

Women lose by 23 points

The Lady Trojans hung tough with No. 15 Hutchinson Community College for most of the game, but the Lady Blue Dragons extended their lead toward the end and picked up a 65-42 win on Saturday on Pink Zone Night at the Community Building.

The Colby College women held the special night to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research. The money went to the Kay Wow/Women's Basketball Coaches Association Fund. Wow, former women's basketball coach at North Carolina State, died of breast cancer in Jan. 2009. She was a past president and founding member of the association.

The Lady Trojans got a big game out of freshman Alecia Palm, who was on fire from beyond the arc, hitting five of six three-pointers. She ended with a team-high 16 points.

Freshman Hannah Thornton added 14 and grabbed eight rebounds while sophomore Tasha Wagoner finished with 12 points and three assists.

Coach Brady Jasper said his team held the Lady Blue Dragons' leading scorer, Heather Robben to nine points on three-of-11 shooting. The coach said his team ran a box-and-one defense for most of the game. He said this is a four-man zone formation with one person guarding the other team's best player. Jasper said assigned Wagoner to guard Robben for most of the game.

Colby led for the first 10 minutes, but Hutchinson went on a run and led 34-21 at the half, the coach said. Jasper said his team cut the Lady Blue Dragons' lead to nine with about 10 minutes remaining, but Hutchinson went on a spurt and took home the 65-42 victory.

With the loss, the Lady Trojans dropped to 3-26 on the road and 1-14 in the Kansas Jayhawk West Division.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
Colby Community College freshman Hannah Thornton took a shot inside during the Lady Trojans' game against No. 15 Hutchinson on Thursday at the Community Building.

Colby will play its last regular-season game at 6 p.m. tonight at

Barton County Community College.

Poor field-goal shooting leads to Trojans' defeat

The Trojans struggled from the field in a 73-52 loss to No. 12 Hutchinson Community College in their last home game of the season on Saturday at the Community Building.

Colby shot 29 percent on 19 of 65 field goals, connecting on just three of 22 three pointers.

The Trojans' stingy defense in the first half kept Colby close. They held the Blue Dragons to 33 percent in the first half and they headed into the locker room trailing by just 2 points, 26-24.

Hutchinson heated up in the second half, shooting a scorching 65 percent. Coach Dustin Pfeifer

said the Blue Dragons went on a run in the middle of the half. He said after his team fell further behind, they started taking bad shots, which led to fast break baskets by Hutchinson. The Trojans couldn't be picky about shot selection once they fell way behind, he said.

Freshman Regis Schafer had a team-high 11 points and freshman Michael Morris added eight.

With the loss, The Trojans dropped to 6-23 and 0-15 in the Kansas Jayhawk West Division.

They will play their last regular-season game at 8 p.m. Thursday against Barton County Community College in Great Bend.

Lady Eagles' defense overwhelms opponent

The Lady Eagles overcame a slow first quarter and picked up a 38-22 victory in their last regular-season game Tuesday at Norton.

Colby's smothering defense stifled the Bluejays' offense and forced Norton to turn the ball over 17 times. The girls took full advantage of Norton's errors, scoring 14 points off Bluejays turnovers.

The Colby girls relentlessly attacked the boards on both sides of the floor from the opening tip until the final buzzer.

Despite the tough defense, the Lady Eagles were lethargic on offense at the start. Norton took advantage of the Lady Eagles' offensive shortcomings by jumping out to a 10-2 lead with 1:30 left in the first quarter. Colby sophomore Morgan Bell scored on a drive to the hoop to cut the Bluejays' lead to 10-4, but Amanda Ray of Norton hit a fade-away jump shot to grab a 12-5 lead at the end of the quarter.

Colby junior Katherine Kaus drained a long three pointer to narrow the gap to 12-8 at the start of the second. Colby's offense awoke from its slumber, outscoring the Bluejays 11-3 for the quarter.

"We got out and pushed the ball better in the second quarter," said coach Parker McKee.

The girls led 16-15 at the half.

The Bluejays' Ashlie Stewart made a bucket to make it 18-16 early in the third. Later in the quarter, junior Kayla Hockersmith scored on a drive to the bucket and then drained a three-pointer to give Colby a 24-19 lead. Moments later, junior Katrina Kaus intercepted a pass and fired it to Hockersmith, who was fouled while shooting a layup. She knocked

down one of two free throws to give Colby a six-point lead.

A three pointer by Bell upped the Lady Eagles' lead to 28-19 with 30 seconds left in the quarter. The Bluejays' Stewart made a layup to narrow the gap to 28-21 at the start of the fourth. Colby scored the next four points to extend its lead to 32-21. Katrina Kaus stole the ball and took it in for a layup to give the girls a 13-point lead. The Lady Eagles maintained control of the game and won 38-22.

Katrina Kaus led all scorers with 10 points and Katherine Kaus and Morgan added nine. Hockersmith scored eight and freshman Lauren Bell two.

Colby outrebounded Norton 27-18 despite a size disadvantage. The girls didn't allow the Bluejays to get one offensive rebound in the first half.

"We have really focused on blocking out in practice," said coach McKee.

The Lady Eagles made six of eight free throws, while Norton made seven of 12. Colby shot almost 33 percent from the field while holding the Bluejays to about 29 percent.

With the win, the Lady Eagles finished their regular season with a 14-6 record.

Colby will play Kingman in the first round of the substate tournament at 6 p.m. Monday at the Community Building. The Lady Eagles are a No. 2 seed in their bracket and Kingman is No. 7, giving Colby the home-court game. The other teams in the tournament are Cheney, Hugoton, Scott City, Clearwater, Pratt and Ulysses. Cheney is the No. 1 seed.

Kansas State hammers Texas Tech

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Jacob Pullen sees his Kansas State team operating on the road like a corporation.

It seems the approach is working, as the sixth-ranked Wildcats have lost just one of seven conference games away from home.

"For us, we have to handle this as business," Pullen said after scoring 21 of his 28 points in the first half to lead Kansas State to an 83-64 victory over Texas Tech on Tuesday night. "If you're McDonald's or Wendy's, you don't want Wendy's selling more than McDonald's if you're McDonald's. And so we have to make sure that we stay in front. So we handle stuff as a business, as a corporation for all our road trips."

Kansas State (23-4, 10-3) won its sixth straight to remain alive for a possible tie for the Big 12 championship with No. 1 Kansas.

Wildcats coach Frank Martin said Pullen was psyched up before the game.

"There was something about his body language and about the message he kept repeating to the team in the locker room and on the bus," Martin said. "I've been around him enough to where I'm starting to have reads on him. And I had the feel that he was really, really zoned in today."

Martin is pleased with his team overall.

"As a team, we've moved forward, which is huge because you don't want to be in neutral," he

said. "They're a fun group of guys. They come in, they listen, they work. They make it easy for us to coach because they care. When you're around people that care, it makes your job a lot easier."

John Roberson scored 15 points for Texas Tech (16-11, 4-9), which lost its fourth straight, three of them to Top 25 teams in the past week.

Kansas State trailed only at the game's outset and held off brief spurts by Texas Tech late in the first half.

The Red Raiders pulled within 43-37 on two free throws by Darko Cohadarevic early in the second half but never threatened after that.

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