

No. 2 'Hawks barely hang on to eak out win

OMAHA (AP) — Kansas' Thomas Robinson knew there could be games like this in the NCAA tournament.

Sometimes it's just a matter of surviving.

The No. 2-seeded Jayhawks did, taking their first lead late and holding on to beat No. 10 seed Purdue 63-60 Sunday night and advance to the regional semifinals for the fifth time in six years.

"Something like that is stuff you have to face to win a championship," Robinson said. "Coach said there is going to be that ugly game. That was as ugly as I've seen."

Elijah Johnson scored 18 points, including the go-ahead basket in the final minute, to help Kansas overcome a monster shooting performance by Purdue's Robbie Hummel.

In the West Regional game, Florida defeated surprising Norfolk State 84-50 after blowing open the game with an early 25-0 run.

Kansas (29-6) heads to St. Louis to play North Carolina State in the Midwest Regional and Florida (25-10) travels to Phoenix to play Marquette in West Regional.

The Jayhawks' Robinson fought through double-teams all night for 11 points and 13 rebounds against

Purdue, and they got enough production from everyone else to erase a 10-point second-half deficit.

Robinson, the Jayhawks' national player-of-the-year candidate, was just 2 for 12 and Tyshawn Taylor was 4 of 11.

"If Elijah didn't turn around," Robinson said, "we would have lost that game tonight."

Purdue was clinging to a 60-59 lead and had the ball and under a minute remaining when Lewis Jackson, the shot clock winding down, lost control at the top of the key. Johnson picked it up and went the other way for the go-ahead lay-in with 23.3 seconds left.

Hummel missed an open 3-pointer at the other end and Taylor scored a transition dunk for the Jayhawks with 2.5 seconds left, giving the roughly 15,000 fans who had made the three-hour drive from the Kansas campus reason to let out a roar for one of the first times all night.

After a timeout, Purdue sharpshooter Ryne Smith managed to get off a decent look at a long, potential tying 3-pointer. It hit off the backboard, clanked off the rim and fell away.

"It stinks," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "It stinks to lose."

Kansas women sink Nebraska in opener

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Nebraska's return to the NCAA tournament was a short one.

The sixth-seeded Huskers suffered through a dismal shooting performance and fell 57-49 to former Big 12 rival and 11th-seeded Kansas in the first round of the Des Moines Regional on Sunday.

Nebraska (24-9), which left the Big 12 for the Big Ten after last season, was making its return to the tournament after a one-year absence. The Huskers looked rusty, shooting 20 of 61 (33 percent) from the field.

Kaitlyn Burke led the Huskers with 14 points and was one of four players in double figures, with Cady finishing with 10. Moore had 12 on 5-of-21 shooting, while Hooper had 11 and was 4 of 18 from the field, including 0 of 8 on 3-pointers.

Angel Goodrich, meanwhile, made sure Kansas (20-12) stuck around for a while in its long-awaited return to the NCAA tournament.

Goodrich scored 20 points to lead the Jayhawks to their first tournament win since 1999. The appearance was the school's first since 2000 — and its first in eight seasons under coach Bonnie Henrickson.

"I've been blessed by an administration that supports what we've been trying to do," Henrickson said. "They recognize what we're trying to do and that we're about to turn the corner."

The performance also offered a bit of relief after what had been a rough last month for Kansas, which narrowly made the tournament after losing six of its final eight games.

Smaller colleges squeezed out of finals

By the Associated Press

So much for the little guys. Instead of parlaying an historic day of upsets into a second weekend filled with small schools, the NCAA tournament now looks like a who's-who of major college programs.

All but two of the 16 teams in the regional semifinals will be from power conferences. The lone exceptions are Xavier, which is hardly a stranger to this kind of year, and Ohio University, a big school with a small, but no longer unknown, basketball program.

According to STATS, this will be the first time since 2003 that 14 teams from the six major conferences have made the Sweet 16.

This week's matchups: No. 1 Kentucky vs. No. 4 Indiana and No. 3 Baylor vs. No. 10 Xavier in the South; No. 1 Syracuse vs. No. 4 Wisconsin and No. 2 Ohio State vs. No. 6 Cincinnati in the East; No. 1 North Carolina vs. No. 13 Ohio and No. 2 Kansas vs. No. 11 North Carolina State in the Midwest; and No. 1 Michigan State vs. No. 4 Louisville and No. 3 Marquette vs. No. 7 Florida out West.



Fishing worth the drive

Three Goodland boys, (from left) Christopher Berls, 11; brother Ryan Berls, 9; and friend Bryson Ihrig, also 9, rushed to show off the four trout they'd caught Friday afternoon at Villa High Lake. Dad Randy Berls, a teacher at Goodland High School, said he and the boys drove over to for a little fishing after school. They couldn't find any worms, he added, but were having pretty good luck with corn from a can they bought at one store. The Colby pond is a favorite, he added, along with sand pits west of St. Francis, since the only fishing hole in Sherman County, at Smoky Gardens south of Goodland, has dried up.

STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Trojans pick up two wins

The Colby Community College baseball team defeated Cloud County Community College on the road last week.

The Trojans won 17-3 in game one March 10, 6-5 in game two and 9-2 in game four last Monday. Cloud defeated Colby 7-6 in the third game.

In game one, Nick Bata, Zach Wilson and Scott Jones each hit a home run and Wilson and Austin Russell were the leading hitters with 3 hits out of 4 at bats.

David Bauer was the leading hitter for game two, going 3 of 4 at the plate, scoring 2 runs and 2 runs batted in.

Jones hit another homer in game three and was the leading hitter for game four with 2 of 2 hits and 3 runs.

The pitchers for the Trojans during the series were Mike McLaughlin, Devin Chavez, Cole Holt, Bert Guzman, Kyle Matusoff, David Johnson, Jacob Nath, Drew Posegate and Dalton Cheever.

"It was a successful weekend, being able to win three out of four on the road, especially after being delayed a day because of weather," said Coach Ryan Carter. "The loss in game three was a tough pill to swallow, since we only gave up 4 hits, but had 4 errors and 7 walks. It is hard to win when you give up that many freebies."

Then the Trojans were home against Brown Mackie College Wednesday at Carl Adams field on campus, where they won the first game 10-3 and lost the second 9-8.

K.J. Morales and David Garcia pitched for Colby in game one. Morales pitched for five innings, throwing 3 strikeouts and allowing 6 hits, 3 runs and no walks. There were 3 errors during his set.

Garcia pitched for 2 innings with no strikeouts and allowed 2 hits and 1 walk.

In game two, Dylan Klava, Trent Lussenhop, Cheever and Nath took turns pitching for the Trojans. Together they pitched for a total of seven innings, had 3 strikeouts and allowed 10 hits, 9 runs and 2 walks. There were 6 errors in the game.

The leading hitter for Colby was Duncan Izaaks, who went 2 of 3 at the plate, scored 1 run and had 1 run batted in.

The team will play in Heston on Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m.

Rodeo team captures third in crowded field

By Jim Latoski
Colby Community College

The Colby Community College men's rodeo team, behind two pair of team ropers, capped off an outstanding three days by finishing in third place at the Garden City Community College Rodeo.

There were 26 college and university teams with over 580 contestants entered at the event March 2 to 4.

Leading the way for Colby were freshman Lucas Phillips, Rexford, and freshman Owen Dineen, Fort Lupton, Colo., who finished sixth in the first round, first in the final round and second in average overall.

Also having an exceptional weekend in the team roping were freshman Connor Stephens, Colby, and sophomore Lucas Jones, Broken Bow, Neb. They finished ninth in the first round, third in the final

round and third in the average out of 88 teams in the team roping.

Also having a great weekend in the women's barrel racing was freshman Chelsea Buckingham, Leon, Iowa., who made it to the final round for the second consecutive rodeo. She was 10th in the first round, fifth in the final round and sixth in the average out of 118 contestant in women's barrel racing. Buckingham's points pushed the women's team to seventh

place overall.

The rodeo team is building up steam as it travels to Fort Scott Community College Friday through Sunday. The students have been working hard and Coach Allen Russell says he hopes to continue to build on the success the teams achieved at Manhattan and Garden City. After Fort Scott, the team will have almost a month-long break before finishing up the final three rodeos in April.

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