

## MSU goes ice cold

**JESSIE LEWIS**  
STAFF REPORTER

Just like the weather in Wichita Falls this past weekend, the Midwestern State University women's basketball team had trouble heating up as they fell to Texas A&M University-Kingsville 64-47 last Saturday night.

The ladies couldn't find their rhythm as they failed to score in the first six minutes of the game.

The Lady Mustangs trailed the Javelinas by 15 at halftime.

Whatever was said in the locker room must have sparked the Lady Mustangs as they went on an 8-0 run to be down only seven.

Seniors Sonya Calhoun-Courtney and Stacey Staten led the charge to shorten the margin but the home

team would end the Mustangs momentum.

The Lady Javs scored two three-pointers to silence another drive attempt by MSU.

With the absence of head coach Shannon Burks who had family matters to attend to the Lady Mustangs only shot 32.8 percent from the floor.

Calhoun-Courtney banked in 16 points for the Lady Mustangs while Staten had 10.

The Lady Javs shot 51 percent from the floor and outrebounded MSU, 43-30.

MSU is now 8-8 on the season.

The Lady Mustang will be back at home Thursday as they face the Lady Greyhounds of Eastern New Mexico. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

## Mustangs hurdle Javelinas

**IGGY CRUZ**  
STAFF REPORTER

MSU guard Chris Davis drilled a clutch three-pointer in the closing seconds Saturday evening to lift the red-hot Mustangs over No. 23 Texas A&M-Kingsville, 76-73, in the South Division opener for both schools.

With 5.4 seconds remaining, Davis connected from the left baseline corner to halt the Jav's 10-game home court dominance, while extending the Mustangs (12-3, 1-0) overall win streak to nine games.

MSU had a total of five players score in double-figures led by Davis with 15 points, six boards, two assists, and a blocked shot.

Davis, a junior from Terrell, Texas, shot 50 percent from floor and was recognized for his stellar performance by being named Lone Star Conference South Player of the Week.

Chad Rickett chipped in 14 points and four assists, while Drew Coffman finished with 13 points for MSU.

Eric Dawson added 10 points, six rebounds, and three blocks followed by Christopher Reay's 13 points and five boards.

Coming off a nine-day break, the Mustangs performance in the first half was plagued by inconsistency handling the ball as the team hit intermission trailing 32-30.

"The nine-day layoff hurt," MSU

head coach Jeff Ray said. "Our kids showed a lot of heart."

MSU committed 18 turnovers and suffered without senior starters Coffman and Dawson who were in early foul trouble.

The Mustangs picked up the slack in the second and jumped out to an eight-point lead, the largest margin during the game, at the 10:11 point. TAMKU stormed back into the game off of Rickey Huckaby's sharp shooting from behind the arc.

Huckaby buried three consecutive three-pointers slashing the Mustangs lead to 57-56 and positioned the Javs to knot the contest up at 64 with five minutes to play.

Remi Yusuf, the LSC preseason player of the year and an all-American last season, was stuffed all game long by the MSU defense.

But Yusuf came through for the Javs with 37 seconds left by stealing a pass and converting a three-point play to tie the game at 73.

As the clock ticked down, Rickett drove the ball down the lane and found an open Davis, who sealed the win with his game-winning three-pointer.

Huckaby led the Javs with 23 points and Wendell Mulkey added 17.

Yusuf finished with 10 points, 9.3 below his average.

MSU will host Eastern New Mexico Thursday in D.L. Ligon Coliseum. Tip-off is set for 8 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

The Indiannapolis Colts and Chicago Bears will battle on Feb. 4 in Super Bowl XLI at 5 p.m. Former MSU runningback, Dominic Rhodes will be in the backfield for the Colts and Nathan Vasher who was born in Wichita Falls will start at cornerback for the Bears.

### Cartoonist, Columnists and Sports Writers Needed!!

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## Manning finally gets chance at big one

McCLACHY TRIBUNE

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning will have a chance to take on the former team of a historic running back with Payton as his last name in the big dance.

The Colts will battle NFL great Walter Payton's team, the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI.

So many things were in Peyton Manning's birthright. A Super Bowl was not among them.

Ask Ernie Banks about guarantees, or Greg Norman. Or Charles Barkley.

Finally, it was OK to ask Manning.

"The stuff about my legacy, that's a little deep for me," Manning said, wearing an oversized T-shirt with the letters that no longer mocked him.

Indianapolis Colts, AFC Champions. Few had to wait longer, work harder or play better.

"I knew I had to play well today, that's all," he said Sunday night. "I didn't think I had to be super. But I knew I had to have a good game. The thing about it is, we finally got everybody involved, and it's just too hard to win one of these if you don't."

Yeah, Manning lost the quarterback-rating battle to Tom Brady again.

He also went 27 for 47 with one touchdown (to defensive tackle Dan Klecko) and one interception, got sacked three times and threw a pick that New England's Asante Samuel turned into a touchdown trot.

At that point Indianapolis trailed, 21-3, and some wondered if Manning would sign a long-term contract with the Timbuktu Tritons, just to get some peace.

Yet he never has appeared haunted. All that is overrated, you know. His dad, Archie, played a long time with New Orleans and won nothing, and his life is just fine.

"I hope I've heard the last of that," Archie said later, standing against a wall outside the redeemed Colts' locker room.

His son had finally beaten New England, 38-34, with help from about 50 associates.

Manning was 5-6 in playoff games. Last year the Colts had home field and lost to Pittsburgh in the divisional playoff, and Peyton had some pointed things to say about his blockers.

He has put up some playoff stinkers, too, mostly against New England, but the problem is that he has always been too much a part of the Colts.

He seemed to be even more disproportionate this year. All 16 regular-season opponents ran for at least 100 yards on the Colts.

Jacksonville romped for 375.

The only reason it wasn't more, reasoned Indianapolis Star columnist Bob Kravitz, was that the end zone kept getting in the way.

But suddenly the Colts borrowed some DNA from Gino Marchetti and became this 3-and-out playoff machine.

Kansas City got 44 rush yards in 17 cracks, seven first downs overall. Baltimore ran 20 times for 83 yards.

Here, Bob Sanders was knocking away a third-down pass that, if converted, might have let the Patriots run out the clock. Marlin Jackson intercepted Tom Brady for the clincher.

And the Colts ran, too. Thirty times. They averaged 4.2 yards per rush and wore out the Patriots defense.

"I was glad we stuck with it," Manning said. "I saw New Orleans today (losing to Chicago). They started throwing it every time when they got behind. That's hard to do."

"They were playing Samuel on Marvin (Harrison) and using a safety for help."

I was on the phone to my quarterback coach (Jim Caldwell). For some reason we couldn't take advantage of that. But in the second half we got a rhythm going, and this is when we're at our best.

We're drawing it up, we're doing it on the fly. We can usually find something."

The Colts scored 32 second-half points, and Manning was 14 for 23 for 225 yards in that half.

Manning even took input from Bryan Fletcher, who caught 18 passes all year for two touchdowns.

Fletcher is the former UCLA tight end.

He's only a limb on Manning's passing tree, but he did speak up when he saw a linebacker covering him.

"This might pump up his ego," Manning said, "but he called the play. He said let's use a corner route. And it was all to him."

It went 32 yards to the New England 37 with 2:01 to go. "That put us almost in field-goal range," said Manning.

But then Manning, ignoring a throbbing thumb that he banged on an opposing helmet, speared Reggie Wayne just as Tully Banta-Cain was roughing Manning.

That made it first-and-10 on the 11, and Joseph Addai barged across for the go-ahead score.

It was a night that made this bloated sport look as special as it pretends to be.

At least until the next police report arrives.

"You know, I worry about our game sometimes," Archie Manning said, "but New England sets the bar, in how good they are and how they handle themselves. And I think the Colts do, too."

He said he and Peyton had embraced and traded the usual I-love-yous.

He said a few other things, but he smiled and fidgeted, too.

"This isn't about me," Archie said. "I've got friends in the media, but I'm not going to be the story at the Super Bowl. I'm not going to have a table in the media room."

We know who will.

## True Cowboys fan can't Bear to watch

**JOSH MUJICA**  
SPORTS EDITOR

What happened to my team?

After the final seconds of the Dallas Cowboys and Seattle Seahawks playoff game ticked away a couple weeks ago I lost all hope in the blue and silver.

My dad who was sitting beside me at my girlfriend's house must have uttered every four letter word known to man after Tony Romo's



bobble of the game-tying snap sealed a 21-20 loss.

"F\*\*\* the Cowboys!" It was hard to hear but I felt his hurt.

We need class act guys to get the job done. The team is like a slice of watermelon. We need to spit out the seeds that could hurt us.

Where is the next Aikman, Smith and Irvin? Will you please raise your hands so the Cowboys can draft you?

Maybe I'm just writing out of frustration but we need to get rid of Terrell Owens. The only "T.O." the Cowboys should be saving are the three timeouts in the second half so maybe they could use them at the end of a game to win. Even then I'm scared that Romo's nervous hands would be too scared to call one.

Dallas should have drafted Randy Moss back when he came out of college. He might have as bad an attitude as Owens but at least the dude can catch.

I'm glad Bill Parcells is retiring too. Jerry Jones should have given "the Tuna" the can last year.

Hire back Jimmy Johnson and find someone from the Baltimore Ravens staff to be the defensive coordinator. I don't care if it's a college kid who sells popcorn for the team. He might give us a chance to contend.

I'm still a fan, but I'm looking away now. Years and years of disappointment turn me to a team in the same time zone.

Let's go Bears!!!

# MAROON stampede



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**MSU Basketball vs. Eastern New Mexico**

Women: 6 p.m. - Men: 8 p.m.  
Thursday, January 25 - D.L. Ligon Coliseum

Halftime Celebration of Champions  
Iowa Park Jazz Band to perform  
during both games

**MSU Basketball vs. West Texas A&M**

Women: 6 p.m. - Men: 8 p.m.  
Saturday, January 27  
D.L. Ligon Coliseum

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