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Lady Trojans win close one Three pointers

Women slip past league team

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Lady Trojans fought, scrapped and clawed their way to a huge 59-58 win on Tuesday over Butler County Community College at the Community Building.

The team built up a 29-21 lead in the first half and than preceded to lose it when the Lady Grizzlies went on a 16-0 run to start the second half only to rally and regain the lead and pick up the victory in what coach Brady Jasper and several Lady Trojans players called the biggest win of the season.

Jasper said it was a "we needed to win type of situation."

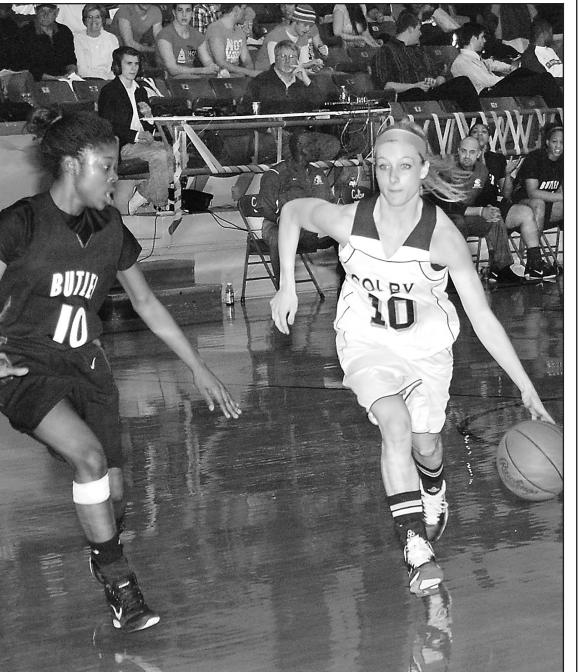
"It probably was the biggest win of the season," he said.

Freshman Morgan Rickwartz said the Lady Trojans usually give up once they start falling behind, but this time they were able keep up their enthusiasm all game. When asked what helped her team turn things around after Butler County's 16-0 surge, she pointed to picking things up on defense.

Sophomore Hannah Thornton said it was the first time the team has come back to win after falling behind. The Lady Trojans second half comeback was defined by three pointers. Freshman Kelli Crittenden, Tayler Puttergill and Rickwartz combined to hit 6 threes in the half.

Freshman Christina Anderson knocked down a three-pointer to give the Lady Trojans a 5-0 lead in the first half. A few possessions later, Rickwartz hit one of her four threes, this one from the left corner, to make it 8-3. Crittenden, who led Colby with 21 points on 6-of-9 shooting, added to the Lady Trojans three-point-heavy start with a another three, extending Colby's lead to 13-5. Crittenden went 4 for 6 from beyond the arc.

Later in the half, Thornton took it strong to the basket and scored, giving her team a 22-15 advantage. their lead any further as the Lady Sophomore Crystal Kinderknecht Trojans trailed 48-38 with 9:50 tenden that upped Colby's lead to the gap to 50-44. Puttergill hit a the lane before shooting a pass to bounced in the air and fell in a few Puttergill on the left block for a possessions later that cut the lead layup, giving the Lady Eagles a to 56-52. Then Crittenden missed 13-point cushion.



Free Press

PORTS

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby College freshman Kelli Crittenden looked to make something happen on offense during the Lady Trojans' game against Butler County on Thursday at the Community Building.

trailed 29-21.

Butler County went on its 16-point run at the start of the half. The Lady Trojans looked a little disoriented during the Lady Grizzlies run, committing three straight turnovers at one point. It looked like the wheels were coming of the bus, but the team managed to regain its composure and fight its way back into the game.

Crittenden knocked down a couple of three-pointers that kept Butler County from stretching missed both her free throws and grabbed a big offensive rebound, left. Rickwartz knocked down less than a minute remaining. She which led to another three by Crit- consecutive threes, narrowing made 1-of-2 free throws, giving 27-16. Crittenden penetrated down three that hit the front of the rim, a transition layup, but Thorton got The Lady Grizzlies scored the the rebound and put back, bringlast five points of the half and ing Colby within two. The Lady

minutes left.

The Lady Grizzlies' Tonya Elliot-Salas was able to score inside, extending her team's lead to 2. Crittenden drove the ball to the hole and scored while drawing contact from a defender, narrowing the gap to 58-57 with 1:26 left. Her free throw was good.

Tiera Andrews of Butler County was fouled on the Lady Grizzlies next trip down the floor, but she Anderson pulled down the re- 48 shooting and the Lady Trojans bound and was fouled with a little went 10 for 21 from three-point

Trojans trailed 56-55 with two Rickwartz got the rebound and was fouled with .9 seconds left. She missed both free throws and Butler County called timeout with .4 left. A desperation heave from beyond half court was way off the mark, but it wouldn't have counted because the clock had expired before the shot was released.

Rickwartz finished with 12 points, going 4 for 5 from the three point range, and Thornton added 11.

Colby shot 38 percent on 18-of-

key to men's win

By Andy Heintz

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The adage that some teams live and die by the three appropriately summed up the Trojans' 69-66 victory over Butler County Community College on Thursday at the Community Building.

The Colby College men lived by the three, knocking down a scorching 8-of-13 shots from beyond the arc in the second half and 11 of 21 in the game.

On a night where the Trojans' players donned pink T-shirts for the Pink Zone event, freshman Hurley Johnson wore a pink elbow pad and sophomores A.J. Barber and Terrell Bruce sported pink headbands to promote breast-cancer awareness. The crowd sported all sorts of creative pink clothing.

The team mixed accurate long-range shooting with timely buckets to secure its fourth straight win at home.

Pink Zone night was not only about simply raising awareness, however. A bake sale, a raffle and a "pinkest person" contest raised money for the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope, an area group that helps families pay cancer-related expenses.

The Trojans shot 55 percent from the field on 23 of 42 shooting. They hit a blistering 57 percent, or 12 of 21, in the second half.

Freshman Carson Konrade, who led all scorers with 16 points, said coach Dustin Pfeifer always tells his team to make the extra pass and this led to the Trojans getting good looks at the basket. Konrade knocked down 5-of-7 shots and went 4 for 6 from three-point range.

Johnson, returning from an abdominal strain that sidelined him during the Trojans' loss at Garden City on Saturday, played a vital role in the win, scoring 13 points and hitting some big shots down the stretch.

Pfeifer said Johnson has had home victory's have come to adjust to playing a different against teams that defeated role on the team, and that, com- Colby on the road. Morris said pounded with his one-game sus- seeing the teams a second time pension and the injury, has been made it easier because they frustrating to deal with at times. were able to prepare better in The coach said it was great to practice. see him get in there and make a couple of shots.

care of the ball at times, committing 18 turnovers, almost 7 above their average.

"They (the Grizzlies) do a good job of trapping when they apply full-court pressure," Konrade said.

However, the Trojans crashed the boards hard, outrebounding the taller Butler County team 25-22.

"They rebounded really well," assistant coach Rusty Grafel said, adding that the team still gave up too many offensive rebounds.

Freshman Vincent Dillard drilled a three from the top of the key, giving Colby a 12-5 lead in the first half. Then freshman Scott Ochs got a big stuff on defense. Later in the half, Barber made a long overhead pass to freshman Marty Wendel, who got ahead of the pack on a fast break and slammed it in to make it 18-13. The Grizzlies scored 7 of the next 9 points to go up 20-18 with 9 minutes left in the half.

Freshman Michael Morris made a turnaround inside, tying the game. Johnson buried a three-pointer to make it 27-24 Trojans with a little over 5 minutes left in the half. Colby led 32-30 at the break.

The Trojans unloaded on Butler County with a barrage of three-pointers in the second half. Bruce, Dillard, Konrade and Johnson all knocked down threes in the first 10 minutes and Colby led 54-48.

The Grizzlies narrowed the gap to 54-53 before Bruce knocked down a three. A couple of possessions later, Konrade nailed a three to make it 60-55. Colby led 65-60 with 1:02 left.

Johnson dropped a pair of free throws to put Colby up 67-60 with 34.3 seconds left. Colby went on to win 69-66.

"Any win in the Jayhawk conference is important," the coach said. "This is a really big win for our program."

The Trojans four straight With the win, the Trojans improved to 14-14 and 5-9 in the Johnson went 4 for 7 from Jayhawk Community College The men will play next at 7:30

Colby a 59-58 lead. Then the Lady Grizzlies' April Miller traveled.

Freshman Liga Vente missed a shot inside and Butler County got the rebound with 11.2 seconds left. The Lady Grizzlies got a good look from beyond the arc, but the shot was off the mark and

range, or about 48 percent.

Colby committed 18 turnovers and Lady Grizzlies 21.

With the win, the Lady Trojans improved to 10-18 and 5-9 in the Jayhawk Community College Western Division.

They will play at 6 p.m. Saturday at Hutchinson.

the field and made 2 of 3 three Conference Western Division. pointers.

The Trojans struggled to take p.m. Friday at Hutchinson.

Make a Difference Please Recycle

Colby High wrestling squad splits duals

fell to Garden City 35-27 on Senior Recognition Night Thursday at the high school.

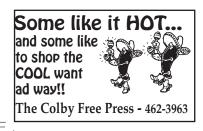
Senior George Smollock, junior Konnor Kriss and sophomores matches. Many of the wins came spective weight classes. in close matches.

Smollock defeated the Buffaloes' Aaron Deleon 7-5 in overtime at 189 pounds, Reed bested Anthony Calderon 6-5 at 112, and Quenzer won a 7-6 decision over Erik Requenez at 215. Kriss pinned Jonathan Guerrero in 2 minutes, 37 seconds at 130 and Woofter pinned his man at 140. Freshman David Mainus won by forfeit at 103.

Eagles' senior Andrew Flanagin lost 12-11 to Anthony Shockley at 171 and Colby sophomore Zell Bieberle lost 3-1 to Jason Carreon at 285.

Colby sophomores John Faber and Ryan Moore both lost major decisions at 119 and 135. Moore lost 15-2 to Matt Urrutia and Moore 12-2 to Tyson Phillis. Eagles' junior Andrew Elling lost 8-1 to Jonathan Heiman at 152. Sophomore Beau Brown and junior Brandon Leth were pinned at 160 and 145.

Brown and Reed were the only two Eagles' wrestlers who won



The Colby High wrestling team their matches against actual Hoxie opponents. Kriss won by fall over Britton Sealock and Brown won an 8-1 decision over Brady Bainter. Mainus, Flanagin, Reed, Quenzer and Smollock all won their match-Dustin Reed, Quade Woofter es because the Indians didn't have and Troy Quenzer all won their anyone to wrestle them in their re-

> Bieberle was pinned by Dillon Salmans and former Eagles' wrestler Dalton Snyder of Hoxie beat junior Brandon Leth 6-4. Snyder moved away from Colby, but he wrestled for the Eagles during his freshman and sophomore years.

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Shull lost to Calvin Ochs by Street in Concordia. Turn left and technical fall (15-0) and Eagles' sophomore Brandon Gaede was pinned by Donovan Schamberger. Steven Yergey beat Woofter 11-5 and the Faber lost a 13-4 major decision to Drew Jones. Elling was pinned by Dylan Bainter.

The Eagles will compete in the regional tournament Friday and Saturday in Concordia. To get to the high school, take Interstate 70 east to the U.S. 81 interchange west of Salina. Take the second exit, U.S. 81 north, and stay on that road to the light at Ninth

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