

African Children Sold Into Slavery Receive New Opportunity For Childhood

NEOSHO, Mo. (AP) — They are called the "Magnificent Seven."

They have seven magnificent smiles.

Seven magnificent hearts. Seven magnificent futures.

And for Neosho residents Randy, Pam and Crista Cope with Touch A Life Ministries, they are seven magnificent new members to their growing global family.

In October 2006, the New York Times carried an article on seven children in Ghana who were sold into slavery by their impoverished parents. The front-page article featured a photograph of a 6-year-old Ghana boy named Mark Kwadwo, who was scooping water in a canoe that his owner used to fish on Lake Volta.

Randy and Pam Cope — Neosho residents who began Touch A Life Ministry in 2000, a year after the sudden death of their 15-year-old son Jantsen — happened to be in New York City the weekend the story was published and were deeply moved by the situation.

That's where the story of the "Magnificent Seven" began.

Two months later, seven children — Mark, 6; Hagar, 9; Kofi, 11; Richard, 11; Kojo, 9; Sara, 9; and John, 12 — were rescued from the chains of slavery a week before Christmas, and given a new life at the Village of Hope orphanage.

"Those beautiful seven children had the best Christmas ever," said Pam, while sitting in the living room of her Neosho home which is decorated with several pictures of her "children" whose lives she had touched in such far away lands as Africa and Vietnam. "They had a great feast."

Randy, Pam and their daughter, Crista, shared the story of the "Magnificent Seven" with a national television audience on the Oprah Winfrey Show this month.

Out of the million readers who picked up the New York Times on

Oct. 27, 2006, it was Randy and Pam Cope who reacted passionately and responded to a need after reading the front-page article on child slavery in Ghana.

"When I read the article I started crying," said Pam, who along with Randy has two adopted Vietnamese children, Van and Tatum, who are now second grade students.

"I thought that this could not be happening. I just associated Mark (the child in the picture in the New York Times) with either Van or Tatum. So, we just came home and I started e-mailing the reporter at The Times. Of course, I didn't get any response. After a few weeks, I got the foreign desk and I received the reporter's personal e-mail. I still didn't hear anything for several weeks.

"Finally, the reporter e-mailed me back. She was in South Africa covering a story, and couldn't e-mail me back."

The reporter helped Pam contact George Achibra via e-mail. Achibra was featured in the Times article as someone trying to help rescue the child slaves. Pam e-mailed George, and he responded right back.

"He said I was the first person who responded to help," Pam said. "We started e-mailing back and forth. They had this small not-for-profit, and I asked what their vision was for rescuing the children. Basically, they were going in and telling the fishermen what they were doing was against the law. No money changed hands, but George and his group would go in and repair their nets and boats, and help them in exchange for the children. They are committed to going in and saying this has to stop."

Pam said Achibra, who is a teacher, has a big heart for the children, and that attracted Pam to help him. All George needed was \$320 to negotiate with the fishermen, and take the child and give them immediate medical attention, clothing, food and everything that they need as well

as transportation."

The children were taken 11 hours south to an orphanage.

There was one snag. Achibra did not have a permanent home for the children that were saved.

After much prayer, Randy and Pam decided to begin care for seven child slaves to be rescued in Ghana. One of those seven would be the little 6-year-old boy, Mark, pictured in the Times article.

"With Touch A Life, if we take on a child it is for their life until they can be on their own," Pam said. "It is not a short-term ministry. We felt like financially, we could support seven children. Those seven children got labeled the "Magnificent Seven." The teacher at the orphanage said how these seven children were such survivors, and seven is such an important number in the Bible."

The "Magnificent Seven" still needed a permanent home. That's when Pam contacted Randy's brother, Mike Cope, who works at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

All the pieces of the puzzle were starting to come together. Mike knew of a colleague who had done some missionary work in Ghana at the Village of Hope orphanage.

Pam came in touch with Mike's colleague, Dan McVeigh, and shared the story of the "Magnificent Seven" with him.

Cope said McVeigh knew the seven souls would find a home at Village of Hope.

"These are just amazing people at Village of Hope," Pam said. "They had 116 kids, and were at capacity, but they just took on the seven children has to stop."

Village of Hope is located in Fetteh, near the capital city of Ghana, and the children were rescued and taken there the week before Christmas.

Not soon after Pam's heart told her it was time to pay her new children a visit.

"I just decided I had to go see these children," Pam said. "I was talking to them on the phone, and we were trading e-mails and pictures, but Randy knew I had to go."

Pam didn't make the trip alone. Her daughter, Crista, a freshman at Abilene Christian University and a 2006 Neosho High School graduate, came along for the experience.

The two left for Ghana Jan. 4, and spent a week at Village of Hope. Pam said Ghana is dusty, does not have a lot of green vegetation and is extremely hot.

"Everyone walks everywhere," she said. "Everyone lives in makeshift houses."

Pam will never forget seeing her seven children for the first time.

"I had little bits of information about all of them," she said. "Mark and his two siblings were owned by the same master. So, we kept all three of them together. When we were working with George and his partner, Paul, we had to pray about which seven children we were going to rescue."

Pam said the children speak a tribal language, but they will learn English at the orphanage's school. During the week visit, Pam and Crista were there for the children's first day of school. They helped them get their school uniforms and backpacks.

"It was such a special day," Pam said. "We kept all seven of them together in a special classroom, and they have a special teacher. She is helping them with basic English, and basic hygiene. They know nothing. Some of them do not know how to hold a pencil. One day, we just turned them loose with watercolors. I have learned to bring art supplies with me, because they will just let loose. They will just paint, and talk, and eat candy, and that is just what I love to do with them. That is their way to express what is in their heart. All of those little things that our kids take for granted."

Pam said it was a growing experience for Crista, whom her mother said is considering a career in education.

"She embraced that trip, and never complained about the heat, the dirt, the food," she said. "She got up every morning and played with those kids. She just constantly had a child on her lap. She was in her element. Her heart is in Africa."

Pam and Crista all spent some quiet time with their new family. They would all sit and play in the rooms, playing games and sharing laughs.

"Every night, I would tell the translator to tell the children that they are safe, and that they get to stay here," Pam said. "And every night it was like they were hearing it for the first time. They are going to go to high school, to college, and this is their home for as long as they want to. They will never have to go back to the river. They just can't trust that they are safe, and that this is their life now. Every night, they would just clap and be so happy."

Pam said the children couldn't believe Village of Hope was their home. At the orphanage, the children had an abundance of food, a school to learn in, and a soccer field to play on all in a safe environment.

Pam said \$50 a month is all it takes to support one child at Village of Hope. That money clothes, feeds, and educates the child.

"It's that amazing," she said. "So, for \$350 a month seven children have a new life."

Pam said she is planning a trip back to Ghana to visit her seven children. This time she would like to bring Van and Tatum to experience the culture, and meet their new siblings.

Pam would also like to start a music and fine arts program at Village of Hope.

"It has always been a dream of mine," she said.

Looking back, Pam said the story

of the "Magnificent Seven" had a rough beginning, but is destined to have a beautiful ending.

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Sebelius Opposes Tuition Hike Proposal To Help Finance Repairs

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Students at state universities would pay higher tuition to help finance repairs on their campuses under proposals Republican legislators are floating, but Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius opposes the idea.

GOP senators also have identified gambling dollars — from either Kansas Lottery profits or from yet-to-be authorized casinos — as a potential source of money.

But one idea is conspicuously absent from Republican lists: A plan from Sebelius to issue \$300 million worth of bonds, then raise Kansas Turnpike tolls to pay them off.

Republicans, who hold majorities in both chambers, have strongly criticized the proposal for using turnpike tolls, saying that money should be dedicated to upkeep and improvements for the 236-mile highway. The trucking industry also has expressed its opposition.

The Senate's Higher Education Task Force plans to vote Monday on recommendations for dealing with a backlog of repairs on university campuses. The House has approved a bill dealing with part of the backlog, but no other initiative has emerged.

Sebelius said she's disappointed in what she views as a lack of legislative progress. She and legislative leaders identified the maintenance backlog as one of the year's most pressing issues.

"We don't seem to have any movement," Sebelius said Friday to a Statehouse news conference. "If they have alternative plans, let's talk about them, but I think we have waited long enough to deal with what is a compounding problem."

The Board of Regents estimates the backlog of projects at \$663 million, though this week it identified \$200 million worth as most critical.

Whatever the estimate, the regents continue to highlight problems.

Kansas State University noted that it briefly lost electricity over much of its campus and three buildings remained closed into Friday evening because a problem in what has been dubbed the "Frankenstein Room" of its power plant.

Sebelius outlined a package two weeks ago for providing \$575 million to the universities over six years. Besides issuing bonds backed by turnpike tolls, the state would set aside \$75 million in existing revenues and make \$200 million in low-

interest loans available, though the plan doesn't specify how those loans would be repaid.

The House already has approved a bill to set aside \$77 million in existing revenues over five years for repair projects. Majority Leader Ray Merrick, R-Stilwell, said he's drafting a proposal to increase tuition for out-of-state students.

Chairwoman Jean Schodorf said the Senate task force is likely to offer two proposals, one relying on a single source of money and another offering a mix of sources, including tuition surcharges. Schodorf acknowledged that some task force members are hesitant to boost tuition.

"If not tuition, what's another source that we could use?" said Schodorf, R-Wichita. "It's easy to say we need to solve the problem, but so far no one has stepped up and said, 'Yes, if we solve the problem, it's not going to be perfect, but we need to do it.'"

The Senate task force is contemplating a charge of \$5 per credit-hour for Kansas students and \$15 an hour for out-of-state students, to raise \$90 million over six years. Merrick said he'd raise out-of-state students' rates to the average for universities in other states.

One consideration, however, is that the state Board of Regents already has been raising rates to finance universities. The cost of enrolling has increased every year since at least 1999, and it has more than doubled at the University of Kansas.

"Raising college tuition is a bad idea," Sebelius told reporters. "We are already, I think, precariously close to pricing too many Kansas kids out of going on to college."

The Senate task force said if legislators want a single source of revenue to address the maintenance backlog, then authorizing casinos seems the only likely way to raise enough money. While Sebelius sup-

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Goodnow Diary

1871

Wednesday, April 5, 1871
Breakfasted at Ft. Scott, Poor. Dined at Parsons. Supped at home. Met Solomon at H—t Plenty of business on house at home!

Thursday, April 6
Sent R.S. Miller Draft 786.27 Set out trees, Maple,

Friday, April 7, 1871
Sent E.B. Purcell Drafts on Chicago 155.50. + 103.30. on N.Y. \$300. total, 558.80. Mrs. Draft on Chicago 154.70. & check on Miller 186.50, total \$900.00. Very windy.

Saturday, April 8
Set out 7 apple trees. Arranged Library in parts. Eve—dug front path &c. Very windy.

Sunday, April 9, 1871
A.M. Sermon by Rev.Graham. Class meeting. Home balance of the day. Rained hard in the evening!

Monday, April 10
Cool & windy! Painting & Carpenter work on house going on. Cold Day. Fire necessary. Set out 7 apple trees, &c.

Tuesday, April 11, 1871
Cold Morning. Frozen ice, thick as window glass. Eve—moved! Long discussion with Goss & Eastman on Land Questions! Solomon & Eastman came up to spend the night. Walk with them to Goss woods & visit - Evening.

Wednesday, April 12
Solomon & Eastman & Wheat went to Humboldt. Wheat back at 1 1/2 P.M. Pay Carr along. Set out Pine mass Sprouts! Set out 20. Kratzer on well - Bay window! Commenced fence around house & garden. Worked on this with Kratzer 1 1/2 hours. Rained till about 11 P.M.

Thursday, April 13, 1871
Eve—worked putting in wood into Office Shed.

Friday, April
Went to Parsons with Davis, Eastman, Barrett & Solomon. Consulted on bringing suit against settlers for false entries & perjury! On my return home, found G.T. Anthony who spends the night with me. Pleasant visit. Wet & rainy.—

Saturday, April 14, 1871
Capt. Anthony left. Sent to R.S. Miller, checks &c. 523.29. —

Sunday, April 16
A.M. Sermon by Rev. Brown on the "Home of the Christian". Good! Eve. service by Rev.Graham. Good attendance Class meeting.

Monday, April 17, 1871
Painting & Carpenter work going on & gardening by Eve— Baldwin & Doudna & Blackford here on Contested Land Case. Helped Ellen wash. Wrote G. Denison.

Tuesday, April 18
Busy answering letters &c., getting office into shape for Spring work. Cold windy day. Gave Kratzer \$10.present. T.B. Mills here.

Wednesday, April 19, 1871
Cool morning. Wrote G. Denison on Fraudulent entries. Planted 3 kinds of Squash seed. Wrote letters &c. Wrote letters &c.

Thursday, April 20
Cold! Cold & windy. Busy on working up Report on Instalments & Interest to Auditor. Wheat returned from Sedalia—& wife. Festival, M.E. church Supper &c \$14.25. Contested Land Case, Loveridge VS. Blackford, Represented by Doudna & Baldwin.

Friday, April 21, 1871

Fixing up Round house & working on books & letters. Strong wind!

Saturday, April 22
Went to Junction, Met Swenson & Stover. Put up at Pacific House. Pierce's Colony represented on the way. The above should be Friday. Went to Manhattan. H.N. Elliott Paid taxes. Paid Purcell \$3350. Called on Davis & c. Stopped with W.E/G. Took supper with B.F.M.

Sunday, April 23, 1871
Rested P.M. Sermon by J.W. Sullivan. Dined at J.Denison's. Pleasant day. Stopped with Wm over night.

Monday, April 24
Went to town with Wm & took the cars for Topeka. Louhardt aboard. With Col. McCarty at Topeka, raised him \$80.00 as a Free Gift for past Service for Kansas. Up till 11 1/2 P.M. Stopped at Gordon House. Saw Adams &c.

Tuesday, April 25, 1871
Left for Neosho Falls 7 1/4 A.M. Arrived 3 1/4 P.M. Emma J. Denison. Met R.S. Stevens & Co. at Burlington. Attend to Correspondence & miscellaneous items.

Wednesday, April 26
Worked in office & on land Land Sales, a little dull. Very windy for a few days. Painting almost done!

Thursday, April 27, 1871
Took E.J.D., Ellen & Hattie across the river to George Tuge's to see about school! Concluded to have her return to Missouri Creek! Left at 3 P.M.

Friday, April 28
Went to Humboldt & met Thatcher, Torbet, & Eastman on \$ owed business. Spent the S. at Eastman's.

Saturday, April 29, 1871
Returned to N. Falls office work, & Have improvements going on.

Sunday, April 30
Writer to day. A.M. by Rev. Brown. Eve—Rev. [Lonshne?]. on Bible Course. Solomon up & spent the night — 2.00.

Monday, May 1, 1871
Planted Monitor Potatoes, Sweet Corn & large Red Tomatoes! Eastman & Col. Baldwin up & Mrs. Loveridge. Went to Junction City & stopped at Pacific House.

Tuesday, May 2
Went to Abilene & paid R.R.[outes?] \$792.56 & ret'd to Topeka. G. Howe called at Gilaspies' on the way down. A - w

Wednesday, May 3, 1871
Went to Leavenworth. Adams, Hollister, Scott, Mrs. Starrett aboard. Olheers of K.I. Society. Went to Lawrence Durfee House. Interview with Pres. Walker & Dr.J.W. Scott on Lands &c. Satisfactory. To bed 10 1/2 P.M. Good sleep.

Thursday, May 4
Ex-pert [Hi Celtr?] to nigh — Returned to N. Falls by way of Galveston R. to Carlile & Stage across the country. Eve—looked over letters, &c. Cool.

Friday, May 5, 1871
Sent Wheat to Humboldt on Land list for patent. Work on fence with Wince. Up late — Planted Some — [W. Setter, Mr. M.B.?]. Pleasant day.

Saturday, May 6
Worked on fence 2 hours before breakfast, &c. Wrote letters. Visit from Mr. Raymond & [Mefers?], Clark & Burbridge. Raymond at tea. Call from Br. Morey & wife. Eve. Wheat drove up Redfield & Hard team.

Sunday, May 7, 1871

A.M. Sermon by Rev. Rawson, & class meeting. P.M. read & wrote a little. Eve — Ellen & Hattie went to church; I remained at home. Wheat went up to Emporia. Humboldt. Tomorrow!!!

Monday, May 8
Eve worked 4 hours? Rainy day. Sold Coe [3ro?] acres land. Raymond left for Junction. Wrote letters & did miscellaneous work. Eve—set out hedge for barnyard. Sent \$947.60 to E.B. Purcell. Wrote E.S. Staple & sent her \$100.00 for Lot 547 W. to Manhattan.

Tuesday, May 9, 1871
Wheat returned to day.

Wednesday, May 10
Dr. Scott at work on land list with Wheat & Sommers.

Thursday, May 11, 1871
Dr. Scott on List &c.

Friday, May 12
Land Office business.

Saturday, May 13, 1871
Sent R.S. Miller 451.78. Talk with Mr. Coburn about Blinds. —

Sunday, May 14
A.M. Sermon by Br. Morey. Class meeting. Br. Graham preached in the evening. General turn of reading.

Monday, May 15, 1871
Wheat went to Humboldt. Capt's. team. P.M. Went to New Chicago & divided 80 acres with L.G. & G.R.R. Met Dr. Scott & stopped at Tye's Hotel. Called on Gaston & brother. Came up to Humboldt. S.H. Lathrop & Co., Burlington, Geo. H. Gaffey. Cols. Clark & Burbridge. Sent out dues! 44.

Tuesday, May 16
Wheat returned this noon. Returned to Neosho Falls. Hurd gone out with Co. Telegram to go to Parsons to meet Stevens. Sent to R.S. Miller. Checking, N.B.N.Y. 1075.20 from 1st Natl B. Peru. Warm day.

Wednesday, May 17, 1871
Went to Parsons on an engine with Mr. White. Met R.S. Stevens & attended a meeting of the Stockholders of the M.K.&T.R.W. Co. Had Denison &c. procies. Went to Ft. SCOTT & spent the night with A.S. Stevens at Mr. Stewart's, by invitation of H.D.W. Gladding. Stroll over town & call on Dr. Hapler. (Eve to day) Mr. Briggs [sis— warms tea?] to R.S. Stevens.

Thursday, May 18
Went to Parsons — dinner. Home at 3. P.M. Large numbers of Land men. Warm day. Harlin, Green, Dunn, A.J. Freer. — McArthy, &c.,[Ross?], 2 Englishmen Solomon, Whitney at tea - from Manhattan.

Friday, May 19, 1871
Warm & some windy. Eve—at work to day.

Saturday, May 20
(No entry written on this day.)

Sunday, May 21, 1871
A.M. Sermon by Rev. Welch. Eve—by Rev. Brown. Class meeting after A.M. Sermon. Read papers & in John Adams' Life.

Monday, May 22
Worked on front fence with Wince. Telegram from G. Denison & Stevens. 4 P.M., left for Parsons. Met Denison & co. at Humboldt & returned to Neosho Falls. N.York. Represented Skiddy, Dickinson, Townsend, G. Denison, &c.

Tuesday, May 23, 1871
Hattie sick. Hoed before breakfast. Sent to R.S. Miller, r Drafts from 1st Natl Bank, Peru on 3rd N. Bank Ny. & one Draft on 9th N.B., N.Y. No. 14,217 =134.40, Others — 20,754 = 128.00, 20,764 = 134.40 = \$396.80 Warm & breezy.

Wednesday, May 24
Robins on Menageries. Ellen, Hattie & I went. Rain. To bed early. Rowe at work on steps —

Thursday, May 25, 1871
Sent R.S. Miller Drafts 1st N.B., Marquette on Hanover N.B. N.Y., 45.00; B.of La Salle —on I.&T. N.B. N.York, 12,009. 256.00 = \$301.00 Rowe finished steps \$15. A.S.

Stevens, H.D.W. Gladding, T.C. White at dinner. Finished upper 8 boards of fence with Wince. \$6.28

Friday, May 26
Sent R.S. Miller Draft on N.Y. 1st N.B. Peru, on 9th N. Bank No.14227, 131.20; 1st N.B. Peru on 3d. N.B. N.Y. No. 20774, 668.00; 1st N.B. Peru, on 3d N.B.Y No. 20772, 50.40; Ex 13 Atchison No.129, 160.00; Royal Canadian Bank, Toronto on R. Bell & C.F.S. Withee, 260.00, H.Cren & Co., N.Y. \$7.25 = \$1276.85

Saturday, May 27, 1871
Hauled 3 loads gravel with Beauman's team; 1 1/2 hours work. Office correspondence, Redfield. Call from Br. Coburn. P.M. Took a ride with Ellen, Hattie, Mrs. Wheat & Capt. Sowers. Called at Dr.Carpenter's & Col. Crane's. A little rain in the A.M.

Sunday, May 28
A.M. Sermon by Br. Brown. Read & rested. Pleasant Sabbath.

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Thoughts From The Praire

Super Bowl, Genetics and Secular Strategy

So what is the connection between Super Bowl XLI coaches and the leader of the Human Genome project? The leaders are tops in their fields and they are all claim to be Bible believing Christians. Tony Dungy leading the Colts and Lovie Smith leading the Bears are also African-Americans and the first black coaches to meet in a Super Bowl.

Dr. Francis Collins is the leader of the Human Genome Project, a multibillion-dollar project in which he and his colleagues have mapped out the 3 billion letters of the human genetic code imprinted into each of our cells. A recent article in National Geographic declared, "Collins is among the worlds most important scientists." This must be causing quite a stir within the "scientific community", at least the one to which Ashley Montagu the renowned paleontologist belongs. You see Dr. Collins is a Creationist and Dr. Montagu wrote that a Creationist "remain(s) nothing but a glorified technician..."

That sparks another interesting thought. On Feb 13th the Kansas State Board of Education reversed the definition of Science for the fifth time in eight years. The revised definition protects



Dick Miller

evolution from objective evaluation and excludes other options for the origin of the universe. This debate is not about better ways to educate our children; it is an ideological confrontation between two groups of adults who have already made up their minds. This debate will have no impact academically but it does enhance the argument that the public schools are the primary training ground for Secularism.

Dr. Isaac Asimov, past president of the American Humanist Association, in an article in the New York Times Magazine, wrote that "It is only in school that American youngsters in general are ever likely to hear any reasoned exposition of the evolutionary theory...Church and family can easily censor printed matter...Only the school is beyond their control." Hidden in this statement is the grand strategy of the Secular Humanist formulated in the early 20th century by

educators such as John Dewey, Dr. George Counts and Dr. Harold Rugg all associated with Teachers College at Columbia University.

Dewey was an atheist and socialist and co-authored Humanist Manifesto I in 1934. Manifesto I spells out the religion of Secularism Humanism as belief in no God, evolution not Creationism, socialism not capitalism. The strategy of using the public schools to create the new order was masterminded by Dr. Rugg and outlined in his books in 1932 and 1933. In The Great Technology, he wrote, "A new public mind is to be created...through the schools of the world we shall disseminate a new conception of government-one that will embrace all the collective activities of men; one that will postulate the need for scientific control and operation of economic activities in the interest of all the people." Socialism by any other name is still socialism.

Dr. Counts published his monograph, Dare the School Build a New Social Order? in 1932 in which he wrote, "The teachers should deliberately reach for power and then make the most of their conquest...and they will definitely and positively influence the social attitudes, ideals and behavior of the coming generations."

The strategy was brilliant and the timing was perfect. With American parents distracted by the Depression and WWII, and the urbanization of society, the family unit began to fracture and the church began to snooze...As in nature that abhors a vacuum, the Secular Humanists were delighted to fill the void with public education that replaced both the parents and the church. The success of the strategy of Dr Counts and Dr. Rugg is astounding and will be highlighted in this column next week. Stay tuned, more to come!

Kansas Lags Fiscally Again

By Karl Peterjohn

Kansas is once again falling behind. The growth in state tax receipts has allowed the legislature to increase state spending. This revenue growth could also provide some much needed tax relief to try and make this state's fiscal climate more competitive.

This is an urgent priority that is coming home to folks in Topeka as a recent major employer in Topeka, Payless ShoeSource Inc., announced a distribution center will close and that will cost that community as many as 550 jobs. Businesses restructure all the time but losing all of these jobs at one time should get the attention of this state's leaders. This loss hurts.

Triple taxation of business revenue and assets by the state helps make Kansas an uncompetitive state. Business property taxes, business income taxes, and taxes on assets through the state's business franchise tax are all significant burdens. Governor Sebelius has proposed cutting the state's franchise tax by \$7 million or about 15 percent. In addition, she has also proposed a small reduction in the state corporate income tax that would be paid for by eliminating some corporate income tax credits.

A surprisingly unified Republican caucus on Valentine's Day had all house Republicans and about a 1/4 of house Democrats voting for a bill that would cut the business franchise tax by over \$15 million and begin a three year phase. In three years, Kansas would join the other 30 some states without this tax. A number of legislators are also looking at

trying to reduce property taxes and the tax burden on the elderly so broad based tax relief is provided too.

Kansas tax law discriminates against seniors receiving social security and private pensions. Kansas personal income taxes are owed by Kansans receiving social security and private pension income. Government pensions for federal, state, and local government employees are exempt from the state income tax.

This is unfair. This is another way that Kansas treats government and government employees better than taxpayers and private pension recipients. Bills are pending in both the house and senate tax committees that would add social security payments to the tax exemption. State Senator Peggy Palmer, R-Augusta, and Rep. Judy Morrison, R-Shawnee, are leading the push for this tax reform. A large number of their colleagues have joined them as co-sponsors in pushing for this \$18 million tax cut.

Senate leadership has been telling legislators not to pass more than \$15 million in tax cuts this year. That's only about 5 percent of the revenue growth. The bipartisan senate leadership under Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, that got a huge \$466 million state school spending hike enacted last year, wants to limit tax cuts.

Fiscal conservatives in the Kansas legislature want at least \$60 million or 20 percent of the windfall revenue created by growth in the state's economy returned to taxpayers.

Making the Kansas economy competitive is a critical, but tax reform is also a

regional issue too. Democratic Governor Mike Beebe of Arkansas has just forced through that state's Democratic controlled legislature a \$319 million package of individual and business tax cuts to make Arkansas' economy more competitive. Arkansas recently passed Kansas in population and is projecting a large \$840 million state surplus this year.

The Republican Governor of Nebraska is pushing for over \$240 million in across the board income tax cuts and an end to state death taxes to make Nebraska more competitive. This would follow in the footsteps of the large income tax cut and death tax abolition enacted last year by Oklahoma's Democratic Governor and Republican legislative leadership in Oklahoma. Last year Texas with Republican Governor Perry and that state's GOP controlled legislature passed over \$11 billion in mainly property tax cuts.

Our neighbors are serious about becoming fiscally competitive. In Kansas, it looks like all too many leaders including the Democratic Governor and Republican Senate President are concerned about growing spending and throwing a few small crumbs to taxpayers. There is a real need at the statehouse to focus on this state's economy by enacting significant tax cuts that will improve this state's dismal fiscal climate.

(Peterjohn is the executive director of the Kansas Taxpayers Network and is a former California Department of Finance budget analyst and newspaper reporter.)

Shield Law In Up Hill Fight In Senate

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) _ New ideas often are a hard sell for legislators.

A case in point is shield law legislation languishing in the Senate. The intent is simple: protecting reporters from having to reveal their sources for stories.

While some question the need for such a law, supporters say it's less about protecting reporters than protecting the public's right to know, akin to state laws requiring most official records and government meetings be open to public scrutiny.

Doug Anstaett, Kansas Press Association executive director, said it's essential for reporters to be able to protect sources _ who often share information at their own peril _ if they are to uncover corruption and dishonesty.

"Reporters can't do that if sources won't step forward with tips and other sensitive information, and those sources sometimes won't step forward without the promise of confidentiality," Anstaett said. "Even down to the smallest community in the state, people have a right to know what their government is doing."

The possibility of a reporter facing the choice of going to jail or revealing a confidential source can have a chilling effect.

"Reporters ought not be prosecuted for accurately reporting information that holds government accountable," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, who along with Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley is sponsoring the bill.

Thirty-five states have laws protecting reporters from revealing their sources and the last time a shield law proposal was offered in Kansas was

in 2002 and it died in a House committee.

"There's always resistance to providing additional privileges. You have to balance the interest of the judicial system against the rights of the press," said Schmidt, R-Independence.

That constitutional confrontation has created tension just about anytime the shield law idea has been broached.

But the bill would establish a balancing test for a court to decide whether a reporter must reveal sources or unpublished information.

Under the bill, that could happen only there's clear and convincing evidence that the disclosure is relevant, it can't be obtained by other means and it's of a compelling and overriding interest and necessary to secure the interests of justice.

That balancing test for determining privilege has its genesis in a 1972 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. Six years later, the Kansas Supreme Court acknowledged that privilege exists, citing the federal case, but didn't say much about it.

For years, many reporters, editors and legislators felt the case law was good enough, but others say it's better to put those protections in law.

"The value of it is that there are procedural safeguards so that not only is it statutory instead of case law, but the procedures can be followed as set out in the law," said KPA attorney Mike Merriam.

Normally, a bill sponsored by such heavy hitters Schmidt and Hensley wouldn't have much trouble passing the Senate.

But that probably won't happen

with the proposed shield law.

The bill was introduced Feb. 6, which is considered late in the legislative world with scores of other bills ahead of it for committee consideration.

"We committed early to introduce the bill but we needed to make sure it was in the form that was best and that just took some time to make sure it was in the best form," said Hensley, D-Topeka.

The bill is in the Judiciary Committee, but Chairman John Vratil says he doesn't plan a hearing because too many other bills must get out of committee before a mid-week deadline.

"We just are going to run out of time," said Vratil, R-Leawood.

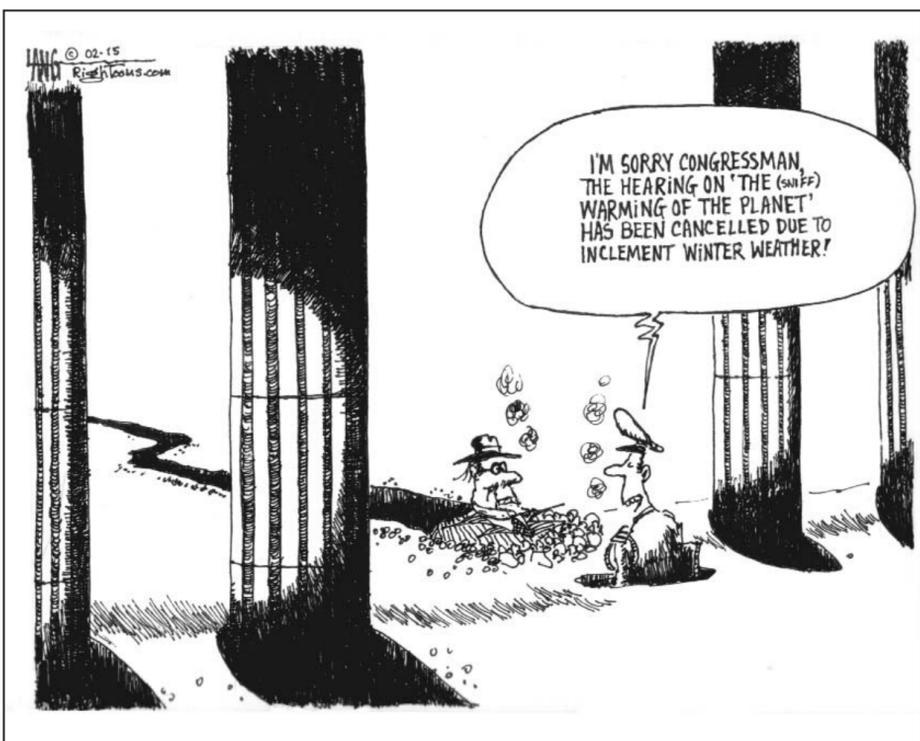
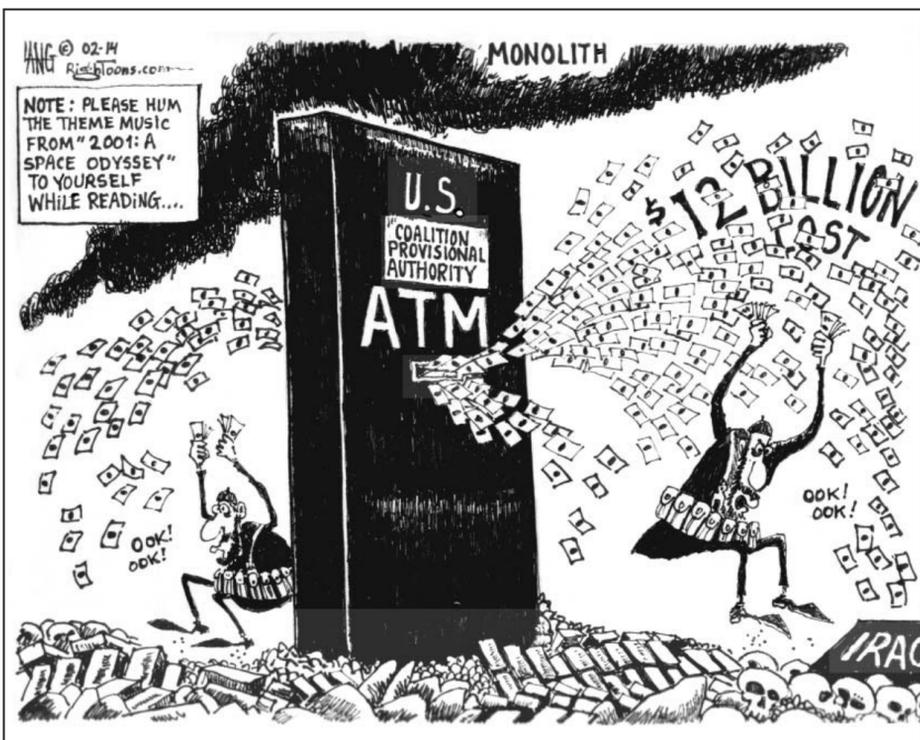
Yet if Vratil's committee is too busy, the proposed shield law could find life in some other committee. Legislative leaders can route a bill through one of a few committees not subject to any deadlines.

"I would like for there to be a hearing this year," Schmidt said.

Still, the odds are against a proposed shield law making it to the governor's desk this year. For one thing, some legislators don't like what reporters write often enough to be skeptical about granting them legal protection, even in the name of holding government accountable.

Even if the Senate would pass the bill _ and that's no forgone conclusion _ backers expect a more hostile reception in the House.

Often it takes years for an idea to gain enough popularity for passage, and the intervening years can be used to educate politicians and the public.



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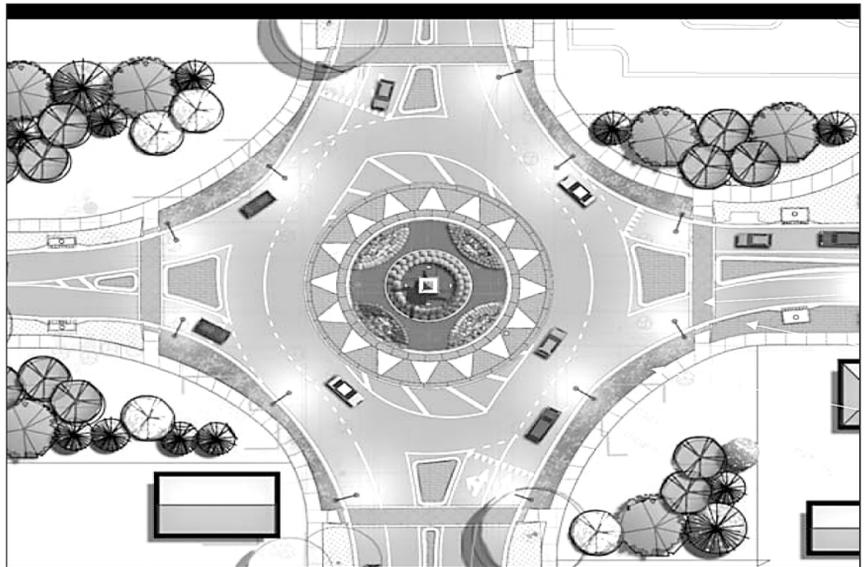
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What Goes Around Comes Around



City Commissioners Bruce Sned, Jayme Morris-Hardeman and Ed Klimek are up for Re-Election in April. Sned and Morris-Hardeman voted to give Manhattan a Roundabout at 4th and Bluemont. Third and Bluemont is the biggest traffic problem in the City and now they want to make the Bluemont problem even bigger with a Roundabout.

In the April Election vote against anyone wanting to put in Roundabouts.



Manhattan Free Press

Hutchinson Business Assesses The Need For Signs

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — When Kansas began allowing qualified citizens to carry concealed handguns, A.J. Conard posted a sign at her business prohibiting them. When two members of a gun club objected to the sign, she took it down.

A small victory — Conard says she had mistakenly thought the sign was required by law — but one that a handful of Hutchinson area gun owners hope to duplicate at other stores through boycotts.

Conard didn't want to lose potential customers. Her company, Apollo Engraving, happens to sell the signs, but Conard says they don't reflect her own sentiments about concealed guns.

"I do quite a bit of work for these gun people," she said. "That's money in my pocket. I'm not that afraid of people coming in with guns. I just turn myself and my employees over to the big man upstairs."

The 2006 concealed-carry statute specifically bans concealed guns in such places as courthouses, schools and churches, but it also lets busi-

nesses prohibit them by posting signs.

A recent count on a stretch of Hutchinson's Main Street found the signs in just 14 of more than 140 storefronts, The Hutchinson News reported. Several of those with signs were financial or medical offices.

Signs prohibiting concealed guns also are posted at entrances to the Hutchinson Mall. Mall manager Dan Flores said the decision was made by the corporate owner and there was no discussion among the merchants. But Flores supports the decision.

"Just look at what happened at the Trolley Center," he said, referring to a shooting this week at a Utah mall, where a teen killed five people.

Hutchinson resident Don O'Neal — among the 132 Reno County residents who has applied for a permit — said he would stop buying tools at Sears, which has a store at the mall. And Tom McGuire said he'll only go to the mall now to visit the driver's license examiner's office.

"What that sign is telling the majority of us, myself in particular,

is that organization is against the Constitution of the United States, which gives us the right to bear arms," O'Neal said.

Advocates of concealed carry also contend that criminals are likely to be attracted by the 8-by-8-inch, red-and-black signs barring hidden weapons.

"To get the permits, people must go through an extensive background check that goes back through their childhood," Tom Conway said. "You have to have a squeaky clean record. These are honest, law-abiding citizens."

"If you want to put up a sign that says 'no crooks or sleazebags or dishonest people,' it's going to be ignored," he added. "But crooks will see this sign and think, 'Great, I don't have to be concerned about law-abiding citizens.'"

At Egbert Liquor, manager Roy Freeman said an employee posted a

sign in the store, and Freeman took it down.

"If they have a license to carry it, it doesn't bother me," Freeman said. "The guy coming to rob you isn't going to have a license. We're pretty much familiar with 90 percent of the clientele that comes through our door. That other 10 percent I don't know, if they're coming to rob us, I hope one of those carrying a concealed weapon will save our lives."

At Sunset Pawn and Jewelry, owner Ralph Thrash said he's taken grief from a number of customers, but he's keeping the signs up.

"Sometimes when I come down to the store at night I carry a weapon, but it's on my hip," Thrash said. "It's not concealed. I don't plan to get a concealed license."

"It's their right to carry," Thrash said. "And it's our right to say no."

Conservation Offices Closing

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The Natural Resources Conservation Service, the government agency that handles environmental programs for farmers, announced Friday it would close 11 of its Kansas offices — just a day after the Farm Service Agency unveiled similar plans.

The two Agriculture Department agencies are separate entities but share the same office space in the affected counties. NRCS funnels money to farmers participating in incentive programs designed to protect the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources.

Citing budget reductions and workload changes, State Conservationist Harold Klage told AP that his agency was still

looking at closing more NRCS offices in Kansas after this first round of 11 closures. NRCS has 116 offices in the state.

"Brick and mortar doesn't really put conservation on the ground," Klage said. "Our work is out in the field with local landowners."

Its Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP, is probably the best known of its programs. But NRCS also administers environmental quality initiatives, watershed and wetlands conservation, wildlife habitat among other conservation programs that funnel federal money to farmers.

The Farm Service Agency handles government loan payments to farmers.

Voter Bill Doomed From The Start

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A day after a voter identification bill cleared the Senate, the state's top elections official wasn't sure it could withstand a legal challenge because of new fees many Kansans would face before registering to cast a ballot.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius also has strong reservations about the bill, which would mandate that Kansans prove American citizenship when registering by showing either a birth certificate or U.S. passport. Copies of birth certificates cost \$12 and passports, \$97.

The Senate's vote Thursday was 28-12 and sent the bill to the House. Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh is reviewing the bill to see whether changes are necessary.

"I support the concept of proving citizenship before voting. I'm trying to determine if this bill overcomes the burden that the courts have held as an undue burden," Thornburgh said. "I'm not sure at this time."

While Sebelius wouldn't commit to vetoing the bill because she hasn't reviewed it, she has reservations.

"I guess my big worry is that we have too few people voting as it is, too few people participating," she said. "I really hate to see anything that makes it more difficult for citizens to participate."

She added: "I haven't seen any evidence in Kansas of voter fraud, and I don't like to see barriers put up to people who should be participating in a democracy."

The bill requires voters to present a valid photo ID when they go to the polls, which currently applies only to first-time voters.

But the provisions requiring proof of citizenship to register are drawing the most fire. Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, argues they amount to a poll tax — something banned by the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Kansas is the latest in growing list of states that has attempted to reform its election process through stricter registration, an issue often linked to the national debate over illegal immigration.

John Trasvina, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said Kansas is the latest state to consider such a proposal to combat alleged fraud by illegal immigrants. His organization is watching the Kansas bill.

"As soon as one goes down, another pops up," Trasvina said from his Los Angeles office. "It's trying to curtail bona fide Latino voters. It's an economic barrier to voting that we as a nation got rid of in the 1960s."

The voter ID proposal is likely to find favor in the House, where Republicans hold a 78-47 majority. The House already is planning a debate Monday on a bill declaring English the state's official language — something Trasvina's group also is watching.

"Voting is a right, but it's also a privilege. I don't think what they've come up with — the little I've heard —

it's not really onerous to ask for those things," said House Majority Leader Ray Merrick, R-Stilwell. "Throughout the country, we're hearing about voter misconduct. I think we want to head it off before it gets here."

Trasvina said similar arguments have been made in courts across the country, though defenders of voter ID laws have failed to cite examples.

Trasvina doubts any political race in Kansas is so compelling that an illegal immigrant or someone seeking citizenship would risk being deported by trying to vote. He said he hesitated to blame racism for the bill but said voter suppression can't be ruled out.

"You either drive up your supporters or drive down your opponents. This drives down your opponents," he said. "It's not as if it's a border state or that voter registration or turnout is so high. It's hard enough in general to get citizens to vote that a priority would be to take these steps."

Thornburgh said the state doesn't know whether fraud is rampant because there aren't measures in place — such as voter ID requirements — to head it off. Fraud is possible, he said, because a federal law requires states to offer applicants for driver's licenses the opportunity to register.

Still, he has no proof of any problems.

"The bottom line is I agree with what it's trying to do. I want to make sure we have a constitutional implementation when we do it," Thornburgh said.

Merrick said allegations by Senate Democrats that the registration requirements amounted to a poll tax were "a cheap shot."

"Those are all red herrings," he said. "Those are excuses, not answers."

Others in the House don't see a fraud problem.

"Some of the people complaining about illegal elections keep getting elected, so the illegals must be voting for them," said Minority Leader Dennis McKinney, D-Greensburg. "Why do we need to make it harder to vote?"

He said a birth certificate is required to get a driver's license, and a license should be accepted for registering.

Topeka activist Sonny Scroggins said he doesn't understand throwing more obstacles in front of Kansans when voter participation is already low. Scroggins has registered thousands of voters over the past 30 years, many of them middle-aged adults who never participated in elections before.

He said he understands the need to maintain the integrity of elections but called the Senate bill "unfortunate."

"What kind of failed leadership do we have in Kansas where we are going backward instead of forward?" Scroggins said. "We're headed down a slippery slope."

Kansas City Man Sentenced For Child Porn

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — A suburban Kansas City man was sentenced Friday to five years in prison for running a Web site that offered paid subscribers access to child pornography.

The for-profit site operated by Douglas Welch, 42, of Leawood, offered customers access to thousands of images of girls from 2 to 17 years old, U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren said in a news release.

Welch was found guilty of one

count of possessing child pornography at a bench trial on Feb. 1.

Investigators served a search warrant in August 2001 where they seized Welch's computer and found an Internet banner ad Welch created for "Hidden Lolitas."

According to court records, for \$22.95, Welch's customers received a username and password to allow them to access "over 20,000 Lolita pictures stored on our hidden server," the site said.

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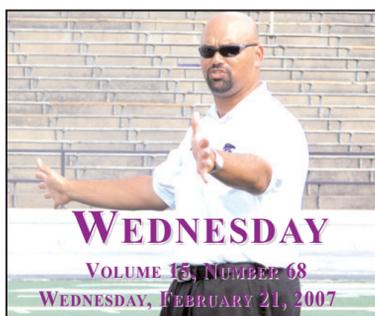
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Wildcat Men And Women Toppled By University Of Kansas

Women Lose In Double OT

Lawrence, Kan. — Kansas needed two overtimes to end Kansas State's 12-game stranglehold on the Sunflower State Showdown as Jayhawks knocked off the Wildcats 82-74 at Allen Fieldhouse Sunday afternoon.

Ashley Sweat scored a career-high 20 points to lead Kansas State (16-10, 4-9 Big 12), including a bucket with 16.5 seconds left in regulation to force the first of two overtimes.

Kimberly Dietz added 17 points and Claire Coggins finished with 14 for the Wildcats, who lead by as many as three in the first OT session before being outscored 12-1 during the first 4 1/2 minutes of the second.

Danielle McCray scored seven of her career-high 25 points during the second overtime to lead Kansas (9-17, 3-10 Big 12), which grabbed its first win in the Sunflower Showdown since edging the Wildcats in Manhattan, 65-62, on Jan. 27, 2001.

McCray also snatched 10 rebounds and along with Sahquina Mosley's 21 points and 14 boards was one of two Jayhawks to record a double-double. Mosley also had nine assists and just missed out on a triple-double for Kansas, which has won three of its last four games after opening Big 12 play with nine straight losses.

Kansas State trailed by as many as nine points in the first half and was down 34-26 at the break before using a furious rally to get back into the

game. The Wildcats outscored the Jayhawks 22-9 during a six minute stretch of the second half to forge a 50-48 lead with just over 10 minutes to go.

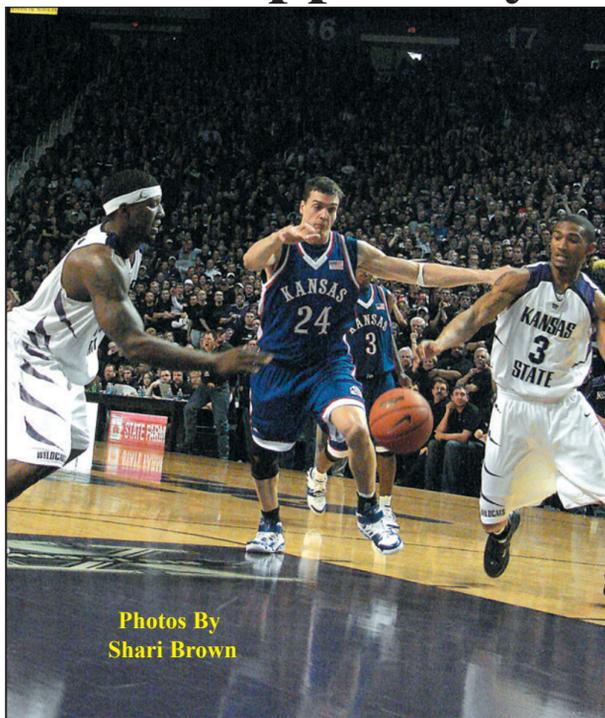
But after taking a 54-53 lead on a layup by Sweat with six minutes remaining in regulation, K-State went scoreless for nearly five minutes allowing KU to regain the lead, 58-54.

A layup by Coggins with 1:13 to go, however, pulled K-State within a basket and set up Sweat's game-tying field goal that sent the contest into overtime.

The Wildcats carried that momentum into the first overtime and after three ties and three lead changes built a 69-66 lead thanks to a driving layup by Shalee Lehning and two free throws by Dietz.

After Mosley hit two from the line to pull KU within one, Dietz and Danielle Zanotti had a chance to put the game away for K-State but could hit only 1-of-3 from the stripe. Dietz missed the front end of a 1-and-1 and Zanotti could only knock down the second of her two freebees to keep the Jayhawks hopes alive.

Mosley capitalized, hitting a driving layup of her own to re-tie the game at 70-70 with six seconds to play. The Wildcats drove down and had a chance to get a good look at a potential game-winner, but Dietz's pass in the lane was picked off with time about to expire.



Photos By
Shari Brown

David Hoskins(left) Sasha Kaun(24) and Lance Harris(3) spot a loose ball

Jayhawks Conquer Wildcats

Courtesy Kansas State University Kansas State had the tempo much to its liking for most of the game, but in the end No. 9 Kansas just had too much for the Wildcats as the Jayhawks escaped Bramlage Coliseum 71-62 Monday night.

Cartier Martin scored 19 points and Clent Stewart added 11 for Kansas State (19-9, 8-5 Big 12), which led 30-29 at the break but quickly fell behind in the second half and never recovered.

It was the first loss of the season after leading at the break for the Wildcats, who also got 10 points from Lance Harris and nine each from David Hoskins and Akeem Wright.

Sherron Collins scored 20 points and Mario Chalmers chipped in with 17 for Kansas (24-4, 12-2 Big 12), which won its 24th in a row in Manhattan.

The Jayhawks scored the first five points of the second half on jumper by Julian Wright and a 3-pointer by Chalmers and never trailed again.

The Wildcats tied the game for the final time with 11:12 to go when

Harris connected on the third of three straight K-State triples to knot the game at 43-43.

But Collins answered with a trey of his own and Darrell Arthur netted a pair of free throws to put Kansas back on top by five.

A 7-0 run by the Jayhawks gave KU its largest lead of the game at 59-57 with 5:39 to go. The Wildcats got within six on a layup by Stewart with 37 seconds remaining that made it 68-62, but could not score again.

Four ties and six lead changes highlighted a frenetic first half that saw neither team lead by more than five points.

Each team's largest lead of the half came in the first 10 minutes. The final tie came at the 4:19 mark on a free throw by KU's Arthur.

A layup by Stewart and a jumper by Wright in the final two minutes gave the Wildcats a 30-26 edge. The Jayhawks sliced it to one just before intermission, when Collins drained a triple from the top of the key with 13.9 seconds to go making it 20-29 Cats at the break.

Big Monday Postgame Notes

This was the 261st game in the series between Kansas State and Kansas... The Jayhawks lead the all-time series 172-89 (.659)... Head coach Bob Huggins is now 0-3 against Kansas... The attendance Monday night was 13,340, the first fourth sellout of the season in Bramlage Coliseum.

• The Wildcats are 213-82 (.722) in Bramlage Coliseum since its opening in the 1988 season... K-State is now 841-323 (.723) all-time in home games... K-State is now 15-39 (.278) against ranked foes in Bramlage.

• The Wildcats' starting lineup tonight consisted of: junior guard Clent Stewart, senior guard Lance Harris, senior guard Akeem Wright, junior forward David Hoskins, freshman center Luis Colon... It is the ninth time this season this group has started together... The lineup is 8-1 this season as a starting unit... It is the 50th-straight start of Hoskins' career... Harris has now appeared in 86 straight games... After coming off the bench at the 15:30 mark of the first half, Cartier Martin has now appeared in 98 consecutive games.

• With a 3-point basket at 13:47, Cartier Martin has now scored in 65 consecutive games... The last time he was held scoreless in a game was Feb. 5, 2005 against Colorado... Martin finished with a team-high 19 points on 5-of-13 (38.5 percent), the 12th straight game in double figures and the 22nd time this season... He has led the Wildcats in scoring 11 times and 32 times in his career... He was 4-of-10 (40.0 percent) from beyond the arc and has connected on

154 career 3-pointers.

• With a connection from beyond the arc by Akeem Wright at 18:23, K-State has now hit a 3-point field goal in 309 consecutive games... Wright finished the night with nine points and 5 rebounds... This is the 19th time this season he has snared five or more rebounds.

• Clent Stewart recorded five assists to pass Chris Griffin (1997-99) and Askia Jones (1990-94) for fifth in school history with 275 for his career... Needs just 15 assists to tie Anthony Beane (1993-94) for fourth in K-State history.

• Lance Harris dropped in 10 points and snared seven rebounds... It is the 14th time this season he has reached twin figures in scoring... It is the eighth time he has grabbed five or more boards.

• David Hoskins scored nine points and snared a team-high eight rebounds... He has led the Wildcats in rebounding nine times this season and 12 times in his career... He has grabbed five or more rebounds in 21 games this season and 13 of the last 15 contests.

• The Wildcats scored 21 points on 16 Kansas turnovers... The Jayhawks converted six points on nine K-State turnovers... In the last 21 games, K-State has forced 332 turnovers (15.8 tpg).

Kansas State held a 30-29 advantage at the half, this was the 15th time this season the Wildcats have held an opponent below 30 points in the first half... The Wildcats were 5-of-12 (41.7 percent) from beyond the arc in the first half.



David Hoskins (15) battles Sasha Kaun(24) for a rebound

Coach Huggins On The KU Game

Courtesy Kansas State University Bob Huggins

On defending Kansas...

"They've got great athletes. If you have great athletes you make great plays. They just keep throwing big athletes at you. (Sherron) Collins is special, he's a very good player. You just can't stay in front of him."

On the offense...
"We haven't scored the ball all year. We took bad shots in the first half. I thought we had pretty good looks in the second half for Lance (Harris) and Cartier (Martin) and we threw it to Dave (Hoskins) close. I thought our shot selection in the second half was better than our shot

selection in the first half. In the first half we took some God awful shots, we just couldn't make any."

On missed opportunities...

"We had it tied and (Clent Stewart) missed a shot in the corner... they're good, man. They're good and we didn't do enough to win. You can't give them that many offensive rebounds, you can't give them too many second chances. We gave them too many second chances. If you give them too many second chances, they're going to beat you because you're good."



Blake Young attempts to slow Sherron Collins(4)



Jermaine Maybank(23) drives to the hoop

Bill Self's Thoughts On Game

Kansas Head Coach Bill Self On the offensive struggles of Rush and Wright...

"I would say going into it, if those guys would combine for the offensive night that they did, I would say it would be a real struggle, and it was. Mario (Chalmers) and Shady (Darrell Arthur) carried us in the first half, and Sherron (Collins) put us on his back in the second half. We said all along it would be different guys, and tonight was a prime example. There are two guys that are terrific players, and offensively it wasn't their night, but they still contributed in so many ways. Julian (Wright) did a great job on Hoskins. So they still contributed, but it wasn't their night."

On the slow start...

"Thirty-one minutes is still quite a bit for a non-starter. He gets it. There have been times this year where Russell (Robinson) has been our best player. There have been times where Mario (Chalmers) has been our best player. And certainly there has been many times this year where Brandon (Rush) has been our best player. Sherron (Collins) was on a roll tonight. He was our best player tonight. I like the way we are doing it. It's probably not as fair to him, but it is certainly better for our team. I talked to Sherron about it. I said, 'You are playing well enough. You deserve to start.' He said, 'I know, but if I did, it could screw up chemistry.' He is about winning. If he is getting close to 30 minutes a game,

then trust me, he is not going to complain much."

On the difference in the second half...

"Well, I think we didn't shoot the ball well either half. But we probably did a little better job in the second half of getting in the lane and getting more easy baskets. We rebounded the ball better in the second half, and I think our first-shot defense against them was pretty good the entire night. It is a fine line in this game. Tonight many times we scored at the end of the clock and maybe we would get a stop at the end of the clock. Tonight there wasn't much difference in the game at all. We happened to make some plays at the most opportune times."

On shutting down David Hoskins...

"Well, you don't think you can make him go 2-for-15. Our length may have bothered him tonight a little bit. Certainly, we think their offensive game revolves through him more than anyone else. Of course, Cartier (Martin) had a fabulous game shooting the ball. But I never anticipated us doing that good of a job on Hoskins."

Freshman Forward Darrell Arthur On his performance and Sherron Collins' effort...

"I knew I was going to play a lot of minutes because they play a real small game. I knew I had to step up on the glass. Sherron (Collins) did a great job getting to the lane once again."

Hoskins Leads Cats Past Iowa State Cyclones

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — David Hoskins scored 20 points and Kansas State used a big second half run to roll past Iowa State 65-47 Saturday night before 13,314 at Bramlage Coliseum.

Cartier Martin added 17 points for Kansas State (19-8, 8-4 Big 12), including two 3-pointers during the decisive 22-6 spurt, which broke a 22-all tie and gave the Wildcats their first series sweep of the Cyclones since 1999.

Iowa State (13-13, 4-8) tied the game a minute out of halftime on a short jumper by Wesley Johnson, but the Cyclones did not hit another field goal for nearly six minutes as Hoskins and Martin scored on an array of drives, jumpers and standstill 3s.

At one point, the duo combined for 12 straight points as the Wildcats built a 44-28 lead.

Kansas State led by as many as 18 in the second half before Mike Taylor, the Cyclones' leading scorer, finally got on track. Just as he did in the teams' first meeting, when Taylor scored 21 points in the last eight minutes, the junior guard began pouring in 3-pointers.

Taylor cut the lead to 55-43 with just over 5 minutes left on a triple from the wing, but Kansas State guard Lance Harris answered at the other end to snuff out the Cyclones' comeback bid.

Taylor had 12 of his team-high 17 points in the second half, as Kansas State's constant pressure in the half-court forced Iowa State into season-

lows for scoring and rebounding. Jiri Hubalek finished with 13 points, but was mostly silent after scoring his team's first six.

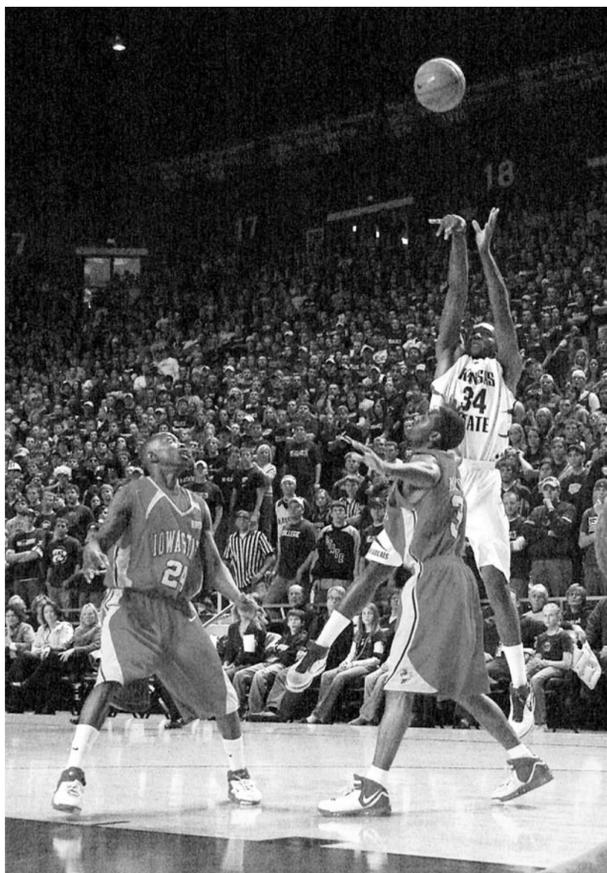
Harris finished with 13 points for Kansas State, which had lost two of its last three and sits precariously on the NCAA tournament bubble. The Wildcats have won nine of their last 11 games, including road wins against Texas, Missouri and Iowa State.

But Kansas State's postseason chances could get much better if it can beat the rival Jayhawks at Bramlage Coliseum, something that has never happened since the building opened for the 1988-89 season. Kansas has won 33 of the last 34 in the series, including a 97-70 romp earlier this season at Allen Fieldhouse.

Kansas State coach Bob Huggins had warned his team not to look ahead, though, and it looked for a while as if they had paid little attention.

The first half was equal parts sloppy and scrappy, as the Cyclones and Wildcats combined for 21 turnovers, a plethora of offensive fouls and each endured long stretches without a field goal.

Kansas State missed 11 of its first 14 shots and trailed 14-9 with about 8 minutes left in the half, before it was Iowa State's turn for ineptitude. The Cyclones went 6:06 without a field goal, and after Hoskins gave the Wildcats a 15-14 lead with 5:43 to go, they would not trail again the rest of the way.



Akeem Wright(34) Launches a jumper over Iowa State

Martin Issued Public Reprimand

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — The Big 12 has issued a public reprimand of Kansas State forward Cartier Martin for his comments about officiating in the Wildcats' loss to Nebraska.

After Tuesday's 74-63 defeat, Martin said, "I think it was definitely eight against five."

The statement violated the Big 12's Principles and Standards of Sportsmanship, Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said in a news release. The rule "prohibits coaches, student-athletes, athletic department staff and university personnel from making public comments critical of game officials."

"Consistent with our precedent for such violations, Mr. Martin has received a public reprimand," Weiberg said.

Kansas State coach Bob Huggins had no comment, team spokesman Tom Gilbert said.

Nebraska took 38 free throws in the game as opposed to 13 for Kansas State. Twenty-five of them came from Huskers center Aleks Maric, who finished with a career-high 41 points.

Martin, Akeem Wright and David Hoskins all fouled out of the game. Hoskins fouled out midway through the second half after picking up a foul, followed seconds later by a technical foul.

Big 12 spokesman Rob Carolla has said the office rarely issues public reprimands during the season, but Martin's is the second this week.

Texas Tech coach Bob Knight was

reprimanded on Wednesday for comments made after a 93-91 double-overtime loss to Oklahoma State. Knight called a charging foul "horrendous" and "maybe as bad a call as I've ever seen."

Missouri Player Suspended

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The son of Missouri basketball coach Mike Anderson has been suspended indefinitely following an early-morning DUI arrest Friday.

Michael Anderson Jr., a reserve guard who has played in only 10 games this season, was arrested by campus police as he drove alone near Mizzou Arena, an athletic department spokesman said.

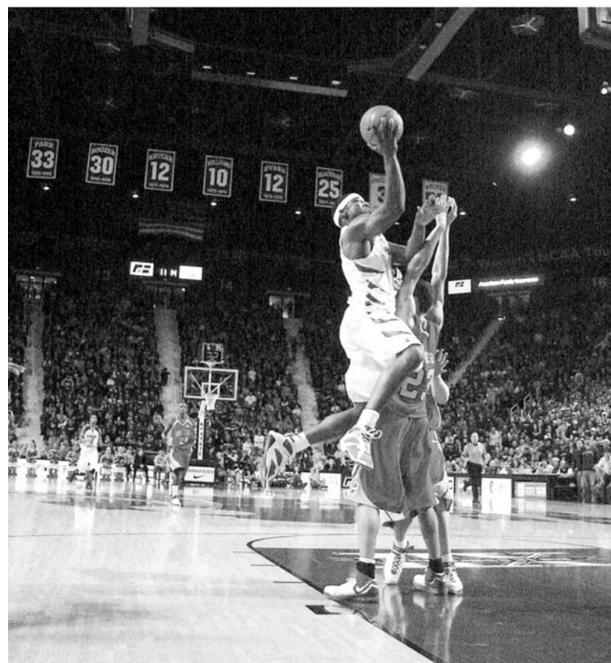
The Tigers (15-9, 4-7 Big 12) left town for a Saturday game at No. 18 Oklahoma State (19-6, 5-5) without the coach's son. As part of his suspension, the younger Anderson will not practice with the team.

"We are obviously very disappointed in the decision made by Michael," the coach said in a statement. "This is a serious error in judgment and we regret any inconvenience this has brought upon our community, our campus and our program."

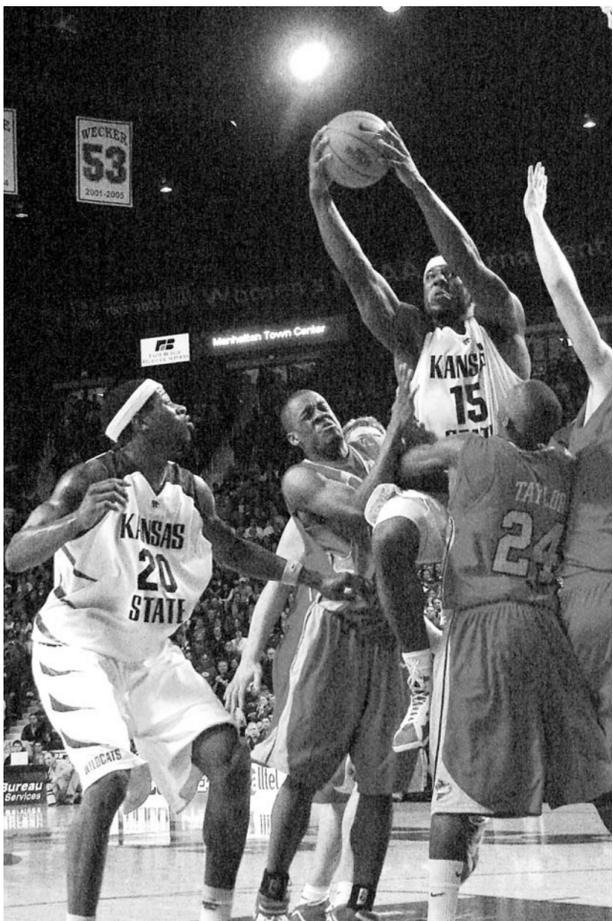
"Michael is a great young man and our challenge now is to help him, and our team, learn from this situation."

Any other disciplinary action "will be handled internally," the coach said.

According to campus police, Anderson, 21, was driving west on



David Hoskins elevates past an Iowa State defender



David Hoskins (15) fights to the hoop

Groves Smashes Meet Record

Kansas State sophomore Loren Groves broke a nine-year old meet record in the women's weight throw on Thursday during the KSU Open in Ahearn Field House. For the day, K-State won six event titles.

Groves advanced to the eight-woman finals in the weight throw with two throws of 65-08.25. She opened her final set of throws with a mark of 65-11.00. On her second throw of the finals, she reached a distance of 67-05.50 and capped her day off with a new personal-best and KSU Open record of 68-03.75. The previous meet record was set in 1998 by Renetta Seiler of Kansas State with a throw of 66-07.75.

The native of Scott City, Mo., has won four of five weight throw competitions this season and has also thrown beyond 65 feet in four of five efforts. With Thursday's performance, Groves increased her lead atop the Big 12 Conference and among the NCAA national leaders. Entering the weekend, Groves ranked fourth in the nation with her previous career-best of 67-10.25.

Senior Kaylene Wagner rebounded from a fifth-place finish at the ISU Classic to register a new personal-best. The product of Goleta, Calif., finished second in the high jump at a height of 6-01.25. Wagner moved into fourth in the K-State record books with her clearance, surpassing her previous high of 6-00.75

at the Dan DeHart Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M.

Junior Thomaïda Polydorou won the women's long jump by a quarter of an inch over Darcie Schmitz of Cloud County, 18-00.50 to 18-00.25. The effort was a new season-best for Polydorou.

Sophomore Emily Dittmore captured the women's 600-yard run title with a personal season-best time of 1:28.13.

On the men's side, sophomore Nate Brummet won the men's weight throw in a personal-best distance of 59-07.75. The Miltonvale, Kan., native entered the day with a previous personal-best of 56-09.50, which came during the KSU Invitational on Jan. 6.

Sophomore Mike Myer zipped to a win in the men's 60-meter dash in 6.83. The clocking by the Lenexa, Kan., native is a new personal-best and the eighth-fastest in school history.

Senior Bryce Bergman put the finishing touches on his final career indoor meet in a Wildcat uniform with a winning clearance of 16-00.75, winning a judge's decision over Thomas Brooks of Southern Nazarene.

The Wildcats will take a delegation of athletes to the Big 12 Indoor Track and Field Championships in Ames, Iowa next weekend, Feb. 23-24.

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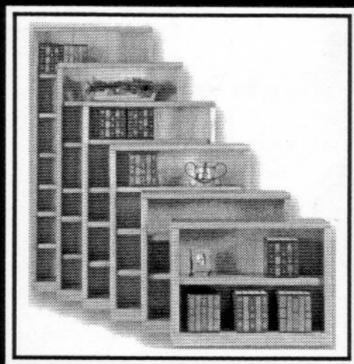
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Sports Potpourri

By Mac Stevenson

Excitement is mounting for college basketball fans as the NCAA Tournament approaches. There's nothing quite like it.

Outstanding teams with exceptional records often see their dreams dissolve against lesser teams that have hot-shooting games. Ask Kansas.

The pressure in the Big Dance is overwhelming. And the excitement and entertainment for the fans surpasses all other athletic events during the year.

Forget the polls that are orchestrated by the East Coast media; they are meaningless once the tournament begins. This season, in alphabetical order, ten teams are the main contenders to win it all: Florida, Georgetown, Kansas, Memphis, North Carolina, Ohio State, Pittsburgh, Texas A&M, UCLA, and Wisconsin.

Ohio State and Pittsburgh will go out early. The Buckeyes are too young and Pittsburgh isn't talented enough to win it. That leaves eight.

Florida and North Carolina have a slight edge over the other six, but it's very slight. Texas A&M and UCLA will lose before the Final Four.

In addition to Florida and North Carolina, Georgetown, Kansas, Memphis, and Wisconsin are capable of running the table; these six teams are close in talent and experience.

Contrary to popular belief, the luck of the draw plays a big role. Winning the first-round game and getting rid of tournament jitters is not always easy. No coach wants to play unrated teams with talented 3-point shooters who can get hot.

For betting pools, it's too early to pick the winner. The best wager is that the upcoming prediction will be wrong.

KU's biggest game of the season will be their first-round game in the Big Dance, regardless of who the Jayhawks draw.

Kansas has gone out in the first round the last two seasons against Bucknell and Bradley; a good showing this time around will erase those horrid memories. But another loss in the first round would be unbearable in every sense of the word. The pressure on the Jayhawks will be palpable.

One big difference for KU in contrast to last season is the confidence of Brandon Rush (6-6, 212). Last year Rush started hot and then slumped. This season Rush continued his shooting slump at the start, but now he's playing exceptional basketball and hitting his shots. He could lead the Jayhawks to the throne room.

KU has three regular-sea-

son games left: I-State on ESPN this Saturday, at OU on ESPN's Big Monday, and Texas on March 3 (CBS). Then it's the Big 12 Tournament; all of these games are insignificant compared to the Big Dance.

The conference tournaments are fun for the fans; however, for teams that have already secured a bid to the NCAA Tournament, they are like exhibition games.

Kansas State's next two games are on the road: at CU Saturday and Oklahoma State on Wednesday, February 28. The Wildcats wind up the regular season at home against OU (ABC) on March 3.

If K-State wins two of their last three, they're a cinch for the NCAA. If they lose two of the three, the Cats might need at least one win in the Big 12 Tournament to ensure an invite.

All is not well within the Kansas State football family. Just a few weeks ago, Coach Ron Prince hired Wes McGriff away from Baylor to be his defensive backfield coach. McGriff resigned last week to take a similar position at Miami. If this were an isolated incident, it would be irrelevant. But it's not an isolated incident.

Following McGriff's hasty defection, Prince said, "We are disappointed in Coach McGriff's decision to pursue this opportunity at the University of Miami, yet we acknowledge that he made an impact in the short time he was here and we wish him the best. We will continue to identify and attract terrific coaches, and we anticipate naming a replacement soon." That statement sounds hollow.

Scott Frost—former Nebraska great—is also leaving to become a defensive assistant at Northern Iowa. Frost and McGriff are the fifth and sixth staff members to jump ship since the end of the 2006 season.

Perhaps most perplexing of all, Prince has released Jim "Shorty" Kleinau as equipment manager. Kleinau has been a Wildcat fixture since 1979.

Coach Prince has chosen to ignore most of Bill Snyder's guidelines that were established over a long and fabled career as K-State's coach. Unlike Snyder, Prince has decided to take on all comers in the nonconference season. That's his right as head coach, but he'll have to suffer the consequences.

Prince has scheduled Auburn on the road to open the 2007 season. That's like dancing barefoot into a field filled with hornets' nests.

From here, there's an unsettling feeling that much is amiss within the K-State football family.

KSU Baseball Season Off To A Sunny Start In Louisiana

SHREVEPORT, La. — Kansas State came up a little short in making it a perfect weekend in Shreveport as Centenary held the Wildcats to one run Sunday in a 4-1 loss at Sheehee Stadium. The Wildcats (3-1) finished the weekend with the best record among the three teams participating, while Centenary improved to 5-6 on the season with the win Sunday.

Starter Justin Murray (0-1) held Centenary in check for three innings as neither team could push any runs across early in the game. The Gents then struck first in the fourth inning as a leadoff walk led to an RBI-groundout and a 1-0 Centenary lead. Murray finished the day with five strikeouts and gave up two runs on six hits with four walks in the losing effort.

K-State's earliest scoring threat came in the fifth as Rob Vaughn and Derek Bunker each singled with two outs, but Eddie Vasquez's sharp grounder was snagged up the middle and Bunker was forced out at second to end the inning.

Centenary added another run in the sixth as a one-out single and a wild pitch put a Gent in scoring position, and a single down the line followed to up the margin to 2-0 heading into

the final three innings.

K-State finally got on the board in the seventh as Jordan Cruz led off with a double and Eli Rumler was then hit by a pitch. After a Nate Tenbrink sacrifice bunt, Rob Vaughn drove in Cruz with a sacrifice fly to cut the margin to 2-1. The Cats then got a leadoff walk from Eddie Vasquez in the eighth, but after a pop up and a ground out, the senior was thrown out at the plate with two outs after a Tyler Link single to keep the game at 2-1.

Centenary then added two more insurance runs in the bottom of the eighth on two RBI singles to take a 4-1 lead and closer Aaron Bronson retired the Wildcats in order in the ninth to earn his second save.

Gent starter Jeremy Sheehan (2-1) scattered six hits over 7.0 innings while yielding just the one run.

Biery and Link led the Wildcat offense with two hits, while Vaughn drove in the lone run for K-State.

Next action for Kansas State is Friday in Tampa, Fla. The Wildcats open play against Seton Hall Friday at 12 p.m. at the Yankee Player Development Complex.

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 18, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Pvs	Record	Pts
1. Duke (50)	28-0	1,250
2. Tennessee	24-2	1,190
3. Connecticut	24-2	1,129
4. North Carolina	26-2	1,116
5. Ohio St.	24-2	977
6. Maryland	25-4	957
7. LSU	23-4	947
8. Stanford	23-4	869
9. George Washington	23-2	846
10. Arizona St.	25-3	829
11. Georgia	23-5	770
12. Vanderbilt	23-4	665

13. Oklahoma	20-4	629
14. Baylor	23-4	609
15. Purdue	23-5	532
16. Texas A&M	20-5	498
17. Middle Tennessee	24-3	465
18. Bowling Green	24-2	437
19. Marquette	22-4	304
20. Michigan St.	21-6	300
21. Rutgers	17-7	256
22. James Madison	24-2	157
23. Louisville	22-5	107
24. Wis.-Green Bay	21-3	102
25. Nebraska	21-6	90

Others receiving votes: N.C. State 66, California 61, Montana 37, Temple 18, Pittsburgh 16, Notre Dame 11, Tulane 8, TCU 1, W. Kentucky 1.

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 18, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Wisconsin (35)	26-2	1,747
2. Ohio St. (31)	24-3	1,728
3. Florida (4)	24-3	1,647
4. UCLA (2)	23-3	1,611
5. North Carolina	23-4	1,474
6. Kansas	23-4	1,403
7. Memphis	23-3	1,378
8. Texas A&M	22-4	1,283
9. Washington St.	22-4	1,172
10. Pittsburgh	23-4	1,161
11. Nevada	24-2	1,146
12. Georgetown	20-5	1,009
13. S. Illinois	23-5	962
14. Air Force	23-4	831

15. Butler	24-4	695
16. Marquette	21-7	510
17. Vanderbilt	18-8	413
18. Duke	20-7	410
19. Texas	19-7	332
20. Louisville	19-8	286
21. BYU	20-6	264
22. West Virginia	20-6	240
23. Oregon	20-7	218
24. Virginia	18-7	185
25. Alabama	19-7	177

Others receiving votes: Southern Cal 170, Virginia Tech 126, Oklahoma St. 123, Kentucky 110, Stanford 88, Winthrop 75, Boston College 74, Arizona 59, Maryland 48, Notre Dame 39, UNLV 35, Kansas St. 34, Xavier 28, Indiana 21, Akron 19, Creighton 16, Old Dominion 15, Davidson 8, Va. Commonwealth 7, Santa Clara 6, Drexel 4, Massachusetts 4, New Mexico St. 3, Texas Tech 3, Tennessee 2.

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Rutgers Extends And Enhances Schiano's Contract

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — On the heels of historic back-to-back bowl seasons, Rutgers on Friday rewarded football coach Greg Schiano with a four-year contract extension that will increase his annual pay by nearly a half.

It was the second time in less than two years that the school extended Schiano's contract — he had received a seven-year extension in December 2005. The new deal runs through 2016 and increases his annual compensation package from about \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

A former assistant at Miami, Schiano was rumored to be the top candidate to replace fired Larry Coker there, but took his name out of consideration in December. It was

around that time that Rutgers officials approached him, he said.

Schiano almost certainly would have made more money at Miami, which was paying Coker about \$2 million annually.

"I wouldn't be here if I didn't believe that our university didn't want to be the very best," Schiano said. "There's a committed group of people who want to take the program to the very top. Certainly it's not a money issue, because if it was a money issue I wouldn't be here. This is where I want to be."

Schiano, hired in 2000, orchestrated Rutgers' rise from one of the nation's worst programs to a top-10 team last season. He led the Scarlet Knights to their first bowl appear-

ance in 27 years in 2005 and its first-ever bowl win last season.

Last season, Rutgers won its first nine games, rose to a highest-ever No. 7 ranking in The Associated Press poll and defeated Kansas State 37-10 in the Texas Bowl. The Scarlet Knights finished 11-2 and were within a triple-overtime loss at West Virginia of playing in a BCS bowl.

Rutgers went 7-5 and reached the Insight Bowl in 2005. In the eight seasons before Schiano arrived, Rutgers was 9-46-1 in the Big East. In the last two seasons they were 9-5 in the conference.

"What Greg has accomplished in his six years at Rutgers is truly one of the outstanding coaching efforts in college football history," said athletic director Robert E. Mulcahy III, who hired Schiano and gave him a two-year extension in 2002 even though Rutgers had lost 20 of 23 games in Schiano's first two seasons.

Schiano's base pay will increase from \$250,000 to \$450,000 for the next two seasons, and he'll then get \$500,000 in 2009 and 2010 and \$550,000 for each of the next six sea-

sons. He will also earn between \$950,000 and \$1.05 million per year in guaranteed additional payments and receive an interest-free \$800,000 house loan that will be paid by the university in \$100,000 increments for each year he remains at Rutgers.

Schiano can buy himself out of the contract for amounts starting at \$1 million for next season and decreasing to \$250,000 in the contract's final year.

Rutgers returns 13 starters for next season including Heisman Trophy candidate Ray Rice, who rushed for a school-record 1,794 yards last season; junior quarterback Mike Teel and All-American defensive tackle Eric Foster.

The Scarlet Knights recently released a schedule that includes eight games at Rutgers Stadium, where they were 6-0 last season.

"I chose to stay here because I think we can be the best of any program in the country," Schiano said. "If I didn't think we had chance to be the very best, I wouldn't have stayed. I feel more strongly about that today than I ever have."



Clent Stewart sets the play in motion

Vanderbilt Coach Grabs Game Ball

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Florida basketball coach Billy Donovan and star forward Joakim Noah downplayed incidents that happened in a 83-70 loss at Vanderbilt.

Donovan said Monday he had no problem with what transpired between Noah and Commodores coach Kevin Stallings two days earlier. Stallings grabbed the basketball near his bench under the basket and refused to give it to Noah for an inbound pass. Noah reached for it again, and Stallings swatted his hand away.

"Obviously, Kevin had the ball and Jo tried to get it to inbound it, and I don't think there was anything that was that bad to me as a coach," Donovan said. "I've got great respect for Stallings. He and I have a good relationship. I think if there was an issue for me, and for him, he and I would address it and talk about it. We haven't. He acted like it was no big deal after the game. After watching it, I don't think it's any big deal."

Noah agreed, even though he said Stallings barked something at him as he attempted to get the ball.

"It's over with," Noah said. "I'm not really supposed to talk about it. All I can say is that ... I feel like people are just trying to get in my head. It's corny, but it's OK. Whatever. I'm over it. At the end of the day, if he tried to take the ball away from me, I wouldn't let him get it, either. I think

that people are just trying to get in my head, and I'm not going to let that happen. They got us this time. Hopefully we get a chance to see them again in the (Southeastern Conference) tournament."

Stallings said Monday that "it's something that happened in the heat of the moment."

"I haven't heard anything from anybody," Stallings said when asked whether the league had commented on his actions. "That's not the story of the game. The story of the game is how our team played."

The usually outspoken Noah seemingly held back several times when asked about what happened.

"I would have been laughing about it if we were winning," Noah said. "But we were losing. I just wanted to get the ball and play basketball, but he's a tough guy."

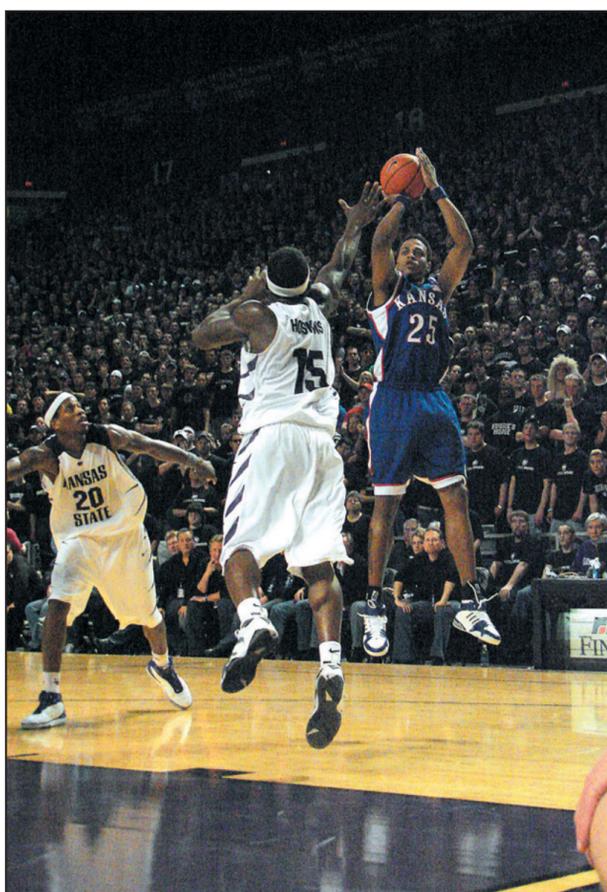
The Gators (24-3, 11-1), who dropped from first to third in the latest Associated Press poll Monday, had another problem after the game when fans rushed the court.

Freshman guard Brandon Powell allegedly threw a punch during Vanderbilt's on-court celebration.

Donovan said the team video showed Powell getting pushed while trying to get off the court.

"I don't think anybody was trying to hurt anybody," Donovan said.

"I think (he) kind of got hit from the front and obviously used his



David Hoskins (15) sticks a hand in the face of Brandon Rush (25)

hands to defend himself and get out of there. I think that issue is really not a Florida issue. I think it's a Vanderbilt issue.

It's a Vanderbilt administrative issue.

Beckman Named Defensive Coordinator At Oklahoma State

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Tim Beckman left BCS runner-up Ohio State on Friday to become the new defensive coordinator at Oklahoma State.

Beckman spent the last two seasons as cornerbacks coach with the Buckeyes, who lost to Florida 41-14 on Jan. 8 in the BCS national championship game. He replaces Vance Bedford, who was named Michigan's secondary coach on Thursday after two seasons leading Oklahoma State's defense.

"I think it says something for the direction that we're going," said Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy, who last season led the Cowboys to their fourth bowl game in the past five years.

"Our administration has vision and he knows that. It's really a great hire for us, but I know he was very excited."

Gundy said a coach wouldn't leave a good job unless he saw potential at his next destination.

Beckman helped turn a secondary that didn't have a returning starter

into one of the best in the Big Ten. Antonio Smith, a walk-on who had spent his career on special teams, had a big senior season in 2006 at cornerback in his first substantial playing time.

"Obviously he's a good football coach and he's got good schemes that will go well with our football team," Gundy said.

Gundy added that he thought Beckman's tireless recruiting approach and personality would fit in well with his staff. He said he didn't know yet whether Beckman's arrival would affect the roles of other coaches on his staff.

"We will try to put pressure on the quarterback, which I feel is the key to stopping today's offenses," Beckman said in a statement. "We will be sound and play with an aggressive attitude as we swarm to the football."

Gundy expected Beckman to be in Stillwater on Saturday.

Before arriving at Ohio State, Beckman was the defensive coordinator at Bowling Green for six years.

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