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Coach Snyder: “Arkansas Has It All”



The Kansas State offense at work in the Texas game.

**By Mark Janssen
K-State Sports Extra**

Scouting the No. 6 Arkansas Razorbacks (10-2) is relatively easy, according to Kansas State coach Bill Snyder: “They’re good at everything and anything you can think of. They run well, they’re a fast football team and a physical football team.”

A team that, he notes, passes for 285 yards per game with a 63 percent completion rate and 24 touchdowns, but also a running attack that accounts for 138 yards per game and an additional 25 touchdowns.

Oh, and in Joe Adams the Razorbacks have a punt returner who averages 16.2 yards and has three touchdowns, two kickoff return men who have tallied and average 26 yards per return, and a kicker who is 18-of-24 on field goals with a long of 50 yards.

On defense, Snyder says, “They’re a little bit like Miami.” And on offense, “They’re maybe a little bit like Texas A&M.”

Snyder added, “They’re just a well-balanced football team. They have strengths in all facets of the game.”

NUMBERS FAVOR

WILDCATS: K-State’s rushing average of 194 ranks 29th in the nation, while Arkansas ranks 81st in rushing at 138; K-State’s rushing defense of 131 ranks 30th nationally, while Arkansas ranks 79th at 174; K-State’s turnover margin of plus-13 ranks No. 7 in the nation, while Arkansas ranks No. 60 at 0.0; K-State ranks No. 10 in kickoff returns at 25.5, to an Arkansas average of 23.2 that ranks No. 34.

NUMBERS FAVOR RAZORBACKS: Arkansas’s 308 passing yards ranks 13th in the nation, while K-State ranks No. 109 at 150 yards per game; Arkansas’ total offense of 446 ranks 27th in the country to K-State’s average of 343 which ranks 96th; Arkansas pass defense of 197 ranks 27th in the country to K-State’s 267 which ranks 104th; Arkansas total defense of 371 ranks 37th in the nation, while K-State ranks No. 71 at 399; Arkansas ranks No. 15 in punt returns at 12.8, while K-State is 55th at 8.1.

THE LOSSES: No. 6 Arkansas’ only losses this season were to No. 3 Alabama, 38-14, on Sept. 24, and No. 1 LSU, 41-17, on Nov. 25.

No. 8 K-State’s only losses were to Oklahoma, 58-17, on Oct. 29, and to No. 3 Oklahoma State, 52-45, on

Nov. 5.

THE SCHEDULE:

Snyder indicated that the majority of the practice time prior to this week has been directed toward the younger Wildcats, but now the focus is on the University of Arkansas and the Cotton Bowl meeting on Jan. 6.

K-State worked out four times last week, and this week practices were/scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Wildcats will be given five days off for the holidays before reporting back to the K-State campus on Dec. 29. The team will then leave for Dallas, Texas, on Dec. 31.

SPECIAL TIMES:

Along with daily practices in Dallas at Cowboys Stadium, the Wildcats will be treated to some special activities, plus daily media sessions.

Saturday – Cowboys Stadium Welcome; Sunday – K-State Media Day; Monday – Defensive press conference; Tuesday – Offensive press conference and Lawry’s Beef Bowl; Wednesday – Head coaches press conference, visit of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital; Thursday – AT&T Big Play Luncheon and K-State Pep Rally; Friday – Samsung AT&T Huddle Up, Cowboys Stadium, 7:32 p.m.

76th AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic.

FOR THE FANS:

K-State’s Alumni Association will host a pregame pep rally on Thursday at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. Gates will open at 4 p.m. Additional information is available through www.k-statesports.com/bowlgame.

YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE IMPRESSED:

Quizzed about newcomers and young players who have stepped up in the early practices, Snyder gave this list of names who have impressed:

Offense – Cody Whitehair (OL), Zach Trujillo (TE), Boston Stiverson (OL), Drew Liddle (OL), Zach Nemechek (TE), Daniel Sams (QB), Robert Rose (RB), DeMarcus Robinson (RB).

Defense – Dorian Roberts (DB), Kip Daily (DB), Laton Dowling (DL).

THE INJURED: Tyler Lockett is reportedly doing fine since suffering a lacerated kidney during the Oklahoma State game, but Snyder said “in all likelihood” he will not play in the Cotton Bowl.

Funding Plan shifts Power To Taxpayers

**By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter**

TOPEKA — Kansas taxpayers could gain more control over school spending in their home towns under a new school funding plan unveiled Wednesday.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback’s administration formally presented a plan to the Kansas State Board of Education that also is expected to put more money into classrooms and discourage further lawsuits against the state.

This proposal is part of an overall education reform package that could replace a more complex, 20-year-old plan, which Brownback declared, “is broken.”

Brownback plans to present this plan to legislators during the upcoming session that begins Jan. 9.

Among the school plan’s highlights are:

Raising basic state aid to levels higher than they were before legislators began cutting them in reaction to a Great Recession revenue shortfall;

Giving local school boards more control over what now is state-prescribed spending for at-risk students, bilingual education and other specific costs;

Giving school boards unlimited authority to raise local property taxes for educational spending, subject to the same potential challenges that Kansas law allows to taxpayers for contesting any property tax hike.

“Our proposal is a modern formula that will provide districts the flexibility that is necessary to meet today’s challenges, prepare tomorrow’s opportunities and excel in education,” Brownback said in a statement released with the plan.

“We’re highly encouraged that the governor has rolled out this plan,” said Gene Johnson, superintendent at Shawnee Mission Unified School District 512 in Overland Park, which has one of the highest value property tax bases among any school district in Kansas.

“We’ve been promoting the need for a new finance formula for a long time,” Johnson said.

Vice President Karen Godfrey of the KNEA, the Kansas chapter of the National Education Association, the state’s largest teachers’ union, offered a harsher view.

The plan “gives the term ‘Bleeding Kansas’ a new meaning,” Godfrey said. “Under the Brownback plan, school funding will be permanently locked in at an inadequately low level, despite increasing state revenue.”

Kansas general fund revenue totaled \$142.6 million in July through December, which is

about 6.4 percent more than during the same period last year, according to the Kansas Legislative Research Department.

But that represents only relatively modest growth from Great Recession setbacks, according to Kansas Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan and other revenue officials who’ve been tracking the numbers.

The proposal provides more state aid per pupil, but also removes a system that gives schools extra points for bilingual, at risk and other students for whom providing an education may be more costly.

The potential funding cuts for these groups would be partly offset by money in a proposed new equalization fund, said Landon Fulmer, Brownback’s policy director.

Local school district taxpayers theoretically could elect to make up that money with higher local property taxes, but in real life, “we’ve been unsuccessful with bond elections (in which voters were asked to approve property tax increases to pay for school bonds) in recent years,” said Dan Stiffler, superintendent at Buhler Unified School District 313 in central Kansas. “The plan is decidedly not sensitive to changes in students’ needs.”

The proposed new formula consists of three parts Fulmer said.

The plan would:

Increase basic general fund state aid from \$3,780 to \$4,492 per pupil beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. This increase is required under current statute, but legislators can vote to override state statutes.

Create a new statewide property equalization tax fund to move more of the aid to rural and poor districts that have low property tax bases. This fund is intended to divide a 20-mill statewide property tax, or about \$280 on a mid-price range \$50,000 Kansas home, among districts with higher and lower property tax bases. Districts with low tax bases would get more money to bring their funding nearer to a statewide average.

Create a third, supplemental equalization fund intended to help smooth out year-to-year fluctuations in individual school districts’ aid requirements. Any money from the statewide property equalization tax fund that tops 106 percent of each district’s existing baseline goes into this fund.

Individual school districts also would be free to raise as many local property taxes as voters approve for further funding. Those local option property taxes are limited now.

KS Governor: Cost Cutting Key To Proposed Tax Changes

**By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter**

TOPEKA — Tax reform and school financing are expected to be among the most contentious issues that Kansas lawmakers will address in 2012.

Continued government cost cutting remains key to an overhaul of Kansas’ tax system that Gov. Sam Brownback will propose to the Legislature.

However, in an interview with Kansas Reporter on Friday, Brownback provided few details of the plan, saying those will come in his formal State of the State address to the Legislature on Jan. 11, two days after lawmakers convene for the 2012 session.

Brownback’s policy director, Landon Fulmer, on Wednesday presented the Kansas State Board of Education with details of the governor’s plan to reform school financing, on which the state spends about half of its \$6 billion in general fund tax revenue.

If approved, this reform would be the first major overhaul in 20 years.

But Kansas Democratic Party Chairwoman Joan Wagnon, of Topeka, and other Democrats said they fear that the conservative Republican governor’s proposals will limit education and social services.

Even some fellow

Republicans, notably state Sens. Carolyn McGinn, R-Sedgewick, and Ruth Teichman, R-Stafford, said they will offer some additional tax and budget ideas.

McGinn, chairwoman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee through which major tax legislation flows, said she will propose ending a temporary state sales tax increase six months before it is due to expire.

Teichman is proposing to use part of an estimated \$34 million in long-term savings expected from the state employees’ voluntary early retirement plan to restore school funding cuts made in the past two years.

Following is an edited version of Brownback’s conversation with KansasReporter.org Friday. Click here for the entire interview.

Your new tax plan has been described as simpler, fairer and flatter, but which taxes are going to be affected the most?

Personal income is one that has the biggest focus on. I’ve made no secret of my thinking that our tax rates are too high. They’re too high in the region. We bleed taxpayers to every other state in the region, except Nebraska. We need to get the rate down. We need to make ourselves competitive.

And most economists will say that the best thing for your

tax policy is to get it the lowest if you want growth to take place and to get social engineering out of your policies. If you want that building over there renovated, don’t put it in your tax policy. Subsidize it directly, because your tax policy then affects how your overall economy performs. This will be the way that most economists would look at and say, “That’s the way you ought to do it.”

Is there any specific example you could share?

We’ve laid out everything except the budget and the tax proposal before the next legislative session, so these are the two we’re holding so that I’ve got something to say at the State of the State. You want to save some bang for the show.

With a temporary sales tax increase expiring (in 2013), you have (a nearly) \$300 million hit to revenue followed by a \$45 million increase in school spending. That seems like a bit of a challenge.

Our effort is to do what most private businesses would do. That is get our back office costs down and consolidated and still provide services. Plus the economy is starting to pick back up. Our receipts are better. So with that combination, I think we’re going to be in a position to handle a good part of things.

But I want to get our ending balance back to the 7.5 percent (of the state budget) that we’re required by statute to be. When we don’t do that, we have to borrow a lot more money from the Pooled Money Investment Board (the state investment manager for state and local government money on short-term deposit in the state treasury) and we’ve been making half payments to school districts during the year, so they can’t really count on their flow of funds. We’ve got to get our finances better. We need to pay our debts down.

Have those (school payments) been going out on time or have they been delayed?

At the first of this year, we were making those half payments and had been for a year or better. Now we’re back to paying on time.

But my point is that when we get to the end of the fiscal year with so little money in the bank that we borrow \$700 million from the Pooled Money Investment Board to basically float the state. Then at the end of that, when you pay that (\$700 million) back, you don’t have the cash flow to make your monthly payments.

We are making them now. We borrowed \$100 million less this year, \$600 million instead of \$700 million, which is still way too much. We ended the fiscal year with \$100 million

cash on hand instead of the \$900 the year before. We’re building back, but we’ve got a ways to go.

In the past, you’ve mentioned we should expect much less help from the federal government. How much less?

I’m not going to put out a public number, but I’m telling our folks here we should prepare for a big number.

If (President Barack) Obama gets re-elected, he’s going to go after defense spending. He’s going after it now. And we’re a big defense state, both in assets and in industrial complex. If a Republican gets elected, he’ll go after the rest of the spending, which we get a lot of, whether its pass-through or program payments, so either way, you get it.

If I were the (federal government), I would just say let’s up the percentage of Medicaid that states pay. That’s our biggest single driver of growth, Medicaid, right now. That’s sure one I would be looking at.

Switching to schools for a moment, you’ve made improving fourth-grade reading scores a priority. How adequately are fourth-graders reading right now?

Anybody that can’t read coming out of fourth grade is a tragedy, so one is too many. We’ve got 28 percent that do not read at a basic reading level coming out of fourth grade.

We’ve set a target of getting our NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress tests run by the U.S. Education Department) percentages and getting onto the top five in the country on fourth-grade reading. We’re about 17th now. This is a doable target in a three- or four-year time frame. We had sought additional federal support for this, which we are not going to get, so we are scrambling to find where we can get those resources.

Your proposed \$4,492 per pupil state aid is what Kansas statutes require. How closely does that match the cost of education and how much has that been explored?

“Not enough, not near enough. (Speaker Mike O’Neal, R-Hutchinson) will point out there are hundreds of millions of unencumbered funds sitting in accounts right now ... I don’t think we’ve done nearly enough to look at the cost of the structure.

Does your proposal encourage schools to use the unencumbered funds more?

... We don’t get at that issue in this school finance formula. If people who see a way desire to do that, we’ll see if they bring it forward.

A Christmas Gardening Wish

By Gregg Eyestone

I wish for the same thing each Christmas. All I want is a good gardening year! World peace would be good too. If there is any correlation between results and my behavior, I was a bad boy this past year. Many gardeners are overjoyed to say good-bye to 2011 as a gardening year.

My memory recalls mostly the heat of the summer. July

and August had several days above 100 degrees. It took a toll on the production of my tomatoes and the thickness of my fescue lawn. The hybrid tea roses had a long lag between blooms caused by the heat. My fall garden planting got put off to where the harvest was short for the beans and broccoli. A bright spot was less mowing.

In the first six months of 2011 there was average rain-

fall. When plants might need it the most in July, August and importantly September, we fell behind for normal rainfall. December has turned out to be wetter than average and brought us close to normal for total moisture in 2011.

Our area's average low can be between minus 10 and 20 degrees. We only got down to minus 6. I've learned my lesson and use only cold hardy plants.

The growing season night temperatures play an important part in plant health. Warm night temperature and the plants continue to burn up their food produced during the light hours. Cool temperatures allow the plant to store up food. That didn't occur often enough for my lawn. It declined over the summer.

To be specific on my wish, I requested an inch of rain per

week during the growing season. Plenty of sun to shine on my plants leaves so they will produce their needed food. No 100 degree days and just as important cooler summer nights to store up reserves.

That is my Christmas wish. If it doesn't come true I can blame it on not keeping it a secret. I can't be that bad year after year.

You can find out more infor-

mation on this and other horticulture topics by going to the Riley County, K-State Research and Extension website at www.riley.ksu.edu. And you can contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension at 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan, by calling 785-537-6350 or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu

Obituaries

Donald Dean Kolterman

Donald Dean Kolterman, 64, of Onaga, Kansas, died Monday, December 19, 2011, at Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca. He was a life-long resident of the Onaga area.

Donald was born June 10, 1947 in Onaga, Kansas, the son

of Carl A. and Louise M. Eicheim Kolterman. He attended local schools and graduated in 1966 from Onaga High School.

Donald was a welder and worked sixteen years at Alamo in Holton and two years at Caterpillar in Wamego. Prior

to welding, Donald was a farmer on the family farm north of Onaga.

Donald married Patricia Jolene Sanders on August 27, 1977, in Onaga. She survives at their home.

He is also survived by his five daughters, Lisa Anthony

(Ken), Bruton, Alabama, Terri Parr (Mike), Wamego, Amy Abitz (Paul), Manhattan, Patti Kolterman (Brandon), Wheaton, and Mandi Kolterman (Jason), Onaga; his two sons, Brian Kolterman (Katina), and Brad Kolterman, both of Onaga; his sister, Joyce

Wheeler (Jim), Wheaton; and brothers, Charles Kolterman (Judy), Duluth, and Randy Kolterman (Jane), Littleton, Colorado.

Mr. Kolterman was buried at the Coal Creek Cemetery, north of Onaga, Kansas. Reverend Terry DeGeovanni was the offi-

cial. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Donald Kolterman Memorial Fund to be designated by the family at a later date. Online condolences may be made through Kufahl Funeral Home in Wheaton at www.campanelafuneral.com.

Michael Patrick Sol

Michael Patrick Sol, age 37, of Manhattan, died December 17, 2011 at his residence.

He was born March 7, 1974, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Jose Luis and Marcia Ann (Grieshaber) Sol.

Michael graduated from Manhattan High School with the class of 1992, and from Emporia State University with his degree in

Speech/Communications. He played football for both Manhattan High and Emporia State.

He was an insurance adjuster and most recently worked for Dr. Nanda Kumar.

Michael was a member of Seven Dolores Catholic Church and for several years he was an adorer at the Adoration Chapel. He was an avid Kansas State

University sports fan.

He is survived by his two daughters, Isabella and Maia Sol both of Manhattan; his mother, Marcia Sol-Maine and her husband Joe of Manhattan; five siblings: Deanne King and her husband Ken of Birmingham, AL, Tony Sol and his wife Jill of Wichita, KS, Brenda Sol, Joey Sol and Tommy Sol all of Manhattan;

and his grandparents, Carl and Veronica Grieshaber of St. Marys, KS.

Michael was preceded in death by his father.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday at the Seven Dolores Catholic Church with Father Joseph Popelka as Celebrant. Interment will follow in the Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in

St. Marys, KS.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Manhattan

Catholic Schools.

Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Lenecia D. Weisbender



Lenecia D. Weisbender, age 39 of Lenexa, KS passed away on Wednesday December 14, 2011 at the Kansas City Hospice House following an extended illness.

She was born on January 28, 1972 to John and Beverly (Spain) Weisbender, formerly

of Manhattan, KS. She graduated from Manhattan High School with the class of 1990.

Leneci preceded in death by a brother: Kirk E. Anderson in 1983, her grandparents: Herschel and Emily Spain and A.J. and Violet Weisbender and an uncle: Timothy Spain.

She was married to Christopher A. Hill in 1999, they later divorced but reconciled living together as husband and wife in their hearts.

Survivors include her partner: Chris Hill; two daughters: Emmalee Ann Elizabeth Hill and Kallie Cathleen Hill of the home; one step-son: Shay T. Hill of Florida; her parents: John and Beverly Spain Weisbender of Knob Noster, MO; a sister: Marie Dorn of Tennessee and a brother: Jeffery Weisbender of

Kansas City, MO. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and a treasure trove of friends old and new.

Her greatest delight was always her family and her children. She was a great mother and teacher for her girls. She loved entertaining friends and family and cooking for the holidays.

Lenecia worked and lived in Kansas City, Kansas after graduating from Manhattan High. Her fondest employments were in the medical industry. She was employed by Biomed Pharmaceuticals in Lenexa, Kansas. Her work ethics held her in good favor wherever she was employed and were a source of pride for her. Her compassion for others in need of medical services or comfort-

ing during trying times was as unmistakable as was her loyalty to close friends and family. Her generosity was without measure if she was able. She will be greatly missed and remembered by everyone whose life she touched, always with an open heart as big as anything. She was able to accept and truly love anyone and everything around her.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Treatment Center of America in Tulsa or to the Christopher Hill Family in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at: www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

Jane L. Good

Jane L. Good, 87, of Manhattan, KS died peacefully at home at Meadowlark Hills the morning of December 13, 2011, with her husband of nearly 64 years, Don L. Good, nearby. Jane Lenore Swick, daughter of Wyler K. and Edyth Swick, was born January 22, 1924 at home on the family farm in Van Wert, OH. She was the oldest of 4 girls.

Jane graduated from Convoy (OH) High School in 1942 and began nurses training at the Ft. Wayne Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Ft. Wayne, IN. When she graduated in 1945, she worked for a year in Obstetrics and the Nursery before departing for a 3-month post-graduate course in operating room nursing at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, LA. Just prior to leaving for New Orleans, her sister, Judy and boyfriend (and now husband), Fred Good, set Jane up with Fred's brother, Don, for a date. There was a spark!

Jane returned to Ft Wayne as supervisor of the operating room at Methodist Hospital and the budding romance continued. On Dec. 27, 1947, Jane married Don, a 1947 graduate of The Ohio State University. They married at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Convoy, Ohio and moved to Manhattan, Kansas where Don taught Animal Science, coached the livestock judging team, and was later Department Head at Kansas State University.

Jane was a devoted homemaker, wife, mother, and volunteer, spending some of her happiest times in the kitchen cooking for a crowd and traveling all over the U.S. and world with Don. Church activities were important to Jane and at First United Methodist Church, participated as Lay leader, was active in church circle, sang in Chorales, and helped with many bazaars, soup suppers, church dinners, and providing transportation for elderly or

infirm.

Jane gave generously of her time to Chapter BD P.E.O., University Social Club, serving as President and chairing many committees, and Christian Women's Club, serving as President and Treasurer. Jane helped start Federation of Handicapped Children (now Citizens) in Manhattan and was a Board member of Kansas Children's Service League. She volunteered with Red Cross/blood mobile for 40 years, served as 4-H sewing and cooking leader and was in the Extension Homemakers Unit (EHU).

Besides caring for her family, Jane's most enjoyable activity was entertaining judging teams, KSU faculty/staff/graduate students and Sunday school members. Jane and Don opened their home to many students who needed a place to stay and they both advocated for Heifer Project International.

Survivors include three chil-

dren: Linda (and Joe Mikols), East Lansing, MI; Craig (and Amy), Olsburg, KS; and Gary (at Kansas Neurological Institute), Topeka, KS

Two beloved grandchildren: Laura (and Isidro Jimenez Linan), Abu Dhabi, UAE; and Grant, Mound Ridge, KS

Three sisters: Jean (and Norman) Covert, Tiffin, OH; Judy (and Fred) Good, Charlotte, MI; and Norma Ann (and Charles Boroff), Ft. Jennings, OH

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com

Memorial contributions are suggested to the First United Methodist Church or the Meadowlark Hills Good Samaritan Fund. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Jayney Susanne Taussig Watson



Jayney Susanne Taussig Watson, 22, of Dobson, North Carolina passed away Saturday, December 10, 2011 at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center of an acute asthma attack. She was born March 20, 1989 in Manhattan, Kansas. She lived and experienced the wonderful life Manhattan has to offer. She was homeschooled and participated in the local CHIEF Homeschool organization. Professionally she used her talents and abilities as a CNA. Caring for others was where Jayney truly excelled.

Jayney had such a sweet spirit. We will miss her contagious smile, her bubbly giggle, and her precious dimples. We will miss her creative perspective on life, her honest opinions

and her fierce loyalty. We will take from her lessons of unimaginable importance: fight for the underdog; everyone is worth your time; debate - never argue; believe the best in people; love fiercely, even when it is hard and most importantly when it is hard.

People closest to her experienced the rare privilege of seeing a side of Jayney that, sadly, many people missed. Those surviving her count it as a blessing to have been one of the lucky ones. Those who knew Jayney best were those with whom she shared a home, a room, a secret, and her beloved candy. (If Jayney shared her candy with you, it was her highest compliment.) Her siblings were the ones she loved deepest and went to with her joys and sorrows.

She is survived by her husband Anthony Watson of Dobson, North Carolina; her oldest brother Jacob and wife Trisha Taussig with their four sons: Curtis, Colton, Cannon, and Creed of Springfield, Missouri; her oldest sister, Hayley Redden and husband Arlen with their two children, Amariah and Ryker of Salina, her brother Derek Taussig of Manhattan, her sister Emily Boyles and husband Alan and

their two girls Madelyn and Ariana of Dayton, Ohio. Jayney is also survived by her paternal grandparents, Dr. Robert and Mary Taussig of Manhattan. Finally, to those entrusted with great pain, believing God's Word is true and that He will accomplish His good purposes in His people's lives are Jayney's parents, Mark and Susan Taussig of Manhattan.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents C. E. (Bud) and Mary Jean Stewart.

We desire to honor Jayney's life. While we grieve the end of this earthly journey, we take comfort knowing that, because of her faith in Jesus, she has begun her heavenly adventure, never to cry again, full of joy, and dancing on the golden streets

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established at Commerce Bank, Manhattan, to assist paying for the funeral expenses. Make checks payable to the Jayney Taussig Watson Memorial Fund. Checks may be left in care of the funeral home.

For more information or to send a condolence you may visit the family at Jayney Taussig Watson on Facebook.

You may also send a condolence to the family by visiting www.irvinparkview.com. Irvin Parkview Funeral Home is responsible for the arrangements.

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Do We Need Big Government?

By Michael D. Tanner

As Congress nears approval on a series of 2011 appropriations bills (only three months late, a near-record for recent history), Rep. Sander Levin (D., Mich.) told Fox News that he was encouraged by progress on the bills because "we're dealing with the lives of people. Those appropriation bills relate to the daily lives of people in middle class of America, and that's really what this is all about."

Yet, if that is true, and so many Americans have become dependent on the decisions of federal appropriators in Washington, there seems to be something distinctly wrong.

During the 2011 debate over raising the debt ceiling, President Obama noted that the U.S. federal government sends out 70 million checks every month. Unfortunately, that is probably an underestimate. According to the Washington

Post, the president's estimate included Social Security, veterans' benefits, and spending on non-defense contractors and vendors. But he did not include reimbursements to Medicare providers and vendors, or electronic transfers to the 21 million households receiving food stamps. (Nor did he include most spending by the Defense Department, which has a payroll of 6.4 million active and retired employees and pays nearly 1 million invoices and 660,000 travel-expense claims per month.) The actual number of monthly federal checks might be closer to 200 million.

At what point do we simply cease to be a society of free individuals and instead become little more than wards of the state?

Government payouts now account for more than a third of all wages and salaries in the United States. Worse, if one includes government employ-

ees' salaries, more than half of Americans receive a substantial portion of their income from the government. The government provides welfare to the poor, of course — 126 separate anti-poverty programs. But it also provides corporate welfare to the rich. The Cato Institute estimates that the federal government provides at least \$92 billion in direct grants and subsidies to businesses each year. It even provides regular welfare to the rich. According to a new report from Sen. Tom Coburn, 2,362 millionaires received unemployment benefits in 2009.

Our federal government taxes money from young people to provide for the retirement of old people. And then takes money from old people to provide for the education of young people. We pay subsidies to everyone from farmers to solar-panel manufacturers. People talk about America's

free-market health-care system, but government pays for more than half of all health-care spending in this country.

Federal-government spending now consumes roughly a quarter of all the goods and services produced in this country over the course of a year. Throw in state- and local-government spending, and it's more than a third. And, according to the Congressional Budget Office, unless there is a drastic change in our current policies, we are on course for government to consume nearly 60 percent of GDP by mid-century.

And President Obama believes that government is still too small?

Worse, all this is just on the spending side. It doesn't even begin to look at how the federal government regulates our lives. Last year alone the federal government issued 3,573 new rules and regulations. The Federal Register now stands at

an all time high of 81,405 pages. Nearly every product you buy and everything you do is regulated by the federal government in some way.

Increasingly, government is seen as the source of prosperity and the solution to all problems. Government creates jobs. Government provides medical care, food, shelter, even an income. Government regulates our morals and defines our virtues. Every good idea becomes a call for a new government program. Civil society, including business and private charity, is relegated to the sidelines, treated with suspicion at best, and often outright hostility.

But, at some point, one has to ask: Has our national character become so degraded that farmers cannot farm, businesses cannot innovate, doctors cannot treat you, and charities cannot care for those in need without some sort of govern-

ment intervention? And at what point do we simply cease to be a society of free individuals and instead become little more than wards of the state?

Perhaps this is why, according to a Gallup poll taken earlier this month, 64 percent of Americans believe that big government is a bigger threat to the future of this country than big business (26 percent) or big labor (8 percent).

And it certainly is something that might be worth thinking about the next time a political candidate says that he or she has a great new idea for how the federal government can do something else for us.

Michael Tanner is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and author of *Leviathan on the Right: How Big-Government Conservatism Brought Down the Republican Revolution*.

Boeing set to move jet tanker production to Washington

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — No one is talking about the thousands of high-paying jobs quietly leaving Kansas.

Aerospace giant Boeing Co. declined to disclose any hint of the company's plans Monday.

Even Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, who has publicly urged Boeing to keep what he said are promises to build major parts of the U.S. Air Force tanker jets in Wichita, refused to comment on the situation.

"The administration won't ... until Boeing announces its decision," said Sherriene Jones-Sontag, the governor's press secretary.

Instead Washington state's employment boost and Kansas' bust were announced Monday by U.S. Rep Mike Pompeo, R-Kan., in Wichita.

"Boeing Company has made it clear that it does not intend to finish the KC-46A tanker in

Wichita," Pompeo said at a Wichita news conference where he was joined by Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer and Boeing union executives. "Instead the work will be done in Washington state."

But Karina Shagren, a press aide to Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire, said, "This is the first I've heard of it."

Boeing declined to say if any decision has been made about the future of its Wichita operations or where it would build \$35 billion worth of new tanker jets that will refuel other Air Force jets in flight.

"Unfortunately, there is nothing else we can add until our review of our Wichita operations is complete," said Jarrod Bartlett, Boeing's spokesman in Wichita. "We will announce our plans then."

That is scheduled to be either in the remaining few days of this year or early in 2012, he said.

Boeing announced in

November that it was reviewing operations at its Wichita defense plant and might close the site where 2,100 employees perform high-tech maintenance or modify military aircraft, including Air Force One.

However, contracts for those projects are winding down, and the company said it would re-evaluate the situation in light of potentially deep cuts in federal defense spending as Congress tries to rein in expanding U.S. debt.

Pompeo and other members of Kansas' congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., along with Brownback and other state leaders in Topeka, said in November that they believed Boeing promised to move major work from a \$35 billion contract to build Air Force refueling aircraft in Wichita.

The elected officials and their predecessors including former Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson, a Democrat, lobbied

U.S. Defense Department buyers for more than a decade to win the contract for Boeing rather than its nearest competitor, the European consortium EADS which builds Airbus jets.

Boeing remains a significant economic force in Wichita's and Kansas' economy, said Jeremy Hill, executive director of Wichita State University's Center for Economic Development and Business Research.

Those 2,100 workers on the Boeing payroll generate enough economic activity to support more than 6,000 other jobs in the area, he said. They also generate about \$15 million in Wichita and Sedgwick County sales tax revenue and an estimated \$116 million in state income taxes, he said.

Boeing also made commercial jets in Wichita, but sold those facilities in 2005 to investors who transformed them into Spirit AeroSystems,

which is now Kansas' largest private employer with 18,000 workers.

Right now, economists are watching for potential signs that uncertainty over Boeing's immediate future is causing its subcontractors to defer their own hiring decisions, Hill said.

"That's definitely happening," said John Wojtowicz, a Wichita district manager for Kelly Services, a temporary employment services provider.

"Hiring by companies that are essentially subcontractors to aircraft companies is as slow as I've seen in the years I've been here," Wojtowicz said. "You can see it just in my

neighborhood — guys 55 years old, with 30 years (of) experience, who are told, 'Here's your (severance) package.'"

Phillip Hayes, operations vice president at The Arnold Group, a Wichita executive placement service, said he sees the same developments in the markets his company serves.

"It's hard for us to imagine that (Boeing) work would not take place here," Hayes said, because the company or its predecessors in Wichita have been has been major Wichita employer for seven decades.

"But I can see businesses out there that still seem to be sort of sitting on their hands," he said.

Audit: Closing Costly KS Hospital Would Save Little Money

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — Tax policy activist and retired surgeon Dr. Mark Saylor normally welcomes any chance to save money for Kansas taxpayers.

But Saylor said he supports the state auditors' recommendation to keep open the Kansas Neurological Institute, or KNI. "I think we should do what Joe Patton did and cut out bottled water and paper clips to keep it open," said Saylor, a northeast Kansas director for Americans for Fair Taxation, a Houston organization that advocates for replacing income taxes with consumption taxes.

Patton, a Republican state representative from Topeka, surprised colleagues during a budget debate in the past session by offering an amendment that cut state Capitol spending on bottled water and office supplies to restore \$227,000 previously trimmed from KNI's budget.

The treatment center here provides care and treatment for 150 Kansans with profound brain issues or developmental disabilities.

The Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit said in a report to legislators Tuesday that it would not close KNI because of the potential disruption in patient care and treatment.

Division auditors, who audit all state agencies, did recommend eliminating three jobs at KNI and making operational changes that could save between \$266,000 and \$388,000 without significantly changing the care patients receive.

The report added that closing KNI would save the state as much as \$5 million.

KNI patients, including those Saylor treated as a private physician before he retired, are on average older, sicker and more severely disabled than residents cared for by 200 non-profit service providers in Kansas' network of 27 community development disability organizations.

Saylor said he doubts closing the center would save anyone as much money as the audit estimates.

"No matter where people go, costs are going to go up regardless," as they are shifted to hospitals, community treatment centers and other providers, Saylor said.

"I doubt, as a medical professional, that these people would get the same tender loving care in a community setting," Saylor said. "(The community providers) don't have the special equipment it takes on the scale that is needed to provide the same care."

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback proposed closing KNI soon after he took office in January. Brownback, a Republican, later backed down after many Republicans and Democrats said they would oppose the plan.

Brownback was not the first governor to decide against closing KNI. Former Gov. Mark Parkinson, a Democrat, rejected the state-appointed Facilities Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendation to close the facility because of rising costs and the declining number of patients on its 180-acre campus in southwest Topeka. He rejected the proposal in 2009.

Patient population at KNI has dropped from 189 in 2000 to 157 in 2010, the audit found. The institute's budget, howev-

er, has climbed from \$20 million in 2000 to \$29 million in 2010, the most recent year covered in the audit. Medicare covers most of those costs, including most recently \$24 million in 2010.

Costs are rising, in part, because KNI patients are on average more than a decade older than developmentally disabled residents receiving community treatment, and their impairments are more severe. Diseases, such as arthritis, diabetes and dementia, increasingly complicate their treatment, the audit reported.

"They're treating people who are getting older and need more services," said Glen Yancey, a retired Methodist minister and former Kansas state Rehabilitation Services commissioner.

Yancey was among eight people who appeared in March before a Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee hearing to oppose Brownback's proposal to close KNI. No one at that hearing supported the proposal.

Yancey, in a telephone interview this week, said closing KNI could impair patients' future treatment.

"After 37 years in state government, I know that once any money is 'saved,' someone will find a way to use it," Yancey said.

KNI employs more than 500 people. Closing the institute would be a blow to Topeka's labor market, where the Kansas Department of Labor reports unemployment rates at 6.6 percent in October, said Christy Caldwell, the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce's vice president for governmental affairs. New unemployment rates for Topeka and Kansas are

expected to be released Tuesday.

A 2010 chamber-sponsored economic impact study estimates that workers at and visitors to the institute paid a \$3.7 million annually in combined sales, hotel occupancy and local property taxes just in Topeka, Caldwell said. In 2010, KNI had 570 employees.

State Sen. Dick Kelsey, R-Goddard, who serves on the Public Health and Welfare Committee and has resisted previous attempts to close KNI, said the institute caters to a specific niche of care.

"These people are so needy that, frankly, many nursing homes won't take them," said Kelsey, whose private-sector job includes managing residential care facilities.

"They can't afford to," he said, because retrofitting doors, rooms and other facilities to accommodate the specialized medical equipment many KNI patients need is prohibitive.

KNI is part of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, or SRS.

SRS Deputy Secretary Pedro Moreno, whose division oversees state services for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill, said SRS needs at least 60 days to study smaller cost-cutting recommendations in the audit. Those include:

- Cutting three lower jobs;
- Reducing the size of a five-bed medical clinic;
- Selling some unneeded or under-used property.

"We have no plans to close the facility," said Angele De Rocha, SRS communications director.

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Letters to Tom: Brother Can You Spare A . . . Half a Million?

"A wise and frugal government ... shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

—Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, 1801

As true today as it was in 1801. I wonder what Thomas Jefferson would make of the notion that our local government takes bread from the mouth of labor and hands it over to private interests, in the name of job creation? I wonder if he would approve tying that "gift" to regulating payrolls and personnel policy?

On December 20th, the Manhattan City Commission held its last meeting for 2011. On the agenda was the Second Consideration of the Economic



Mike Kryschal

Development Application for Prathista International, Inc. I don't have any problem with a private firm choosing to locate in Manhattan — that's great! Likewise, I don't have a problem with that company establishing its operations in an unused government building, the former Kansas National Guard Armory at Manhattan Regional Airport. I do take issue with the idea that revenue collected from taxpayers

should be used to reward a private enterprise that meets politically correct criteria. I resent the fact that this expenditure is casually deemed acceptable because the money is there. Finally, I wish the folks who push this type of initiative would tell us the entire truth instead of subjecting the public to spin.

The incentive package that taxpayers are going to give Prathista consists of reimbursements of up to \$500,000 for improvements that Prathista makes to the Airport Armory, along with rent, taxes, utilities and insurance for three years. In return Prathista has to meet the performance requirements listed on its application. If Prathista dumps Manhattan within ten years, the company will have to pay back the money they were gifted with an interest rate 3% per year.

According to the City Staff,

these incentives will result in a total of 9 jobs at a cost to the tax payer of \$8,720 per job. This modest (?) sum is arrived at by counting the \$78,480 that the company will be gifted for rent, etc. over the first three years and dividing it by the 9 jobs. The actual cost is 9 jobs at \$55,555 per job. That's \$55,555 per job to the tax payer. The discrepancy is the spin I referred to earlier. According to proponents, the money spent to upgrade the facility is not really an expense because the city will retain the building if Prathista leaves. Right — Prathista is going to refit the Armory to manufacture eco-friendly plant nutrients and feed supplements for agricultural crops. If they leave, I am sure that the city will have no trouble at all locating another company that manufactures eco-friendly plant nutrients and feed supplements to occupy the

now vacant facility. Do they think we are stupid? The fact is that if this does not work out the cost will double. We will pay \$500,000 to retrofit the building to Prathista's specifications and an additional \$500,000 (or more) to undo the modifications if they leave. I read the Economic Incentives Application (you should too!) and, if this were money I controlled, rather than our taxes, I would not choose to invest in this enterprise.

I hope the City Commissioners remember Thomas Jefferson's definition of good government. The fact is that government, whether it's local or national, is a very inefficient "job creator." Our government should keep us honest and then get out of the way. It's called the Free Enterprise System, it works.

Merry Christmas!

Mike Kryschal, Colonel

(Retired), United States Army, has a Bachelor's Degree from John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio and a Master's Degree in International Relations from Boston University. He served in the United States Army from 1972 to 1999. He was a platoon leader in the 25th Infantry Division, company commander in the 82d Airborne Division, battalion commander in the 1st Infantry Division, and brigade commander in the 2nd Infantry Division. He served in the 1st Infantry Division in Desert Storm. Since retirement, Mike has been an adjunct professor of history, political science, and leadership. He lives in Manhattan, Kansas with his wife, Karen and their Siberian Huskies.

Unnecessary Keystone XL Pipeline Delay Obstructs Energy, Jobs

By Nicolas Loris

Abstract: The Obama Administration has announced that it will delay the decision to approve or reject construction of the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline until after the presidential elections in 2012. The pipeline would carry oil from Canada to U.S. refineries on the Gulf Coast—creating jobs, supplying energy from a secure and friendly source, and spurring much-needed economic growth. The State Department has thoroughly studied potential environmental impacts of the Keystone pipeline, and found minimal risk to soil, water, air, and animal life. Still, environmentalists oppose construction of the pipeline in force. Congress should reject unrealistic claims and authorize construction of the pipeline.

The Obama Administration announced in November that it would neither approve nor reject the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would provide Americans with an abundant and secure supply of oil, until after the 2012 presidential election. The pipeline, which would be built by TransCanada, would connect a major oil production region in Canada to American Gulf Coast refineries. The permit proposal to build the pipeline pits two of President Barack Obama's largest constituent groups against each other. Environmental activists oppose the construction, arguing that extracting oil from Canada's tar sands, where dense petroleum is buried in a mixture of sand, clay, and water, is harmful to the environment. Labor unions, which would stand to benefit from the jobs created by construction of the 1,700-mile-long pipeline, are pushing for approval. Executive Order 13337 states that because the project crosses the U.S. border, TransCanada must submit an application to the U.S. Department of State, with final approval coming from the President. Instead of moving forward with this pro-jobs project, President Obama called for an additional environmental review—to examine the reroute of the pipeline path around a Nebraskan water aquifer.

Since TransCanada and Nebraskan politicians have agreed to reroute the pipeline, the focus should now be on completing the reroute design and beginning construction. Congress should recognize the findings in the State Department's "Final Environmental Impact Statement" (which found that the pipeline poses minimal environmental risk), and authorize the application submitted by TransCanada on September 19, 2008. The state of Nebraska can handle the environmental review of the reroute, the path of which does not go beyond state borders.

Energy, Jobs, Revenue

The construction of the Keystone XL pipeline would deliver an additional 700,000 to 830,000 barrels of oil per day to the U.S. from Canada, the U.S.'s largest supplier of oil. Not only is the delay preventing additional imports from Canada, it is also preventing the creation of thousands of

private-sector jobs. Building the pipeline would directly create 20,000 truly shovel-ready jobs; the Canadian Energy Research Institute estimates that current pipeline operations and the addition of the Keystone XL pipeline would create 179,000 American jobs by 2035.

Recognizing the need for more energy supply and more jobs, both Democrats and Republicans expressed support for the Keystone XL pipeline, a \$20 billion private-infrastructure investment in the United States. The states through which the pipeline would pass—Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas—would benefit greatly. The six states are collectively projected to receive \$5.2 billion in property taxes from TransCanada in the course of the 100-year operating life of the pipeline.

If Not America, Then Asia

Delaying or even rejecting the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will not achieve the environmentalists' goal—to shut down Canadian tar sands production itself. Whether the pipeline crosses through the U.S. or not, the oil from Canadian tar sands is not staying in the ground. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper told President Obama that while the U.S. delays its decision, Canada will begin diversifying by shipping its oil to Asian markets. Harper said of the delay: "This highlights why Canada must increase its efforts to ensure it can supply its energy outside the U.S. and into Asia in particular. Canada will step up its efforts in that regard and I communicated that clearly to the President."

With China's rapid economic growth, it is no surprise that that country would welcome the opportunity to import more oil from Canada. In fact, Canadian Natural Resource Minister Joe Oliver said that China was "very eager" to import oil from Canada. In addition, Enbridge, another Canadian company, is proposing to build a pipeline from Alberta to British Columbia to ship the oil to refineries in China. From an environmental standpoint, this means that Canada will ship the oil overseas in tankers, a much less efficient method of transporting oil. It also means that China will refine the oil in refineries that are subject to fewer regulations than those in the United States—causing more, not less, environmental harm than if the pipeline were built in the U.S. Furthermore, the U.S. will have to import more oil via tankers from overseas, or carry crude oil from Canada in trucks or rails. The pipeline would also support the dramatic increase in oil production in North Dakota, where pipeline infrastructure is lacking. Shutting down the Keystone XL pipeline project means that the environment—and Americans who would benefit from jobs and economic growth—lose out.

Is a Reroute Necessary? TransCanada said it would work with the state of Nebraska and the U.S. State Department to examine the path of the pipeline reroute despite the fact

the State Department has already conducted a thorough environmental review and concluded that the pipeline poses minimal environmental risk to soil, wetlands, water resources, vegetation, fish, and wildlife, and creates few greenhouse-gas emissions. Keystone XL also met 57 specific pipeline safety standard requirements created by the State Department and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Much of the concern of environmentalists and Nebraskan residents has focused on the original route of the pipeline, particularly the area where the pipeline crosses the Ogallala Aquifer—despite the fact that thousands of miles of pipeline already cross the aquifer. In its "Final Environmental Impact Statement," the State Department studied the pipeline's potential for contaminating groundwater in the entire aquifer system, as well as for 200 public water-supply wells within one mile of the centerline of the pipeline, and for 40 private wells within 100 feet of the centerline of the pipeline, none of which is a sole or principal source of drinking water. The impact statement rated the potential for water contamination as minimal and contained in a limited area.

Oil contamination of drinking water would not be likely in many instances because the soil composition prevents or mitigates the downward migration of oil. The Keystone XL pipeline will be equipped with thousands of sensors to monitor pressure and detect leaks, and will have additional safety systems to prevent a major oil spill. Additionally, in areas where a water table is near land surface, TransCanada will add a waterproof coating and cement casing to the piping. The State Department also notes that "In no spill incident scenario would the entire Northern High Plains Aquifer system [of which the Ogallala Aquifer is a part] be adversely affected." The State Department has already worked with the Bureau of Land Management and state agencies to negotiate more than 340 minor route variations to address environmental concerns.

Carbon Dioxide, Endangered Species, Already Addressed

In order to generate more opposition to pipeline construction, environmental activists latched on to some Nebraskans' concerns over the pipeline's crossing the aquifer; but no number of reroutes will satisfy the environmentalists who want to see the pipeline permit application rejected. Two of the issues on which radical environmentalists are focusing in an attempt to prevent pipeline construction are allegedly increased carbon dioxide emissions (from extracting and producing oil from Canada's tar sands) and supposed threats to endangered species (from the pipeline construction).

In that vein, NASA scientist James Hansen claims that "exploitation of tar sands would make it implausible to stabilize climate and avoid dis-

astrous global climate impacts." But the State Department's impact statement did not draw any such conclusion from two thorough studies on increases in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of extracting and producing oil from Canada's tar sands.

Environmental groups are also challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) conclusion that the Keystone XL pipeline is "not likely to adversely affect" endangered species. The State Department and the USFWS face litigation in U.S. courts brought by environmental groups on the grounds that the pipeline would harm the American burying beetle. Of course, State and the USFWS already studied the environmental effects on this species and 11 others. The agencies recognized that construction of the pipeline would directly impact the American burying beetle, so conservation measures were developed that include Keystone providing funding for conservation efforts and monitoring of American burying beetle habitat restoration, and the establishment of a performance bond for supplemental habitat reclamation if initial reclamation efforts are unsuccessful.

Fast-Track Approval

In July, the House of Representatives passed the North American-Made Energy Security Act (H.R. 1938) that would have forced the Administration to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline by November 1, 2011, stating that

There has been more than 2 years of consideration and a coordinated review by more than a dozen Federal agencies of the technical aspects and of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposed pipeline project known as the Keystone XL from Hardisty, Alberta, to Steele City, Nebraska, and then on to the United States Gulf Coast through Cushing, Oklahoma.

The Senate never passed companion legislation, and the Administration dismissed the House bill as unnecessary, claiming it would announce a decision by the end of the year. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are now considering legislation to fast-track a decision on Keystone. A simple, effective approach would be for Congress to authorize the pipeline application as submitted by TransCanada pursuant to its authority to regulate com-

merce with other nations. Since there is no federal entity that sites and authorizes Interstate petroleum pipeline construction, the state of Nebraska could site and approve an alternative route, following the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's construction codes.

Don't Delay, Act Now

The construction of the Keystone pipelines means thousands of jobs and more energy from a friendly supplier with minimal environmental impact. Congress should approve the construction of the pipeline, which would allow state agencies to address any routing concerns. As for President Obama, delaying any

Keystone XL pipeline verdict until after next year's election may be a smart political move. But for a country struggling to create jobs and meet energy demands, it is not a suitable decision.

—Nicolas D. Loris is a Policy Analyst in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

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*"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787*



Free Press Big 12 Sports

Wildcats Win Streak Halted in BTI Invite Final, 38-44

KSU Sports Information

LAS VEGAS, Nev. – Kansas State was unable to overcome a sluggish offensive performance against UNLV in the final game of the BTI Invitational on Tuesday night, as the Lady Rebels defeated the Wildcats 44-38. The loss ended K-State's five-game winning streak.

The Wildcats (8-3) were paced by senior forward Jalana Childs with 12 points. Joining Childs in double figures was Brittany Chambers with 11 points.

UNLV (10-3) was led by Markiell Styles with a game-high 15 points while also adding seven rebounds. Adding to the Lady Rebels performance was a double-double from Jamie Smith with 10 points and a game-high 12 rebounds.

Both teams opened the game showing signs of fatigue from playing the third game in three days. UNLV used a 15-4 run midway through the first half to hold a 23-12 lead. K-State was held without a field goal for nine minutes during this stretch before a Chambers layup ended

the drought. The Lady Rebels held off K-State in the final minutes of the first half to hold a 23-16 advantage. This was the first time K-State had trailed at the half since Nov. 25 against Purdue.

Kansas State shot just 29.6 percent from the field in the opening stanza and UNLV held a 23-20 advantage on the glass.

K-State cut UNLV's halftime lead to two, 23-21, following a Chambers three and a pair of free throws by Childs. The Lady Rebels responded with a 9-0 run to hold a 32-21 lead and force a K-State timeout.

The Wildcats answered after the timeout by cutting into the UNLV lead with an 11-0 run of their own, as Childs was responsible for six of those points to tie the game at 32 with 6:37 remaining.

K-State captured its first lead since early in the first half, as Chambers connected fast break lay-in to make the score 34-32. The Lady Rebels responded with a deep three from Thompson with 5:29 remaining to secure a 35-34 lead.

The Wildcats cut a three-point UNLV lead to one on another Chambers layup with 1:38 remaining. K-State forced UNLV to scramble on its next offensive possession, but Mia Bell was able to recover and connect on a long three-point field goal as the shot clock expired to give UNLV a 40-36 lead that K-State could not overcome.

The 38 points by the Wildcats were the fewest in a loss since K-State tallied 34 against Texas on Feb. 3, 2007.

Kansas State will break for the holiday season and will return to action on Thursday, Dec. 29 at Marist. The game will tip-off at 6 p.m. (CT) and will be available on the K-State Sports Network.

The Wildcats return to Bramlage Coliseum on Wednesday, Jan. 4, when K-State hosts No. 10 Texas A&M in the Big 12 season-opener. For tickets, contact the K-State Athletic Ticket Office at (800) 221-CATS or visit www.kstate-sports.com/tickets.



Jalana Childs (33) scored 12 points against UNLV during the final game of the BTI Invitational. (Photo by Tonya Ricklefs)

K-State Handles Northwestern for Fifth Straight Win, 64 - 45

KSU Sports Information

LAS VEGAS, Nev. – With a sterling performance in the first half and a combined 47 points from Brittany Chambers and Jalana Childs, Kansas State distanced itself from Northwestern to register a 64-45 win at the BTI Invitational for its fifth straight victory.

Kansas State (8-2) entered the contest ranked eighth in the nation in scoring defense (49.3 ppg) and seventh in the country in field goal percentage defense (.312). The Wildcats held Northwestern to 26 points below their season average of 71 points. This was the seventh time in 10 games that K-State has held an opponent to 49-points or less.

K-State was led by Chambers who finished with a season-high 29 points on 9-of-18 shooting including a career-high 8-of-14 from beyond the arc. The 29-point effort was her highest since registering a career-high 35 points against Texas A&M last season.

Childs gave Kansas State a

solid presence in the post with 18 points on 8-of-18 shooting and six rebounds. Aiding Childs in the post was senior forward Branshea Brown with a career-high 13 rebounds.

Northwestern (9-2) was paced by freshman Morgan Jones with 20 points on 6-of-19 shooting, while Kendall Hackney added 14 points and seven rebounds.

K-State jumped out to a fast start with an 11-0 lead to open the contest forcing Northwestern to call an early timeout. Kansas State continued its early assault by extending its lead to 20-5 with 11:05 to play on Childs' fourth basket of the half. Childs finished the first half with 12 points.

Kansas State continued to pour on the points in the first half, as the Wildcats used a 12-0 run to hold a 34-7 lead with 3:42 remaining. During the run, K-State held Northwestern without a field goal for seven minutes.

K-State closed out a stellar opening half with a deep three

from Chambers, who recorded four connections from beyond the arc in the opening stanza and 15 points, as the Wildcats held a 39-14 lead. The Wildcats finished the first half by shooting a sweltering 51.5 percent from the field and held Northwestern to their lowest field goal percentage for a half this season at 19.2.

Northwestern cut into K-State's lead to begin the second half with a 12-3 run, capped by a Jones steal and layup to force a Kansas State timeout holding a 42-26 lead. Following the timeout, K-State dashed back out to a 22-point lead on the strength of a 12-6 run capped by a Childs jumper with 6:10 remaining.

K-State finished the night by shooting 25-of-61 from the field, including 8-of-19 from beyond the arc. The Wildcats dominated Northwestern on the glass with a 45-33 advantage which resulted in a 15-2 edge in second chance points.

K-State Dismantles NDSU in BTI Invite Opener, 70-47

KSU Sports Information

LAS VEGAS, Nev. - Kansas State used a balanced offensive performance to pick apart North Dakota State in the second half on Sunday night to cruise to a 70-47 win in the BTI Invitational at the Cox Pavilion. K-State has now won four straight for the first time since Jan. 15-Feb. 9 of last season.

The Wildcats (7-2) were led by junior guard Brittany Chambers with a game-high 16 points. This was the 54th career game in double figures for Chambers. Joining Chambers in double figures was Jalana Childs with 12 points and five rebounds.

North Dakota State (2-9) was paced by Dani DeGagne with

16 points while Abby Plucker added seven points and nine rebounds.

K-State built a 13-7 first half lead following a Chambers reverse layup. The Bison closed the gap to two, 13-11 on a DeGagne lay-in. The Wildcats were able to push back out in front of NDSU with a 9-4 run highlighted by consecutive baskets from Childs for a 22-17 lead.

After North Dakota State cut K-State's lead again to two, 22-20, with 6:12 remaining the Wildcats closed out the opening stanza with a 9-2 run. During the run, Dickey notched a layup and a three-pointer to pace the Wildcats to a 31-22 halftime lead.

The Wildcats built a 15-point

advantage in the first six minutes of the second half, 39-24, with an 8-2 run. K-State was able to force NDSU into four turnovers during this stretch. Kansas State continued to build its lead, reaching a high of 29 with 2:09 remaining on a JuliAnne Chisholm three-point field goal.

For the night, K-State was 26-of-59 (.441) from the field while holding the Bison to 16-of-44 (.364). The Wildcats dished out 14 assists while recording a season-low six turnovers.

On the defensive side, the Wildcats were able to force NDSU into 21 turnovers with 11 K-State steals. Kansas State tallied 29 points of the Bison turnovers.

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

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Thursday, December 22, 2011 - Page 6a

Kansas State Wildcats 2011-2012 Men's Basketball SCHEDULE

			Record
11/06/11 vs. Fort Hays State	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 90-60	Exhibit
11/11/11 vs. Charleston Southern	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 72-67	1-0
11/14/11 vs. Loyola	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 74-61	2-0
11/22/11 vs. Maryland Eastern Shore	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 92-50	3-0
12/01/11 vs. George Washington	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 69-56	4-0
12/04/11 at Virginia Tech	Cassell Coliseum	W, 69-61	5-0
Wichita Wildcat Classic			
12/08/11 vs. West Virginia	INTRUST Arena	L, 85-80 (2OT)	5-1
12/11/11 vs. North Florida	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 79-68 (ot)	6-1
Hy-Vee Wildcat Classic			
12/17/11 vs. Alabama	Sprint Center	W, 71-58	7-1
Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic			
12/22/11 vs. Southern Illinois	Stan Sheriff Center	3:30 PM CT	
12/23/11 vs. Clemson/UTEP	Stan Sheriff Center	TBA	
12/25/11 vs. TBD	Stan Sheriff Center	TBA	
12/31/11 vs. Howard	Bramlage Coliseum	1:00 PM CT	
01/04/12 at Kansas	Allen Fieldhouse	7:00 PM CT	
01/07/12 vs. Missouri	Bramlage Coliseum	12:30 PM CT	
01/10/12 vs. Baylor	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 PM CT	
01/14/12 at Oklahoma	Lloyd Noble Center	12:30 PM CT	
01/18/12 vs. Texas	Bramlage Coliseum	8:00 PM CT	
01/21/12 at Oklahoma State	Gallagher-Iba Arena	12:30 PM CT	
01/25/12 at Texas Tech	United Spirit Arena	8:00 PM CT	
01/28/12 vs. Oklahoma	Bramlage Coliseum	6:00 PM CT	
01/31/12 at Iowa State	Hilton Coliseum	8:00 PM CT	
02/04/12 vs. Texas A&M	Bramlage Coliseum	3:00 PM CT	
02/07/12 vs. Texas Tech	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 PM CT	
02/11/12 at Texas	Erwin Center	1:00 PM CT	
02/13/12 vs. Kansas	Bramlage Coliseum	8:00 PM CT	
02/18/12 at Baylor	Ferrell Center	12:30 PM CT	
02/21/12 at Missouri	Mizzou Arena	6:00 PM CT	
02/25/12 vs. Iowa State	Bramlage Coliseum	12:30 PM CT	
02/28/12 at Texas A&M	Reed Arena	6:00 PM CT	
03/03/12 vs. Oklahoma State	Bramlage Coliseum	12:30 PM CT	
Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship			
03/07/12 vs. TBD	Sprint Center	TBA	

Kansas State Wildcats 2011-2012 Women's Basketball SCHEDULE

			Record
11/03/11 vs. Oklahoma City	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 63-51	Exhibit
11/08/11 vs. Washburn	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 52-50	Exhibit
11/12/11 vs. Dartmouth	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 54-20	1-0
11/16/11 vs. BYU TV	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 59-46	2-0
11/18/11 vs. Missouri State	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 65-63	3-0
Cancun Challenge			
11/24/11 vs. Hofstra	Moon Palace Resort	L, 64-54	3-1
11/25/11 vs. Purdue	Moon Palace Resort	L, 46-42 (OT)	3-2
12/03/11 vs. Iowa TV	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 81-78	4-2
12/07/11 vs. Wichita State	Bramlage Coliseum	W, 60-34	5-2
12/10/11 at South Dakota St.	Brookings, S.D.	W, 63-46	6-2
BTI Invitational			
12/18/11 vs. North Dakota State	Las Vegas, Nev.	W, 70-47	7-2
12/19/11 vs. Northwestern	Las Vegas, Nev.	W, 64-45	8-2
12/20/11 vs. UNLV	Las Vegas, Nev.	L, 38-44	8-3
12/29/11 at Marist	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	6:00 p.m. CT	
01/04/12 vs. Texas A&M	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/07/12 at Kansas	Lawrence, Kan.	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/11/12 vs. Missouri	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/14/12 at Texas Tech	Lubbock, Texas	2:00 p.m. CT	
01/17/12 vs. Oklahoma	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/21/12 at Baylor	Waco, Texas	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/25/12 vs. Iowa State	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 p.m. CT	
01/28/12 at Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	11:30 a.m. CT	
02/01/12 at Texas	Austin, Texas	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/04/12 vs. Baylor	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/08/12 at Texas A&M	College Station, Texas	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/12/12 vs. Kansas	Bramlage Coliseum	12:00 p.m. CT	
02/15/12 at Oklahoma	Norman, Okla.	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/18/12 vs. Texas	Bramlage Coliseum	6:00 p.m. CT	
02/22/12 vs. Oklahoma State	Bramlage Coliseum	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/25/12 at Missouri	Columbia, Mo.	12:00 p.m. CT	
02/29/12 at Iowa State	Ames, Iowa	7:00 p.m. CT	
03/03/12 vs. Texas Tech	Bramlage Coliseum	6:00 p.m. CT	
2012 Phillips 66 Big 12 Championships			
03/07/12 vs. TBD	Kansas City, Mo.	TBA	

Big 12 Men's Basketball Standings

	Big12	Overall
Missouri	0-0	11-0
Baylor	0-0	10-0
Oklahoma	0-0	8-1
Kansas State	0-0	7-1
Texas	0-0	9-2
Texas A&M	0-0	8-2
Iowa State	0-0	8-3
Kansas	0-0	7-3
Oklahoma State	0-0	6-4
Texas Tech	0-0	5-4

Big 12 Women's Basketball Standings

	Big12	Overall
Baylor	0-0	11-0
Texas Tech	0-0	9-0
Oklahoma State	0-0	6-0
Kansas	0-0	9-1
Missouri	0-0	8-1
Texas	0-0	9-2
Texas A&M	0-0	8-2
Iowa State	0-0	7-2
Kansas State	0-0	8-3
Oklahoma	0-0	7-3

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

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Thursday, December 22, 2011 - Page 7a

Wildcats Upend No. 21 Alabama

KSU Sports Information
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jordan Henriquez scored a career-high 17 points and added eight rebounds to lead Kansas State to a 71-58 win over No. 21 Alabama Saturday night in the Hy-Vee Wildcat Classic at Sprint Center.

With the win, K-State improved to 7-1 on the season, while Alabama dropped to 8-3.

After opening the game 2-of-19 from the floor and trailing by as many as seven points, K-State battled back to take a 26-24 lead at the half before erupting for 45 second-half points on 63-percent shooting. Henriquez led the way with his 17 points, nine of which came in the second half, while Jamar Samuels poured in 14 points,

all in the second half, and Angel Rodriguez added 13 points and seven assists — both career-bests for the true freshman.

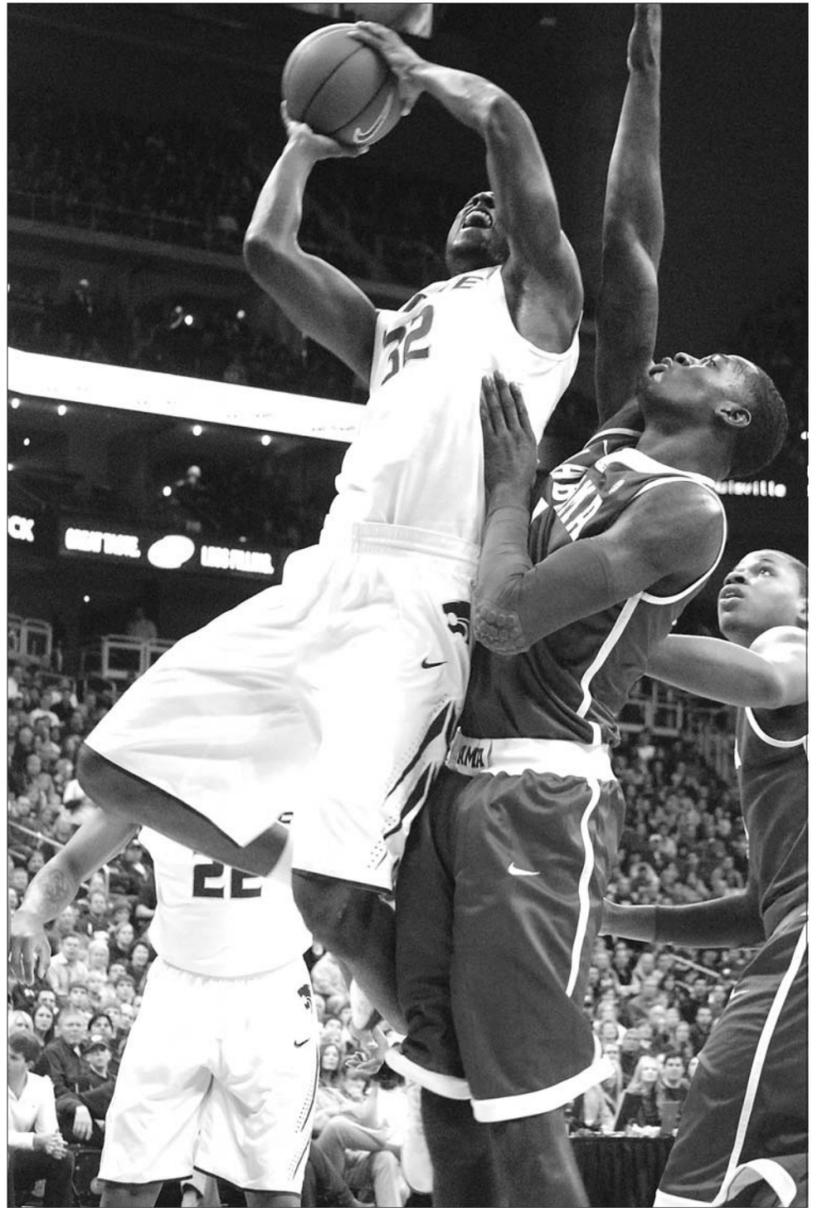
In the second half, both teams traded baskets in the opening five minutes. A foul on Alabama's JaMychal Green sent Jamar Samuels to the free-throw line where he would give K-State the lead for good. After the two made free-throws, the Wildcats went on a game-changing 26-10 run to take a 61-45 lead and put the game away.

Bench scoring was a decisive factor in the game for the Wildcats as the K-State subs outscored Alabama's bench, 35-8. K-State also out-rebounded the Crimson Tide, 38-30,

and also held an advantage on the offensive end, 13-8.

Poor shooting plagued the Wildcats early in the first half as Alabama went up 15-8 midway through the first half. K-State settled down and found its rhythm as it went on an 18-9 run to finish off a sluggish first half. A Henriquez two-handed flush off of a pass from Rodriguez with 20 seconds remaining highlighted the Wildcat run to close the first half of play.

K-State returns to action December 22 against Southern Illinois as it begins play in the Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic. The game can be seen live on ESPN at 3:30 p.m. CT.



Jamar Samuels (32) works to stay on target as the Alabama defense tries to push him away from the net.

K-State Postgame Quotes

Kansas State Coach and Player Quotes

Head Coach Frank Martin

On finding a rhythm this season...

"It takes a little time; it is not a perfect science. You got young guys learning how to play college basketball, you have guys trying to figure out their roles and it takes time. It's not as easy as it sounds. That's why I told you the other day when we spoke that we are a defense stop away from being undefeated. When you can say that and we have a win at Virginia Tech and this win here, we may not be perfect, but we are not taking a backseat to anybody either."

On the play of Angel Rodriguez and Jordan Henriquez...

"Both of them have re-focused since the preseason for whatever reasons. That daily focus just was not there for a couple weeks, but they have been two of our better players in practice this week and I think that carried over to tonight's game. I know some people don't think like I do, which is fine with me, but I think the people that prepare well go out and play the game and it is easy, and that is what you saw with these two guys. We talked about attacking their zone, but we did not do a very good job early in the game. We shot an air ball and missed two other wide open three's, and we missed six shots five feet and in. We just have to make some shots and what we did was move the ball better. We got their zone really spread out and then Angel drove it and Jordan did what we talked about, which is if that middle guy comes up when we drove the ball to the scene, then the back side is going to be open. Angel made some good reads and Jordan was able to put the ball in the basket."

On Jordan Henriquez...

"He's been good, he has worked too hard to play the way that he was playing heading into the last game. I don't mean just in games, I'm talking

about practices. He's worked too hard, he's earned the right to be a good player and now he just has to go out and believe in himself and he has got to do that every day. That is what he did this week and I do not think it comes as a surprise that he impacted the game in a positive way."

On closing out games...

"These guys encourage me because they are not perfect and neither am I, but they never come in and not try and whenever you have that kind of attitude. As a coach, you have to be excited about your team. The difference between today's game and the West Virginia game was when we had that five to six point lead against West Virginia in the second half, we couldn't make a free throw to build the lead, and today we did. So now a five to six point game, with free throws, becomes an eleven to twelve point game and now you can do some things defensively to shorten the game and protect the lead against West Virginia. We were five-for-fifteen in the second half and it is hard to win when you cannot make free throws, and we did a better job of that today."

On the second half...

"I went into halftime and I felt really good about how we were playing. Missing some shots did not affect our discipline and our defense. I thought we rebounded the ball and we made some shots to finish out the first half. We called time out with fifty seconds to go and we executed exactly what we talked about running on offense and then we came down and get a defensive stop to finish the half. I felt really good about coming into the second half. It was good to see Jamar come out and have that three point play. I was just really happy for him. He played with a heavy heart after losing his grandma this morning. I was very happy that he made some positive plays in a difficult moment for him."

On the teams defense...

"There were three or four

times that we allowed them to run to the rim, but I thought we did a pretty good job. Jordan made a mistake by playing behind JaMychal because the scouting report said when he plays with his back to the basket he's going to go to his left, and Jordan let him do that for a three point play. Jamar made a couple mistakes early, but outside of that I thought our defense on those guys was solid. What helped our bigs was our perimeter defense was pretty good. We really extended their guards, so it was hard for them to make post entries. The only point I was disappointed with us was our defensive rotations on baseline drives. We spent the whole week talking about taking charges because we thought they were susceptible to charges, and we did not do that. Like I said, we made some mistakes, but defensively we were pretty solid."



Jordan Henriquez (21) jumps high above Alabama's Tony Mitchell (5) to take a shot.



Martavious Irving (3) moves quickly past the Crimson Tide defense.

Photos by Ben Brake

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Sports Second Front

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, December 22, 2011

Page 8

Kansas State wallops No. 23 Alabama, 71-58

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

Jordan Henriquez and Angel Rodriguez checked into the game when Kansas State was scuffling, the ball clanking off the rim every time it went up and Alabama slowly pulling away.

The duo provided the spark the Wildcats needed.

Henriquez scored a career-high 17 points, Rodriguez added a career-best 13 and Kansas State rallied from a slow start to beat the No. 23 Crimson Tide 71-58 on Saturday night.

"We talked about attacking their zone. We didn't do a very good job early in the game," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said. "We just had to make some shots. We moved the ball better, got that zone real spread out. Angel drove it and Jordan did what we talked about, the back side coming open."

It wasn't just the scoring, though, but how they did it. Rodriguez, the freshman guard, kept finding his 7-foot center inside for easy baskets, racking up six of his seven assists by half-time.

"It was just me being comfortable," Henriquez said. "I was kind of in a rush and that's what Coach gets on me a lot, taking my time and letting the game come to me."

Jamar Samuels added 14 points for the Wildcats (7-1), who used a 19-6 run midway through the second half to avoid going to overtime for the third consecutive game. Kansas State lost

to West Virginia in two extra sessions last week and needed overtime to beat North Florida last Sunday.

"Kansas State came out tonight and in the second half did a really great job of attacking our pressure," Alabama coach Anthony Grant said. "They got out in transition, they got in rhythm in the second half. They got a spurt that took it out to about 10, and we had a tough time maintaining the discipline you have to have from a defensive standpoint."

JaMychal Green scored 20 points for Alabama (8-3), which has lost three of four.

Trevor Releford, who grew up in suburban Kansas City and attended Bishop Miege High School, added 14 points for the Crimson Tide in a homecoming that would have been much more memorable had they been as stingy over the final 30 minutes as they were over the first 10.

The Wildcats started 2 of 18 from the field, struggling against Alabama's tenacious, trapping half-court defense. They only trailed by seven, though, when they finally figured out how to get open shots along the baseline, and that opened up holes elsewhere.

"I know it looks like we just walk out there and roll the ball out sometimes," Martin said, "but there is actually some serious structure to what we do. And they were in tune with it."

Kansas State was still clinging to a 38-37 lead with just more than 13 minutes left when Samuels hit a 3-

pointer off a feed from Rodriguez, one of his career-best seven assists. Shane Southwell scored moments later, Samuels added a pair of free throws and Rodriguez scored after a nifty behind-the-back move that got him open in the lane to make it 49-39 with less than 10 minutes to play.

The lead swelled to 61-45 when Henriquez scored back-to-back baskets and Thomas Gipson added a tough bucket in the paint. The Crimson Tide never got close the rest of the way.

Kansas State sealed the game with free throws down the stretch.

"We got some opportunities to put some shots up," Releford said. "A lot of them went down, some of them didn't."

The game matched a pair of head coaches in Grant and Martin who were teammates at Miami (Fla.) Senior High School, where they met as sophomores. In fact, Grant is the godfather of Martin's eldest child, Brandon, and they remain good friends.

That doesn't mean they wanted to win any less than usual.

Both coaches spent the majority of the game riding the officials, riding their own players — more or less yelling at anyone within earshot — and coaching with the passion of March in mid-December.

Alabama, one of the nation's best defensive teams, held the Wildcats to two field goals over the first 10 minutes, slowly building



Jordan Henriquez (21) flies high above the Alabama defense and scored a career-high 17 points and had 8 rebounds.

a meager lead. Tony Mitchell's first basket with 9:08 left in the half made it 15-8, the Crimson Tide's biggest lead of the game.

The Wildcats still trailed 17-12 with less than 5 minutes left when Martavious Irving scored and Rodriguez fed Henriquez for an easy

dunk, starting a 14-7 run to end the half. Henriquez's bucket with 18 seconds remaining allowed Kansas State to take a 26-24 lead into the break.

The game was being played at a pace that favored Grant's Crimson Tide, who came in allowing an average

of just more than 55 points per game — 11th-best in the nation. But the Wildcats heated up in the second half, blowing past that number with 71/2 minutes left.

"We might not be perfect," Martin said, "but we're not taking a backseat to anybody either."



Angel Rodriguez (13) fights his way past the Alabama defense as he moves towards the net.

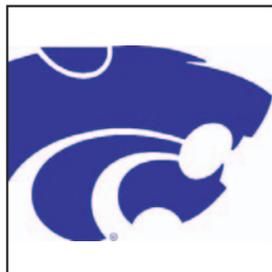


Thomas Gipson (42) climbs above the Crimson Tide to get to the net.



Will Spradling (55) stays focused on keeping Alabama's Trevor Releford (12) away from the net.

Photos by Ben Brake



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