



By EARL WATT

- Leader & Times

When Colby missed a dunk midway through the first half, and the Saints rebounded, ran the court and missed a dunk, a pattern was set on how Wednesday's low-key Jayhawk West match-up would be most of the night. In the end, Seward won 78-64 in a very mundane game that most would have expected to be a rout.

Seward (16-8, 6-2) did not look like it was playing a struggling Jayhawk West opponent that had yet to win a conference game.

Seward built a 17-9 lead in the first eight minutes, but Colby responded with a 10-3 run that cut Seward lead to one, 20-19.

Seward had a four-minute stretch where they did not score, but the struggling Trojans could not capitalize.

By halftime, Seward had a 34-28 lead and led by as many as 15 in the second half.

Malcolm Hill-Bey provided an occasional spark by knocking down four three-pointers in the game, but after building a 5-35 lead, Seward went on another four-minute drought, and Colby was able to reduce the lead to six, 50-44, with 8:44 to play.

Seward was able to build the lead back to double digits, and that's where it ended, 78-64.

While teams without a win in the league at this point, like Colby, might be dangerous, Seward coach Bryan Zollinger didn't think that is why his team turned in a lackluster performance.

"The only dangerous people on the court is us," he said. "We've got some guns, but I don't know if we're shooting at the other team or at ourselves."

The motivation to succeed at a high level has not been realized, according to Zollinger.

"That has to come from within them," he said. "I've been doing this 25 years, I've coached some good teams, they have to decide. They argue about who missed a defensive assignment. I tell them, 'They scored on us.' They want to make excuses instead of playing hard."

Seward will have a chance to climb back to the top of the conference Saturday at Hutchinson.

"We need to play harder," Zollinger said. "We didn't play any harder tonight than we did against Pratt, we just played a worse team. If they don't play any harder we won't win."