

# Conference selects Colby college player



B. Evans

Braxton Evans, a freshman at Colby Community College from Petersburg, Va., was selected as the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Men's Basketball Player of the Week for Nov. 4 to 10.

Evans led the men's basketball team to three straight victories over the Tabor College junior varsity, Colorado Northwestern and Northwest Kansas Technical College, averaging 20.3 points per game.

He connected on 21 of 43 field-goal attempts (48 percent), going 15 of 29 outside the arch (52 percent). Evans was perfect from the line (4-4) during the week.

"Braxton has been a good spark for us off the bench," said Coach Rusty Grafel. "He continues to surprise the coaching staff every game, and we continue to watch him get better."

# Football commissioner says sport will get safer

By Jimmy Golen

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — Professional football can evolve into a safer game without sacrificing the physical play — or, some would say, violence — that has made it so popular, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said in a speech on player safety at the Harvard School of Public Health on Thursday.

"Football has always evolved, and it always will," he told an overflow crowd of a few hundred. "Make no mistake: change does not inhibit the game; it improves it."

In a long-planned appearance that came four days after three starting NFL quarterbacks were knocked out with concussions, Goodell said that the league has already improved the way it handles hits to the head.

San Francisco's Alex Smith, Chicago's Jay Cutler and Philadelphia's Michael Vick were all diagnosed with concussions in Sunday's games. Goodell said that all three were taken out "as soon as they showed symptoms," a claim that was challenged by a member of the audience during

the period for questions who noted that Smith and Cutler kept playing after being injured.

"It was identified and they were taken out of the game," the commissioner said. "Even a few years ago, I'm not sure you would have seen that."

Listing some of the safety measures that have been incorporated into the sport both before and since he became commissioner, Goodell mentioned the elimination of the flying wedge that was first employed by Harvard in the 1800s and the change in kickoffs last season that he credited for a 40 percent reduction in concussions on returns. He said the league is looking into better helmets and sponsoring scientific research that could make the game still safer.

"Not long ago, the game allowed the head slap, tackling by the face mask, horse-collar tackles, dangerous blocks, and hits to the head of defenseless receivers and quarterbacks. All of that has changed," he said.

Football has never been so popular — and its popularity is still rising, Goodell said. The 16 most-watched TV shows this fall — other than the presidential debates

— were NFL games; the second-most popular sport to professional football is college football, Goodell said, quoting President Barack Obama as saying, "You don't go anywhere where folks don't talk about football."

But the sport's popularity has also been jeopardized by an onslaught of reports linking it to the brain damage that can lead to memory loss, depression and suicide among retired players.

"We are well aware of social commentators who now question our future. And I am here to tell you: If we are at another crossroads, we have already taken the right path," Goodell said. "We took it a long time ago, and our commitment to stay on it will not waver."

Calling it the sport's biggest challenge, Goodell said his goal is to change the sport's culture — a culture in which players and coaches are discouraged from hiding injuries to keep players on the field. The problem is not unique to football, he said, noting that athletes in other sports hesitate to leave when others are still competing or, in the case of the military, in danger.



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Kytiana Seals tried for a three-point basket last Friday during a Colby Community College women's basketball game in the Ambassador Classic at the Community Building. Seals led the scoring for the Lady Trojans with 15 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals and 1 block in the 55-53 win over the Fort Carson Military women.

# Women's basketball team wins one at home tourney

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press  
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The Colby Community College women's basketball team played in its home tournament, the Ambassador Classic, Thursday through Saturday at the Community Building.

The Lady Trojans went 1-2 in the three-day event. Colby lost to Western Nebraska Community College 72-62 Thursday, defeated the Fort Carson Military women 55-53 Friday and lost to Colorado Northwestern 63-44 Saturday.

On Thursday, Agnese Aramina led Colby with 9 points, 2 rebounds and 1 block.

Shantydra Arnold had 6 points and 1 rebound, Linda Pagrode 4 points and 4 rebounds, Kasey Hoyt 3 points and 2 rebounds and Liene Liepina one basket and 5 rebounds.

Colby was 2 for 2 on free throws and made 4 three-point field goals.

Friday night, Kytiana Seals was the leading scorer for the Lady Trojans with 15 points. She had 3 rebounds, 2 steals and 1 block.

Aramina finished with 13 points, 7 rebounds, 2 steals and a block; Liepina 10 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals; Hailey Dinkel 8 points,

6 rebounds, 1 steal and 1 block; Hoyt 7 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals; and Arnold two free throws and 4 rebounds.

The women sank 8 three-point shots, stole the ball 12 times and turned it over only 13 times.

On Saturday, Seals led Colby in scoring with 13 points. She also had 4 rebounds and 1 steal.

Arnold followed with 11 points, 4 rebounds and 1 steal; Liepina had 8 and 7 rebounds; Aramina 5 points and 4 rebounds; Hoyt 5 points and 1 steal; and Dinkel one basket and 6 rebounds.

The Lady Trojans had a good night at the line, sinking 13 of 18 free throws.

Colorado Northwestern slid by Central Community College (Grand Island, Neb.) 51-48 Thursday, while Western Nebraska defeated Colorado Northwestern 58-41 Friday and Fort Carson 75-40 Saturday.

The Lady Trojans were to play Trinidad State Junior College at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Building and at McCook (Neb.) Community College tonight.

# Wrestling in Goodland



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Goodland Star-News

Colby's Ramzy Finley won his match at 86 pounds against Goodland's Dawson Raymer, who was injured during the match. The Colby Middle School wrestling team went to a meet Monday in Goodland with wrestlers from Goodland, Colby, Oakley and Scott City.

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