

Korbin Dooley:

Colts' star player proved his worth
In the team's most important games

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

Korbin Dooley was an athlete at Cottonwood High School. For several months of the year, he competed on the Colts' successful football team. As soon as that was over, he dedicated himself to basketball.

Dooley was probably the closest thing Cottonwood had to a "star" player in hoops. As a senior, Dooley led the Colts in scoring at 12.5 points per game and made the all-Region 2 team.

Like most football players, the basketball season started slowly. Cottonwood's football team played until mid-November. That gave Dooley, and guys like **Tim Glenn**, **Jason Lundquist** and **Robert Beveridge** only a short time before the first basketball game was played.

"I didn't feel good in the season opener," Dooley said. "I felt I could have done better. I still was sort of into football and it was hard to transition. After that game, I started noticing that I needed to step up."

That was apparent. Despite its great depth, Cottonwood counted on Dooley to be a scorer. When the Colts scored 50 or fewer points, they had just a 2-10 record. Fortunately, Dooley helped the team score more than that most times and that allowed them to finish tied for third place in region and earn a berth in the 5A state tournament.

"We reached some of our goals," said Dooley, reflecting on the team's 10-11 season. "We could have done better in region, but I'm happy at how we went out."

As the season progressed, that's when Dooley was at his best. There were several highlights. Among them:

* - He rebounded a missed free throw in the final seconds at Skyline. He fed the ball to Glenn, who



Korbin Dooley was the scorer Cottonwood sorely needed to progress through the season and reach the state tournament.

took one dribble and nailed the winning three-pointer at the buzzer.

* - He nailed a three-pointer to end the third quarter against Granger, and then scored 10 of his game-high 20 points in overtime in Cottonwood's thrilling 83-75 victory.

He had his career high of 32 points in a must-

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COTTONWOOD BASKETBALL: Senior profile



LEFT: Korbin Dooley uses his quickness to get past Highland's Nate Fakahafua.

RIGHT: Dooley gets past a couple of Jordan defenders to score a basket. The only question is ... did he also get to shoot a free throw?

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win game at Hunter. The Colts had lost four of their last five contests and Dooley made certain an upset didn't occur against the last-place Wolverines.

"Coach (**Dave McConnell**) just told me to be prepared for this game," Dooley said. "He wanted me to show how dedicated I was to the team."

Dooley had a feeling that was going to be a special night when he had 11 points by the end of the first quarter. At halftime, he had 15 but the game was tied, 36-36.

"I was feeling it," he said.

Dooley added 11 more points in the third quarter as the Colts took the lead and then hit 3-of-4 free throws in the final minutes to secure the win.

"My teammates were really happy for me, and they were happy that we had won," he said. "They couldn't believe I had scored that many points."

The 32-point effort was easily the highest by any Cottonwood player this season. The Colts' strength

was their depth, and the fact that players like **Glenn, Lundquist, Daniel Kristensen, Raymond Chavez, Rollin Carter, Arlen Smith, Vlad Malugin** and **Parker Vassau** took turns being high scorers during the season.

But Dooley was the most consistent, and he also could score quickly. In basketball, he used his quickness to drive to the basket, or pull up and hit a three-pointer.

His high point in football was when he caught three touchdown passes in the first five minutes of the game against Cyprus. In basketball, he said the best part was defeating West 61-46 in the regular-season finale.

"Our defense just game together," he said. "It just clicked."

The Colts held Tyrell Corbin, the region's most valuable player, to five points on 1-9 shooting. They also forced 22 turnovers.