Saturday in Scottsbluff. They play at 5 p.m. Friday against the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School from Colorado Springs and they play at 6 p.m. Saturday against No. 18-ranked Western Nebraska.

Kansas State Wildcats hammers Xavier 71-56

MANHATTAN (AP) — With a monster winter storm swirling outside, Kansas State was greeted by the largest student section of the season. Two hours later, after grinding out a win they desperately wanted, the Wildcats went on a victory lap, high-fiving as many students as they could touch. The message: Thanks for making a big win even better. Jacob Pullen scored all but two of his 16 points in the second half and Kansas State earned revenge two years in the making, outmuscling Xavier for a 71-56 victory in front of a surprisingly rowdy crowd on a snowy Tuesday night. "I expected to see 10 people out there. There was a blizzard outside — I wouldn't have come to the game if I wasn't playing," Pullen said. "For them to show that much support, it's a lot. They could have easily watched it on TV like a lot of other people did, but instead they came out and gave us that home-court advantage that we needed tonight." Embarrassed the last time these teams met, Kansas State (8-1) was intent on getting retribution. The Wildcats did with

a defense that hounded Xavier into a poor shooting night and a dominating performance inside. Kansas State outrebounded the Musketeers 27-8 in the first half and scored 16 points off 14 offensive rebounds overall to overcome 17 missed free throws and a 4-for-17 night from 3-point range. Jamar Samuels had 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Curtis Kelly added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Wildcats, who have put together consecutive impressive wins after two lackluster games. Xavier (5-3) was no match inside for Kansas State in a physical, start-and-stop game that featured 57 fouls. The Musketeers had two scoring droughts of six minutes or more and shot 29 percent, including 5 of 17 from 3-point range. Brad Redford and Jordan Crawford had 16 points each for Xavier, which was outrebounded by 13 and outscored by 10 in the paint. "It came down to toughness and readiness," Xavier guard Dante Jackson said. "They were ready. They punched us in the mouth and just kept punching us and punching us."

Golden Plains basketball teams lose first games

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains High School boys basketball teams played three hard and fast games in their season openers against the Greeley County Jackrabbits from Tribune on Saturday. Despite losing all three games, they gave a valiant effort against a team that was ranked fifth in the state in pre-season polls. The C-team boys took the floor first on Friday night. They played a two-quarter game. The boys had an 11-10 lead at the end of the first quarter of play thanks in part to an "And One" play from Sophomore Trey Schwarz. Also contributing to this lead were Jose Bermudez, An-

drew Luna, Brady Ginther, and Casey Gould. Despite this early lead, The Bulldogs only managed to get three buckets to fall in the second quarter—one apiece from Luna, Jesus Garcia, and Camron Sprenger. It wasn't enough to gain the win as Tribune had plenty of opportunities to shoot free throws in the second quarter, which allowed them to score 20 points to gain the lead and the 30-17 win. The B-team boys played next. They, too, started off with a 10-8 lead. A scoreless second quarter allowed Tribune to score 28 points and pull ahead 36-10 at halftime. After some serious reflection in

the locker room, they came back in the third and put in 15 points and held Tribune to 16 narrowing the spread to 25-52. They scored 7 points in the fourth and lost the the game 32-62. Devinn Ritter led the scoring with 12. Cole Christensen added 7 and Ethan Walter chipped in 5. Ethan Walter had 5, Drake Moss scored 3, Gould and Luna had 2 each and Kalyn Weber scored 1. The final game of the night was the A-team boys. After playing a close 11-13 first quarter, the Jackrabbits pulled ahead in the second as they held the Bulldogs to 5 points. Coming back to the floor for

the third, the boys kept pushing the ball and keeping the pace as they scored another 11. Going into the fourth, there was no letting up as they kept giving all they had. They ended up losing 31-55. "Our greatest challenge was getting the ball down the floor," said Jordan Sprenger. "They pressed us and made us speed up the game. We need to slow the game down so we control the pace." Jordan Sprenger scored a team-high of 8, Dylan Moss and Corey Shaw added 6 each, Tate Preston chipped in 5, Cole Christensen had 4, and Jarrett Marker scored 2.

College games postponed till 2010

The Colby Community College men's and women's basketball teams games against Seward County Community College tonight at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. have been postponed until Monday, Jan. 18. The women's game will begin that day at 6 p.m. with the men's game immediately following at approximately 8 p.m. For more information, contact Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411.

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