

Colts end regular season with stunning victory

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

On "Senior Night" at Cottonwood High School, the Colts gave the West Panthers a dose of reality they desperately needed.

Tim Glenn led a balanced scoring attack with 13 points and Cottonwood took advantage of 22 turnovers to hand the Panthers their first Region 6 loss, 61-46, Tuesday night.

The win improved Cottonwood's record to 10-10 overall and 7-5 in region. It also moved to the Colts into a tie for third place with Murray. Since the Spartans beat Cottonwood twice, the Colts earned the fourth seed in the upcoming 5A state tournament. Cottonwood will play host to Jordan in a play-in game this weekend.

West fell to 18-3 overall and 11-1 in region, and saw its 17-game win streak crash and burn. The Panthers still finished in first place and will play at home against Layton next week in the tourney's opening round.

Panthers coach **Bob Lyman** didn't seem too disappointed with the loss.

"I'd like to have won, but I'd also hate to go to state with a big win streak," Lyman said. "We weren't ready to play tonight. This can bring us down to earth."

GAME SUMMARY

West 2 21 17 6 - 46
Cottonwood 12 19 13 17 - 61

WEST (46) – Afeaki 0-3 1-2 1, Corbin 1-9 3-5 5, Tanner 5-11 0-0 13, Vea 1-5 0-0 2, Djuma 5-10 2-5 12, Bulloch 2-3 0-0 5, Smaljovic 0-1 0-0 0, Levin 0-0 0-0 0.
Totals 17-44 7-14 46.

COTTONWOOD (61) – Lundquist 0-0 1-2 1, Glenn 4-7 5-9 13, Chavez 1-2 2-2 5, Carter 4-8 1-4 9, Dooley 4-10 1-2 11, Malugin 4-5 0-0 8, Vassau 3-7 2-2 10, Beveridge 0-0 1-2 1, Kristensen 1-1 0-0 2, Watts 0-0 1-2 1, Smith 0-0 0-0 0.
Totals 21-40 14-25 61.

Total fouls: West 22, Cottonwood 13. **Fouled out:** Afeaki. **Technical fouls:** Afeaki. **Three-point goals:** West 5-17 (Tanner 3, Doane, Bulloch), Cottonwood 5-15 (Vassau 2, Dooley 2, Chavez). **Rebounds:** West 39 (Djuma 15), Cottonwood 27 (Malugin 8). **Turnovers:** West 22, Cottonwood 14.

Cottonwood, meanwhile, wasn't ready to come down. The Colts enjoyed the night, which started with them jumping to a 12-2 lead and ending with something similar.

"This game was a matter of pride," said Cottonwood coach **Dave McConnell**. "We had more reasons to play for than they did."

That seemed evident early in the game.

West led only once (2-0) then the problems started. The Panthers had eight first-quarter turnovers, and never got closer than six points the rest of the game.

Cottonwood's depth also created problems.

West's 6-foot-8 center, **Gatete Djuma**, dominated inside. He finished with 11 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots. However, the Colts used several defenders on him and sometimes were able to score inside when one big man would lure him away from the basket, and another would get a pass and score.

Cottonwood big men **Vlad Malugin**, **Rollin Carter** and **Daniel Kristensen** combined for 19 points and 14 rebounds.

"A good team like this doesn't come along very often," said McConnell about the Colts. "We're very balanced and this was one of the few times we showed what we can do."

The Colts opened the fourth quarter by trying to hold on to the ball. Their stall was effective for four minutes, and Malugin got loose for a layup that gave Cottonwood a huge momentum surge.

"The kids didn't seem to know what to do, but that (the delay game) gave them a purpose, and it worked," McConnell said.

Glenn had a big night offensively with his season high. **Korbin Dooley** had 11 points and **Parker Vassau** 10. They both also had a couple of three-pointers.