

Rebounds, turnovers cost Trojans game

In a game that truly did not indicate how close the contest was on Saturday, the Colby Community College men's basketball team lost 84-69 to Barton County Community College.

"We did a very good job of executing our game plan until a two-minute lapse in the second half," said Coach Dustin Pfeifer. "Those two minutes really were the difference in the game."

The Trojans took a one-point lead into halftime at 36-35, and battled back and forth with the Cougars the second half. Rebounding and turnovers cost Colby in the end as Barton capitalized on Colby's mistakes.

One bright spot for Colby was the return of Hurley Johnson, who missed 14 games recovering from a broken foot. He scored 13 points against the Cougars.

"It is great to have Hurley back," Pfeifer said. "We need to finish the season on a run, and although it may not seem like it, we were much better the past 10 days. We need to gain more and more confidence as we hit the home stretch here."

The Trojans will travel to Pratt on Saturday for the final regular-season conference game. The men will tip off at 8 p.m.

The Colby Lady Trojans traveled to Great Bend on Saturday as well to take on the Barton Lady Cougars.

Barton was off to a quick start leading 31-13 over the Trojans in the first half.

The Lady Trojans went on a run of their own to cut the lead back to single digits as they trailed at halftime 34-25.

In the second half, Colby con-

tinued to battle back. The Colby women tied the game at 46-46 before falling behind once again.

Barton was able to manage an eight-point lead with only a few minutes remaining. As Colby gave away late fouls, Barton connected on free throws to ice the game.

The Trojans shot only 36 percent during the game and connected on 3 of 15 behind the three-point arc.

The Cougars scored 19 points from the foul line which proved to be the difference.

"Freshman Kate Popovic from Croatia turned in one of her best performances of the season," said Coach Brady Jasper. "She scored 13 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Liga Vente scored 15 points."

The Lady Trojans will play their last regular-season game at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Pratt.

A-team Bulldogs boys advance in tournament

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Middle School boys basketball A-team advanced in the Freedom League Tournament by defeating the Heartland Crusaders in their first game of the tournament 43-27.

This was the boys' highest scoring game of the season, with nearly every player posting up points.

The Bulldogs started off strong Feb. 16 as they put in 11 points in the first quarter while the Crusaders made 2 three-pointers. In the second, Golden Plains added 10 to their side while the Crusaders put in 9 (all three-pointers) to make the halftime score 21-15 in favor of the Bulldogs.

During the third quarter, the Bulldogs stayed consistent with 12 more points as the Crusaders continued to hit the deep shots and made 8. During the final minutes of action, the Bulldogs advanced

their game with 10 more points and the defense held the Crusaders to 4 for the final 43-27 win.

The Wessel twins led the scoring, as they have much of the season, with 15 points coming from Koi Wessel and 12 coming from Kade Wessel. Jesus Aragon added 8 while Cole Ziegelmeier put in 6 and Bodie Sauvage 2. Helping out on the floor was Dawson Spresser. The Crusaders' points came from Niblock with 13, Rhinehart 7 and Nixon 4.

This win allowed the Bulldogs to advance to the second round where they faced the challenging team of Triplains-Brewster.

As well as they shot against the Crusaders, they couldn't seem to find the basket in this game, only scoring 4 points in the first quarter, 2 in the second, none in the third and 2 in the fourth. These points came from only 3 players: Koi Wessel 4, Kade Wessel 2 and Bodie Sauvage 2.

Triplains-Brewster had every

player in the scorebook, led by E. Gfeller with 22. J. Schmidt had 10 along with R. Gfeller 9, F. Schertz 8, T. Stramel 4, T. Turner 2 and C. Rogge 2.

As the Triplains-Brewster Titans advanced in the tournament, the Golden Plains Bulldogs wrapped up their season with a record of 4-9.

"Considering what we were up against throughout most of the season, I was pleased with the four wins," Coach Aumiller said. "This was, at the least, an improvement over last year. Overall, our best game was the first one of the regular season against Weskan. In that game we played as a team and had balanced scoring."

"Working on the fundamentals (passing, dribbling, catching, ball handling, shooting properly, etc.) was a big part of our practices. I told the kids to continue practicing the fundamentals to help them into next year," Aumiller said.

Wichita State looks to stay on roll

By Eric Olson
AP Sports Writer

No matter what happens at the Missouri Valley tournament, 15th-ranked Wichita State knows its name will be called when NCAA tournament bids are announced a week from Sunday.

Wins in 16 of its last 17 games allowed the Shockers to win the regular-season championship by two games over Creighton and make a strong claim on at least an at-large NCAA bid.

Coach Gregg Marshall doesn't want to let a good thing end in St. Louis.

"We're going there to win the tournament," Marshall said. "Our guys, without being over the top, have been solid in their resolve and approach and haven't gotten too high or too low. This is just the next challenge and obstacle in our way. We're looking forward to the opportunity to go to St. Louis and be the first Shocker team to come out of there with a victory."

Wichita State won the tournament in 1985 and '87, but not since the event moved to St. Louis in 1991.

The tournament opens Thursday with Indiana State (17-13) matched against Southern Illinois

(8-22) and Drake (16-14) against Bradley (7-24). Friday's games pit Wichita State (26-4) against the Indiana State-Southern Illinois winner, Illinois State (18-12) against Northern Iowa (19-12), 25th-ranked Creighton (25-5) against either Drake or Bradley and Evansville (15-14) against Missouri State (16-15).

Semifinals are Saturday and the championship game is on Sunday.

"The way Wichita has entered the tournament, they're playing as well as anybody in the league and maybe as well as anybody in the country right now," Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. "Someone is going to have to slow that train down somehow."

Second-seeded Creighton, like Wichita State, also is on track for an NCAA at-large bid if it doesn't win the MVC's automatic berth. The Valley has received only one bid four straight years but could get as many as three if a team other than Creighton or Wichita State wins the title.

The top-seeded team has won the tournament 13 times in 35 tournaments, but it has happened only six times in the 20-year history in St. Louis.

The Shockers' appearances at the Valley tournament have been,

to say the least, eventful in Marshall's time at the school.

He was ejected from a first-round loss in 2008 after getting called for a second technical foul. The next year, the Shockers started celebrating an apparent quarterfinals upset of Creighton when officials put 1.9 seconds back on the clock.

They ended up losing on a buzzer-beater. Marshall complained afterward that the clock didn't start immediately when the ball was inbounded.

Wichita State squandered a second-half lead and lost to Northern Iowa in the championship game in 2010. Last year, the Shockers lost to eventual champion Indiana State in the semifinals before going on to win the NIT.

One team that would like to get another shot at the Shockers is Creighton.

"Absolutely. I wouldn't want it any other way," said sophomore forward Doug McDermott, the Valley player of the year. The Bluejays won 68-61 at Wichita State on New Year's Eve, but were embarrassed in an 89-68 loss in Omaha, Neb., three weeks ago. Creighton has won four straight since then – the last three by a total of four points.



Senior Dalaan Organ tried to block a shot during the Colby High varsity boys substate basketball game Tuesday at Pratt. The Eagles lost 65-35 to end their season.

Colby basketball teams finish seasons at substate

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High varsity girls and boys basketball teams lost in the first round of substate to end their seasons.

The Lady Eagles played at Haven on Monday and lost 47-30 while the boys played at Pratt on Tuesday and lost 65-35.

The stats for these games were not available. The varsity girls had a spectacular season, finishing 8-1 in the Great West Activities Conference,

first place in the league, and 13-6 overall. The Eagles had a tough season, going 1-8 in the league, last place, and 2-17 overall.

Both teams will be losing seniors after this season, five from the girls squad and two from the boys team.

Morgan Bell, Brenna McKee, Paige Roopchan, Marie Lorent and Claudia Huerta will be graduating this year as well as Braden Sager and Dalaan Organ.

The varsity girls were coached by Parker McKee this season and the boys were coached by Jerad Johnson in his second season at Colby.

Trojans equestrian squad qualifies five at regional event

Five members of the Colby Community College equestrian team qualified at the western regional competition in Lincoln, Neb.

The team, coached by Shanda Mattix, won Reserve High Point team behind the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Riders at the regional Feb. 18 and 19 were Jessica Keoppe, Udall, and Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, in Novice; Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, in Intermediate; and William Wright, Louisburg, and Heather Darling, Abilene, in Reining.

Darling was named Regional Champion in Reining and Wright won Reserve. Woolsoncroft won Reserve Champion in Novice Horsemanship.

"These three will be representing our region at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association semifinals in Delaware on March 24 and 25," said Mattix. "Jessica and Brittany both placed third, just one place out of qualifying for the semifinals. These five rode great and were awesome representatives for CCC."

Individual results:
Reining, Show 1
Wright, second; Darling, fifth.

Open Horsemanship, Show 1
Wright, fifth; Darling, fifth.

Advanced Horsemanship, Show 1
Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., third; Woolsoncroft, fourth; Jessica Fuson, King City, Mo., sixth.

Novice Horsemanship, Show 1
Normand, first; Morgan Harms, Franklin, Neb., third.

Intermediate I Horsemanship, Show 1
Amanda Reed, Brookville, fifth.

Intermediate II Horsemanship, Show 1
Randi Cressler, Hoxie, third; Amanda Barnum, Colby, fourth.

Beginner Horsemanship, Show 1
Tarah Stuart, Gove, sixth; Marci Scripter, Chapman, seventh.

Reining, Show 2
Wright, second; Darling, second.

Open Horsemanship, Show 2
Wright, sixth; Darling, fourth.

Advanced Horsemanship, Show 2
Brady, sixth; Fuson, fourth.

Novice Horsemanship, Show 2
Normand, second; Harms, second.

Intermediate I Horsemanship, Show 2
Reed, sixth.

Intermediate II Horsemanship, Show 2
Tayla Kimball, Medicine Lodge, fourth; Cressler, fifth; Barnum, seventh.

Beginner Horsemanship, Show 2
Stuart, sixth; Scripter, second.

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