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Tax Cut Fever Spreading Beyond Kansas

By Gene Meyer
Kansas Reporter

TOPEKA — States with no income taxes are gaining congressional seats and, as a policy analyst told lawmakers Tuesday, more states are moving toward cutting or eliminating the taxes to create jobs and grow wealth.

"The point is, people choose to live based on the services that governments provide and the tax policies of those governments," Jonathon Williams, a fiscal analyst with the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, told members of the Kansas House Taxation Committee on Tuesday. ALEC is a nonpartisan organization composed of state legislators who support federalism and conservative approaches to government policy.

States without income taxes, such as Texas, Florida and Washington, are gaining congressional seats in redistricting efforts under way this year, because jobs and lower taxes drew more people to those states.

In the past decade, states

such as Michigan and Illinois, where income taxes are higher, are losing seats because their populations have decreased.

California — a poster child for states with high income taxes — failed to gain a seat for the first time since becoming a state in 1850. Neighboring Nevada, which has no income tax, gained a congressional seat, because its population increased.

Midwest states, such as Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, are among those looking to reduce or eliminate state income taxes to strengthen their respective economies.

In Kansas, Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, is proposing to cut personal income tax rates as much as 24 percent next year and simplify the state tax code by removing many traditional deductions and credits. Republican leaders in the Kansas House also are proposing income tax rate cuts, but without removing so many deductions and credits.

"The American heartland tax rebellion is in full swing," said Travis Brown, a spokesman for the St. Louis, Mo., tax policy

advocacy group Let Voters Decide.

The group wants to allow voters in November's statewide Missouri election to choose whether to abolish that state's 6 percent personal income tax in the next five years and replace about \$4.3 billion in revenue with higher and more broadly applied sales and consumption taxes.

Opponents have filed a court challenge over the proposed wording of the ballot question. But should the petition drive survive, Brown said, "We want Missouri to be as competitive with Kansas in the tax code as we are in basketball." He was referring to Missouri's win over Kansas in a Big 12 Conference men's basketball game last week.

But, he said, turning serious, Missouri and Kansas must become more competitive with lower tax states such as Texas, Oklahoma and Tennessee to allow small businesses to flourish.

"They already are out-producing us and, if we don't com-

pete, we won't get the growth we think we deserve," Brown said.

Oklahoma, meanwhile, kicked up the competition a notch this week when Republican Gov. Mary Fallin proposed to state legislators that Oklahoma cut its top 5.25 percent tax rate to 3.25 percent immediately, then phase it out completely over the next 10 years.

"It's a significant cut," said Alex Wentz, Fallin's press secretary. "If you are a couple with \$30,000 income filing jointly, you pay no income taxes at all."

In comparison, joint filers in Kansas making \$30,000 would pay a 6.45 percent tax on any income that remains after deductions and exemptions under the current law, and a 4.9 percent tax under Brownback's latest proposal.

Kansas' drive to cut personal income taxes did not contribute directly to Oklahoma's call for further reductions, Wentz said.

"We know historically and from common sense, when you leave more money in the pocket-

ets of working families, that increases wealth in the private sector and helps create more jobs," he said.

"But, that said, in today's environment we are acutely aware of the debate that is going on in Kansas."

Brownback regards the Missouri and Oklahoma efforts as a sort of affirmation of his plans to cut taxes in Kansas, said his communications director, Sherriene Jones-Sontag.

"Kansas has been losing taxpayers to our neighbors for years," Jones-Sontag said. "It's a big reason why the last decade was a lost decade for jobs."

"The governor's flat tax plan with a small business accelerator will grow Kansas jobs. The proof is all around us," she said.

Other states are watching, said ALEC's Williams.

"You've got Idaho, Michigan, South Carolina and North Dakota for starters," he said. Those states are eyeing potential cuts to personal income taxes, and in South Carolina an abolition of the

state's corporate income taxes, as well.

Maine, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio — and possibly Indiana — are in some stage of exploring reductions, Williams said.

"The list is growing."

States have seen their revenue increase since the Great Recession, "and there isn't as much nail-biting about whether you're going to make your budget," said Kim Rueben, a senior research associate and expert on state taxation at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

The bigger question for states aiming to abolish income taxes is what happens if a still-fragile national economy turns downward again, she said. Traditional mixes of income, sales and property taxes have, historically, provided the flexibility to deal with those downturns, she said.

Without income taxes, "it's just that much harder to raise the money you need if something happens to the economy," Rueben said.

Lindquist Into High School Hall Of Fame

Dr. Elizabeth Lindquist owner of Little Apple Veterinary Hospital in Manhattan has been honored by her hometown high school.

Friday night Valley Heights added two more former students to the Hall of Fame.

Elizabeth "Liz" (Lamb) Lindquist a Veterinarian from Manhattan and Ashley (Millette) Coomes graduated from Kansas State with a BS in kinesiology and now lives in Girard, Ks, received the honor between games against Wamego.

Elizabeth "Liz" (Lamb) Lindquist

Liz graduated from Valley Heights in 1981 with a 4.0 GPA. She was Valedictorian of her class and recipient of the Outstanding Senior in Math & Science Award. While in high school, she was very active, participating in many activities—National Honor Society, cheerleader, FFA, FCA, Kayettes, band, and held class offices. She was the Junior President of the local chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary. She lettered in volleyball, basketball & track. She was also named as a Girls' State representative. As graduation approached, Liz received many awards and scholarships — American Legion Certificate of Distinguished Achievement; Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award; FFA Chapter Farmer; State of Kansas Certificates of Award in Algebra and English; Valley Heights Certificate of Awards for scholarships; Georgia Pacific scholarship; KSU Scholar; KU Honor student; Fred Loveland Scholarship.

Liz graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and Cum Laude with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State Vet School in 1988. She was initiated into Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Kappa Phi, Kansas State's Honor Societies and the Alpha Epsilon Delta PreMedical Honor Society. Liz was nominated for and won the "Most Promising Biology Student" award while a student at K-State.

Liz has been a veterinarian for 23 years and is the owner of Little Apple Veterinary Hospital in



Pictured left to right are: Valley Heights Superintendent John Bergkamp, Honorees: Elizabeth "Liz" (Lamb) Lindquist, Ashley (Millette) Coomes and Valley Heights Teacher/Coach Crystal Gordon.

Manhattan, KS. She purchased the Clinic in 1999 and has worked hard to make it a very successful business. In 2005, a 4000 sq-ft. full-service vet hospital was built with medical, surgical, and dental care available plus care for exotics and a boarding and grooming facility. In 2007, an additional 1000 sq.ft. was added. She mentors students who have an interest in veterinary medicine either by allowing them to volunteer, observe, or become an employee. She employs 30 full and part-time people at the facility.

Liz has been awarded the Kansas State Small Business Award for business growth and development. She also received the Manhattan Rotary Club Award for business growth, development, integrity and service to her community. She received the Riley County 4-H Project Leader pin recognizing her 5+ years as a project leader. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association. In November of 2010, she was awarded the American Animal Hospital Ass'n. designation. Her hospital is now one of only 15% of all vet hospitals in the United States and Canada that have achieved the AAHA accreditation. This accreditation is based on meeting over 900 rigorous veterinary Standards of Excellence in patient care, pain management, anesthesia, surgery and other aspects of veterinary medicine. Liz is an active Manhattan Chamber of Commerce member. She supports hospice and home care, veterans and troops, with donations of products and services for silent auctions and providing services at discounts or no charge. She is a strong supporter of and a willing participant in using signage and radio ads to thank our service men and

women.

Liz is a supporter of the Sunset Zoo in Manhattan by assisting in fund raisers and being a participant in their many events including the annual "Spooktacular" at the Zoo. She is also a supporter of the Riley County Humane Society and the city Animal Shelter by providing discounted or no-charge services and participation in their many events. Her love of animals has led her to be "mom" for homeless or abandoned pets on numerous occasions.

Liz has been 4-H Project leader for the "pets" project and the "cats" project. She is an adult overseer for many 4-H events including fair events, achievement awards, 4-H Day, club activities for shut-ins and the community. She has also judged for the Riley County Fair.

Early in her professional career, while living in Great Bend, Liz was a part of the Central Kansas Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization, serving as a board member and eventually Board President. She was a Big Sister for several years.

She is a member of the Sedalia Church and was a past Sunday School teacher.

She has been married to 1979 VH graduate Tom Lindquist for 26 years and is the mother of 3 children — Marissa, 17, Codey, 14, and Ethan, 9.

Ashley (Millette) Coomes

Ashley graduated from Valley Heights in May of 2003. While in high school, she participated in volleyball, basketball and track. She excelled in her athletic arenas and was a great leader on the court.

The list of accomplishments on the volleyball court is long for Ashley —

*Freshman — Varsity starter; competed at State

*Sophomore — 1st team TVL

*Junior — competed at State; All State Tournament team; 1st team TVL; Kansas Volleyball Ass'n.

1st team; Kansas Hall of Fame 2A Player of the Year

*Senior — competed at State; All State Tournament team; 1st team TVL; KVA 1st team

When Ashley graduated and left VH, she held many volleyball records — most kills, most blocks, most digs, Top 5 in serve percentage and serve receptions. Her GPA wasn't bad either — 4.0! She played college volleyball for one year at Washburn in Topeka.

In high school basketball, Ashley was a 4-year starter. The team went to State her freshman and sophomore years where she led the team in rebounds and steals. She was also the season rebound and steal leader as well as the career rebound and steal leader over her 4 years of Mustang basketball. She is currently 2nd in VH career scoring with 1,365 points.

In track, Ashley participated 3 years. Her events were the open 400, 4x400 relay and the 4x100 relay. Her freshman year, she went to State in the 4x100. Her senior year, she qualified for State in the open 400. She held the Valley Heights' 400 record for five years before it was broken.

Ashley graduated from Kansas State with a BS in kinesiology. She married Chris Coomes in 2007 and is the mother of two children — Isabella, who is 3, and Matthew 18 months. They currently live in Girard, Kansas.

RCPD To Enforce Overcrowding

By Jon A. Brake

The Manhattan Fire Department just got some help, some big help from the Manhattan City Commission.

At Tuesday nights City Commission approved an alternative plan that will allow the Riley County Police Department to enforce City Ordinances against overcrowding. For years only the Fire Department could enforce the law.

The Manhattan Fire Department (MFD) has adopted a "no tolerance" approach to overcrowding violations and has informed businesses, particularly those within Aggieville.

According to a Memo given to the City Commission for Tuesday nights meeting the new approach has been very successful and the Aggieville businesses have been doing a better job of monitoring and controlling crowds.

Starting last September the Fire Department has issued four citations for overcrowding, two have been fined and two are awaiting trial. The fines were \$400 and \$500 fines and court costs.

Major event weekends like "Fake Patty's Day" and K-State home football games have caused many concerns. Students are gone on St. Patrick's Day so a "Fake Patty's Day" was started to hold on a day that students were still in town and many of the businesses were overcrowded.

Riley County Police Department (RCPD) has noticed that more violations of overcrowding are taking place when MFD personnel are not in Aggieville.

In an ordinance that was tabled on January 10, 2012,

City Administration had recommended the following changes:

1. Allow discretion to close a business for up to 24 hours following an incident of overcrowding. Currently the code allows for a business to be closed until the overcrowding condition has been corrected. With this change, a business may have been closed for up to 24 hours if external factors were contributing to the overcrowding.

(Editor's Note: This section did not pass the Commission Tuesday night.)

2. Clarify that the RCPD has authority to enforce overcrowding. Currently the code requires enforcement by the "fire code official." This change will make clear that RCPD may also issue a citation and be authorized to cause the event to be stopped, the business operation to cease, and/or the building or portion thereof to be closed to the public, until such condition or obstruction is corrected. This change is important because MFD does not have the staff capacity to patrol for overcrowding at all times.

(Editor's Note: This section did pass the Commission.)

3. Increase the penalties for violations. Currently the maximum fine for an overcrowding citation is \$500. This is not considered to be a significant deterrent, especially on high profit weekends like Fake Patty's Day. The original ordinance recommended an escalating tier of fines for multiple offenses.

Commissioners talked about putting the fine at \$2,500.

(Editor's Note: The change in the fine did not pass the Commission Tuesday night.)

Flint Hills Christian School Read-A-Thon



Cade Wilson, Rachel Featherstone and Taylor MacDonald relax and read silently in Mrs. Donna Cranford's third grade class during the winter elementary read-a-thon on Friday, February 3. The day also included group reading time and special guest readers for the classes.

Pawnee Awarded Funding by the Manhattan Breakfast Optimist Club

The Manhattan Breakfast Optimist Club has awarded Pawnee Mental Health Services \$742.50 for the purchase of t-shirts for approximately 45 adult staff members and 120 children with serious emotional disturbances (SED) who will attend Pawnee's STARS Camp this summer.

"The Manhattan Breakfast Optimist Club has been a faithful sponsor of STARS Camp for several years now," said Robbin Cole, Executive Director of Pawnee Mental Health Services. "We are grateful for their support!" STARS Camp (Strength, Teamwork, Attitude,

Relationships, Self-Esteem) provides a summer camping experience for children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances such as conduct disorders, attention deficit disorders and disorders related to emotional, physical or sexual abuse. STARS Camp is staffed by employees of

Pawnee Mental Health Services. Pawnee Mental Health Services is a licensed community mental health center and licensed substance abuse treatment center serving more than 7,700 people annually through out 10 counties in north central Kansas.

Obituaries

Mary Jane Lesline



Mary Jane Lesline, 80, of Wamego, Kansas, died Sunday, February 5, 2012, at the St.

Francis Health Center in Topeka. She was a life-long resident of the area.

Mary was born July 7, 1931 in Alma, Kansas, the daughter of Herman C. and Helen Davis Hafenstein. She attended local schools. Mary was a homemaker and for over 11 years worked as a cook for the Wamego Elementary School. Prior to the school, she worked at Dyers Grocery Store.

Mary was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in McFarland. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and worked helping at the ballot boxes at many elections. She was a wonderful cook and enjoyed crocheting and doing cross stitching.

Mary liked to fish and loved to play bingo. Her special joy was her grandkids.

Mary married Elmer F. Lesline on December 9, 1947, in McFarland. He preceded her in death on July 24, 2001.

Mary is survived by her two daughters, Linda Brockish and her husband, Richard, Wamego, Judy Peddicord and her husband, Turk, Alma; her sons, Jim Lesline and his wife, Sally, Wamego, and Gary Lesline, Alma; her sister, Betty Hughes, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; her half-sister, Joann Kroenke and her husband, Melvin, Topeka; her half-brother, Herman Hafenstein and his wife, Sondra, Topeka; eight grandchildren and eleven

great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her great-grandson, Cade Drago.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 10, 2012, at Campanella-Evans Mortuary in Wamego. Reverend Ron Rather will be officiating. A private burial will be held in Wamego City Cemetery. Mrs. Lesline will lie-in-state on Thursday starting at 2:00 p.m. and the family will greet friends from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. They suggest memorial contributions to Trinity Lutheran Church in McFarland, and those may be sent in care of the mortuary. Online condolences may be made at www.campanellafuneral.com.

Bonnie Lynn Parker



Bonnie Lynn Parker, age 63, of rural Manhattan, died February 1, 2012, at her resi-

dence. She was born September 12, 1948, in Manhattan, the daughter of Leonard and Bernie (Slagle) Sculley. She graduated from Manhattan High School with the class of 1966, and had been a lifetime area resident.

Bonnie devoted her life to raising her children and granddaughters. She enjoyed dancing, playing cards, celebrating the holidays, and especially enjoyed the time spent riding and traveling with Elburn on their Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

On February 26, 1967, in Manhattan, she was married to Elburn Parker. They were married for 45 years and he survives

of the home. Additional survivors include her two children: Jeff Parker and his companion Julie Portuese of Manhattan, and Angela Parker and her companion Chirl Nachbar of Independence, MO; two siblings: Neah Whipple and her husband Vyril of Beeler, KS, and Ennis Sculley and his wife Susan of Eudora, KS; three granddaughters: Beth, Brook and Jacqui Parker; four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 A.M. Monday, February 6, 2012, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-

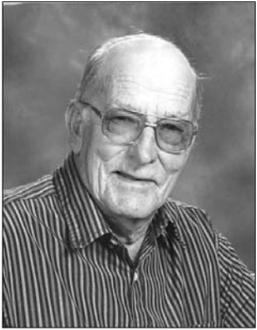
Londeen Funeral Chapel with Reverend Kevin Larson officiating. Cremation will follow the service.

The family received friends from 7:00 until 8:30 P.M. Sunday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to ABATE District 15. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Paul Joseph-Prockish



Paul Joseph Prockish, 78, of St. George, Kansas, died Tuesday, January 31, 2012, at Stormont-Vail Health Care in Topeka. He was a life-long resident of the area.

Paul was born May 15, 1933 in Wamego, Kansas, the son of Andrew J. and Genevieve Eckart Prockish. He attended local schools and graduated in

1951 from Flush High School. Paul then served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. During his time in the Army, he reached the rank of Specialist 2nd Class, he was a heavy equipment operator.

Paul worked as a rural mail carrier for the Postal Service for twenty years. He also farmed, and he was a heavy equipment operator for Ebert Construction Company. He did upholstery for many years and operated Paul's Upholstery in Wamego, and he owned the Wamego Café during the 1970's. Paul was known for being a Jack-of-all-trades. Paul was a life member of the Knight's of Columbus and a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Flush. He also volunteered at the Community Health Ministry.

Paul married Elizabeth "Beth" Kingman on February

22, 1955 in Topeka, Kansas. She preceded him in death on April 11, 2007.

Paul is survived by his daughters, Paulette Bellinder and her husband, Rick, St. George, Devanie Bellinder and her husband, Robert, St. George, Tammy Nieto and her husband, David, Kansas City, Missouri, Maribeth Dinger and her husband, Herman, St. George and Jill LaCount and her husband, Rick, Topeka; his sons, Douglas Prockish and his wife, Rosalind, St. George and Curtis Prockish, Topeka; sisters, Rose Marie Moran and her husband, David, Manhattan, Barbara Siebert and her husband, Julian, Westmoreland and Sharon Brunin and her husband, Don, St. Marys; brother, Robert Prockish and his wife, Barbara, Wamego; twenty four grandchildren and twenty one great-grandchildren. Paul was

preceded in death by his brother, Gilbert and his grandson, Derek.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, February 6, 2012, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Flush, Kansas. Father John Pilcher will be the Celebrant. Burial and military honors followed at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. Mr. Prockish lied-in-state starting at 3:00 p.m., on Sunday at Campanella-Evans Mortuary in Wamego, where the family greeted friends from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A rosary prayer service was held at 7:00 p.m. They suggest memorial contributions to the Paul Prockish Memorial Fund or the American Heart Association, and those may be sent in care of the mortuary. Online condolence may be made at www.campanellafuneral.com.

Junghoon Lee

Junghoon Lee, age 38, died Wednesday February 1, 2012 at the Mercy Regional Health Center, Manhattan, Kansas.

He was born on July 5, 1973 in Daegu, South Korea the son of Daesik Lee and Eunsook (Kim) Lee.

He earned his PhD in Agronomy from Kansas State

University in 2008. He remained at K-State as a Research Associate in Plant Pathology.

On January 12, 2006 he was married to Hyeonju Lee. This union was blessed with 3 children: Alexander Suna Lee, Kristopher Youlmin Lee and Benjamin Junmin Lee.

Junghoon loved KSU Athletics, playing tennis, photography and playing baseball with Alex. Above all, he loved being a loving daddy and husband.

Survivors include his wife: Hyeonju and their three boys: Alex, Kristopher and Benjamin of the home; his parents: Daesik and Eunsook Lee of South Korea; a sister: Miyoung Lee of South Korea and a brother: Younghoon Lee of South Korea. He is also sur-

vived by many other family and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Thursday February 9, 2012 at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas.

Private inurnment will be at a later date.

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

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Denna Sue (Delawder) Sloat

Denna Sue (Delawder) Sloat, 59, died Friday, February 3, at The Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan.

The family has chosen cre-

mation, with no local services. Irvin Parkview Funeral Home and Cremation is responsible for the arrangements.

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1st Annual OZ Museum Art Contest

Submit your original 'Oz' artwork on a standard size 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper to the OZ Museum from February 6 until February 20. Winners will be chosen from the following age groups: 5 and Under,

grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8. The artwork will be placed on display in the OZ Museum's Gallery from February 22 until March 28. Voting starts February 22 and ends March 13 at 5pm. Winners will be chosen

by public vote and announced March 14. All participants will receive free admission to the OZ Museum for the duration of the exhibit and \$2.00 off admission for guests. Winners in each category receive a free Oz tee shirt.

For more information, contact the museum at 785-458-8686 or email at ozmuseum@wamego.net

4-H Straight Shooters Participate At Wabaunsee County Match

The Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooters traveled to Alma on January 28th to compete in the Wabaunsee County Shooting Sports State Qualifying Match. Twenty-nine team members participated in the disciplines of Air Pistol, Air Rifle, and BB Gun.

Team members placing in Air Pistol were Morgan Swisher, Emmett, placed 1st and Mattie Swisher, Emmett, placed 3rd both in the Senior Novice division. Austin Becker, Manhattan, placed 5th in the Senior division. Ethan Sylvester, Wamego, also participated in the Air Pistol competition. The pistol team of Austin Becker and Morgan Swisher placed 2nd.

In Air Rifle Senior Novice division, Daniel Dietrich, Wamego, placed 2nd in prone, 1st in standing, 3rd in kneeling, and 1st aggregate, Mattie Swisher placed 1st in prone, 1st in kneeling, and 2nd aggregate, and Ryan Tully, Manhattan, placed 3rd in kneeling and 4th aggregate. In the Senior division, Matthew Plummer, Wamego, placed 5th in kneeling,

Austin Becker, Jacob Dietrich, Wamego, and Naomi Hawkinson, Manhattan, also participated in the Air Rifle competition. The Air Rifle team of Austin Becker, Naomi Hawkinson, Mattie Swisher, and Matthew Plummer placed 3rd.

Twenty team members competed in BB Gun. In the Junior Novice division, Jacob Caffrey, Westmoreland, placed 4th in standing, 4th in sitting, 2nd in kneeling, and 3rd aggregate and Dane Louderback, St. George, placed 9th in sitting. Senior Novice division members placing were Abby Retzlaff, Westmoreland, 1st in prone, 10th in standing, 5th in sitting, and 7th aggregate, Christopher Raymann, Manhattan, 8th in standing and 3rd in kneeling, and Mac Rogers, Manhattan, 6th in prone. Junior division shooters placing included Dylan Anderson, Leonardville, 6th in prone, 2nd in standing, 1st in sitting, 4th in kneeling, and 3rd aggregate, Brendan Becker, Manhattan, 8th in sitting, and John Allen, Westmoreland, and Cameron

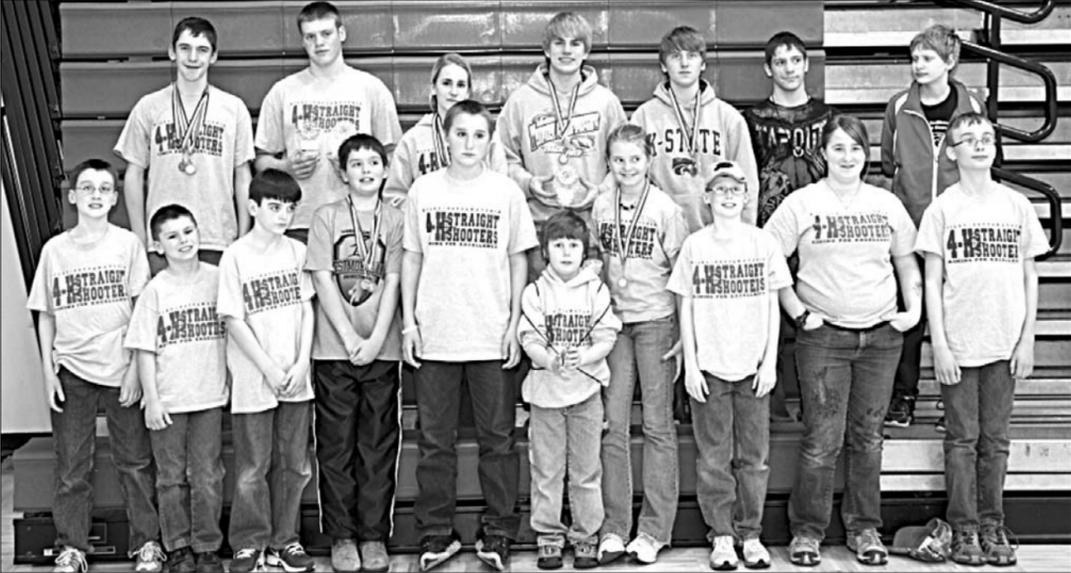
Minihan, Blaine, tied for 9th in standing. In the Senior division, Zach Culbertson, St. George, placed 5th in prone. Evan Allen, Westmoreland, Christopher Becker, Manhattan, Shaun Brown, Manhattan, Jeffrie Caraway, Emmett, Jacob Dille, Olsburg, Barnabas Hawkinson, Manhattan, Carlie Henderson, Manhattan, Ryatt Jones, Emmett, Michael Kovar, Manhattan, and Cade Schanks, Randolph, also participated in BB Gun. The BB Gun team of Dylan Anderson, Zach Culbertson, Carlie Henderson, Cameron Minihan, and Abby Retzlaff placed 6th.

Twenty-two Straight Shooters members have met qualifying scores to compete at the Kansas 4-H State Shooting Sports Match in April. Austin Becker in Air Pistol, Daniel Dietrich, Matthew Plummer, Ryan Tully and A. Becker in Air Rifle, and Brendan Becker, Shaun Brown, and Abby Retzlaff in BB Gun, qualified for the state match at the Sedgewick County Match on Jan. 14th At the Wabaunsee County match, Mattie Swisher,

Morgan Swisher, and Ethan Sylvester qualified in Air Pistol, Jacob Dietrich, Naomi Hawkinson, and Mattie Swisher qualified in Air Rifle, and John Allen, Dylan Anderson, Christopher Becker, Jacob Caffrey, Zach Culbertson, Barnabas Hawkinson, Carlie Henderson, Cameron Minihan, Christopher Raymann and Cade Schanks qualified in BB Gun.

The team will next compete at the Johnson County Match on February 11-12 in Gardner, Kansas.

Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooters are sponsored by Riley and Pottawatomie County Extension Councils, Riley County Fish and Game, Kansas State University Military Science Department, Kaw Valley Archery, Daisy Outdoor Products, Kansas State Rifle Association, Kansas Muzzleloaders Association, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Flint Hills Pheasants Forever, Justin Corbet Foundation, Friends of NRA, and all Straight Shooters parents, families, and instructors.



Riley/Pottawatomie 4-H Straight Shooters Team Members
 Back row: Daniel Dietrich, Austin Becker, Mattie Swisher, Morgan Swisher, Ryan Tully, Jacob Dietrich, Zach Culbertson
 Front row: Christopher Becker, Cameron Minihan, Brendan Becker, Jacob Caffrey, Mac Rogers, Dane Louderback, Abby Retzlaff, Cade Schanks, Carlie Henderson, Michael Kovar
 Not pictured: Evan Allen, John Allen, Dylan Anderson, Shaun Brown, Jeffrey Caraway, Jacob Dille, Barnabas Hawkinson, Naomi Hawkinson, Ryatt Jones, Matthew Plummer, Christopher Raymann, Ethan Sylvester. (Photo taken by Jay Alloway)

8th Annual A Dress the Heart Gala

Manhattan, Kan. – The Mercy Community Health Foundation and the Mercy Regional Health Center Auxiliary are hosting the eighth annual A Dress the Heart Gala on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at the Holiday Inn at the Campus. The gala was established to help raise money for the community's cardiac initiative, which helps to expand local cardiac services and makes heart care more accessible in Manhattan and surrounding areas. This year, money raised from the Gala will also benefit Surgical Services at Mercy, which provides care to more than 4,500 patients every year.

The formal event will feature a silent auction, live music by The Exceptions featuring Betti O., dancing and refreshments. The silent auction and a champagne reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. The gala will start at 7:30 p.m.

"This is our 8th year celebrating the A Dress the Heart Gala here at Mercy Regional and we are so pleased with the community support we have had in bringing together our goal of awareness and raising funds for the benefit of cardiac and surgical services in Manhattan," said Margie Michal, Mercy Community Health Foundation, Executive Director. "There is no better way than through the gala event to continue to bring about awareness and the opportunity to celebrate those successes."

Last year's event raised over \$89,000 to benefit local cardiac and surgical services at Mercy. Over the past seven years, this event alone has raised more than \$590,000 to expand and enhance local cardiology services. The funding has been used for the development of the state-of-the-art catheterization lab, the recruitment of two interventional cardiologists –

Dr. Priyantha Ranaweera and Dr. Vishwanatha Nadig – and the creation of The Heart Institute at Mercy Regional.

Mercy is committed to building the best inpatient, outpatient and emergency services in the state to care for those who call this region of the Flint Hills "home." Support of this year's gala will help Mercy continue expansion for diagnostic cardiac equipment; continue to improve and purchase additional state-of-the-art surgical equipment; and provide additional educational opportunities for surgical services and cardiac staff members to increase clinical knowledge.

For tickets to the 2012 A Dress the Heart Gala, or to make a donation, call the Mercy Foundation at (785) 587-5462. To preview the night's events and auction items, visit www.mercyregional.org.

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Msgr. Weisenburger Appointed 11th bishop of Salina Diocese

Salina — Pope Benedict XVI today named Msgr. Edward J. Weisenburger the new bishop of the Diocese of Salina.

The announcement was made official at noon today in Rome (5 a.m. Central time). Bishop-elect Weisenburger, 51, presently is the vicar general of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the rector of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Oklahoma City. He succeeds Bishop Paul S. Coakley, who was named archbishop of Oklahoma City on Dec. 16, 2010.

Bishop-elect Weisenburger was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 19, 1987, at the cathedral in Oklahoma City by Archbishop Charles A. Salatka. He was parochial vicar of St. Mary Church in Ponca City, Okla., from 1987 to 1990. He then began canon law studies at the University of St. Paul in Ottawa, Canada, where he earned the pontifical J.C.L. degree.

Upon his return to the archdiocese in 1992, he was appointed vice chancellor and adjutant judicial vicar. In addition to Chancery duties he also provided weekend parish and prison ministries from 1992 to 1995 and served as an onsite chaplain for rescue workers in the weeks following the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in

Oklahoma City.

In the fall of 1995, Bishop-elect Weisenburger was elected to the Council of Priests and appointed to the Archdiocesan College of Consultors. He has served as a member of the Seminarian Board for 15 years. In June of 1996, he was appointed vicar general of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese. He has been an officer with the Archdiocesan Tribunal for almost 20 years and has served in various capacities, including promoter of justice for the cause of canonization of Father Stanley Francis Rother, Servant of God. On Oct. 2, 2009, he was appointed a prelate of honor to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, with the title reverend monsignor.

Bishop-elect Weisenburger has served as pastor of two parishes, from 1995 to 2002 at Holy Trinity Parish in Okarche, Okla., and from 2002 until now as rector of the cathedral in Oklahoma City.

Bishop-elect Weisenburger was born on Dec. 23, 1960, in Alton, Ill., to Edward John and Asella (Walters) Weisenburger, the third of their four surviving children. His father, now retired, was a military officer and his mother, who was born and raised in Ellis County, Kan., was a homemaker. He spent two years of his childhood in Hays, Kan., but grew up primarily in Lawton, Okla.,

where he graduated from high school in 1979. He attended Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., graduating with honors in 1983. He then attended the American College Seminary at the Catholic University of Louvain in Leuven, Belgium. He graduated with honors, earning the pontifical S.T.B. in theology along with an M.A. in religious studies in 1986 and a master's in moral and religious sciences in 1987.

Bishop-elect Weisenburger is a member of the Canon Law Society of America, is a Fourth

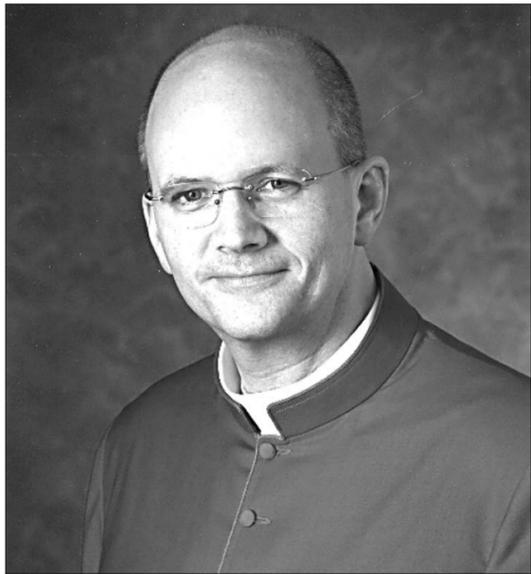
Degree Knight of Columbus and a Knight Commander in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. When time permits, he enjoys reading and occasional travel.

His mother died on March 22, 1998. His father resides in Oklahoma City. His family includes two sisters, Mrs. Mary Jung of Yukon, Okla., her husband, Don Jung, and their children Adam, Ashley and Kaitlin, and Mrs. Adina Heller of Corinth, Texas, her husband, Karl Heller, and their children David and Jillian, and a brother, Mr. Timothy J.

Weisenburger of Pittsburgh, Pa., his former wife, Mary Weisenburger of Houston and their son Stephen.

The date for the ordination and installation of Bishop-elect Weisenburger as bishop of Salina will be announced in the near future.

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Msgr. Edward J. Weisenburger

Flint Hills Festival of Wines Tickets on Sale Now

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Manhattan, KS—The Homecare & Hospice Foundation is pleased to announce that tickets are on sale now for their largest fundraiser of the year, The Flint Hills Festival of Wines.

The Festival of Wines, now in its 13th year, features a weekend of wine tasting events. The Festival weekend begins on Friday, March 2nd with a Wine Dinner and Live Auction held at the Manhattan Country Club at 6:30 p.m. Dinner guests will enjoy a gourmet multi-course meal fea-

ture a different Chateau Julien Wine Estates wine paired with each course. The dinner leads into the main Festival event, the Grand Tasting which will be held on Saturday, March 3rd from 6:30 – 10 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Grand Tasting participants can sample from a variety of over 200 wines and spirits from all around the world and taste gourmet hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants. The Grand Tasting also features a large Silent Auction with a wide variety of auction lots. And for

the first time in Festival history, a Private Tasting Room will be added to the weekend's events. The Private Tasting Room will be held on Saturday, March 3rd from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Private Tasting Room will offer ticket purchasers the opportunity to sample eight highly rated wines and delectable hors d'oeuvres that won't be available for sampling at any other Festival event. The Private Tasting Room is sponsored by Nespor's Wine & Spirits and 4 Olives Wine Bar. Only 50 Private Tasting Room tickets will be sold.

Proceeds from the Festival will directly support the Homecare & Hospice Agency and the in-home hospice, home health and support services they provide in the community as well as the care provided at The Good Shepherd Hospice House.

Call Homecare & Hospice at 537-0688 now to purchase tickets or visit www.flinthillswinefest.com. There is a limit to the number of tickets that will be sold, so get yours today to sip, sample and support a great local, non-profit organization!

Benedictine College Dean's List

ATCHISON, KS (02/01/2012)(readMedia)--Benedictine College, in Atchison, Kan., recently announced its fall honors lists. Students who distinguish themselves academically are named to the President's List or the

Dean's List. To achieve the Dean's List, students must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours and have an average 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average. Of the 1,630 undergraduate students on campus for the 2011-2012 academic year, 453 made the

Dean's List. The following local students were named to the Dean's List: Abigail Buser of Manhattan, KS; Maree Lehman of Manhattan, KS; Benedictine College is a

Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts and residential college located on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River at Atchison, Kansas. The institution traces its roots to 1858 and is dedicated to educating men and women in a community of faith and scholarship. It has been named one of the top Catholic colleges in the nation by the Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College and one of America's Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, visit www.benedictine.edu.

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- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Free Press Big 12 Sports

K-State Defense Stifles Texas Tech 65-46

KSU Sports Information
MANHATTAN, Kan. — While the shots were not dropping early for Kansas State, the defense stepped up big as the Wildcats defeated Texas Tech 65-46 in one of its best defensive efforts of the season. Shane Southwell led the Wildcats with 13 points for a new career-high.

The opening half saw both teams struggle to make a shot, going a combined 12-of-46 from the field. Martavious Irving and Southwell were able to provide a spark off the bench scoring eight and seven points respectively. The Wildcats (17-6, 6-5) stepped it up on defense, forcing 13 turnovers and scoring 15 points from the defensive stops. Despite being outbounded by seven and shooting seven percentage points lower than the Red Raiders (7-16, 0-11), the Wildcats went into intermission leading 31-17.

The second half saw the defense step up the tempo, frustrating Texas Tech with its full court press defense. K-State's length forced the Red Raiders to take difficult shots. Texas Tech's scoring draught continued as the team was held to no field goals from the 1:54 mark in the first half until the 10:12 mark of the second when Jaye Crockett made a jumper. The Wildcats built a 25-point lead halfway through the second stanza, but the Red Raiders were able to trim the deficit to 10 in the last five minutes of the game after a few 3-pointers fell. The Wildcats were able to seal the game from the free-throw line going 11-of-15 in the final five minutes.

The 46 points scored by the Red Raiders is tied for the fifth fewest points allowed by the Wildcats in a Big 12 Conference game. The last time K-State allowed fewer points in a conference game was in 2007 against Nebraska when the Cornhuskers tallied just 45.

With both teams struggling to hit shots, the Red Raiders' shooting percentage of 28.9 percent is the lowest by a K-State opponent this season. On the other side, K-State's shooting performance of just 30.0 (15-of-50) is the lowest of the season as well. But K-State overcame the poor shooting from the field by hitting 30-of-40 free throws. The 30 free throws is a new best for the season. The last time K-State made 30 or more free throws was on March 6, 2010 against Iowa State when the Wildcats drained 33 from the line.

The Wildcats will return to action on Saturday as the team travels to Austin, Texas, to face the Texas Longhorns. K-State won the first meeting between the two teams 84-80 on Jan. 18.

The game can be viewed live on ESPN at 1 p.m.

Kansas State Coach and Player Quotes

Head Coach Frank Martin

Opening Statement...
 "The assistants came in after warm-up because I have to stay locked up like a caged animal and they said 'We are just giving you a heads-up; this might not be very fun tonight. There is just no enthusiasm.' That is the way that we played. Defensively, we were okay. We got to our spots and tried to take care of some of the responsibilities that we put on them. Lamont Evans worked his tail off to prepare us for this game and that showed in some of the attention to detail on defense. Offensively, we were watching guys walk around. I started a diet about three weeks ago, so it put me in a bad mood."

On the team's lack of focus...

"It is called immaturity and not respecting the fact that your senior teammates are down to eight opportunities. We should be past that this time of year. Obviously, we were not today. I did not do a good job of getting them excited today."

On Texas Tech's defensive strategy...

"They went triangle-and-two and when they did that, we scored on three consecutive possessions. They went triangle-and-two there and we did not run our offense. We did not do what we were supposed to do so then take two guys away and everyone stands around looking at the ball. We took bad shots and did not rebound. We did not post or cut the triangle and that is on me because I tried to trust in the team that we can walk through something because that is not something that we do full-time, it is something they are going to do for a small segment of the game. I tried to trust in the fact that is something that we do and not utilize 20 more minutes of practice time and trying to keep our guys off their legs a little bit because we only have so many games. We have four games in nine days with this being game number two. We need to get them off their legs and not be as competitive in everything that we do. But obviously, I did not handle my job very well. I should have spent more time to prepare on the triangle-and-two."

Forward Shane Southwell

On the team's performance...

"We were really stagnant in the first half, so we need to work more on our spread offense. I felt like we were attacking and passing the ball



Shane Southwell (1) led the Wildcats against Texas Tech with 13 points. (Stock photo by Ben Brake)

in our motion two (offense). Defensively, we have to keep attacking."

On the team's lack of focus...

"I still feel like I did not play too well; I missed a couple easy shots. Lately in practice, I have been playing better and I think that carried over (to the game)."

Texas Tech Head Coach Quotes

Head Coach Billy Gillispie

Opening Statement...

"Hard fought game for us, we played extremely hard, as hard as we could possibly play against a very physical team. We just had too many turnovers. I thought we had a great chance to win the game, it was just a matter of what the situation was. We just kept turning the ball over. I am real proud of our guys as far as their effort goes. Their toughness is about as tough as we have played all year long."

On the five final turnovers...

"We were stopping them several times in a row, whether they were missing or we were forcing them to miss, we were getting some defensive rebounds at that particular time. We step out of bounds twice in the game and once during that stretch, we did not get a great shot at the basket. I knew it was four, but I guess it was five

straight times, and you just cannot do that if you are going to win anywhere, but especially on the road against a good team."

On matching the physicality...

"Best way to beat a pressure defense is by penetration, and we definitely were not able to get around the guards. (Kevin) Wagner was able to get around them the first time we played K-State and he is down with an injury, so that definitely hurt us, but we still should not turn the ball like we did. We have to do a better job of screening for each other and passing the ball. We had some opportunities for some high-lows, we threw the ball out of bounds and when we did get opportunities we did not finish close to the basket. That was the downfall. If you finish the plays close to the basket, whether it is on a drive or it is on a pass, that usually relieves the pressure a little bit. Their guys are more athletic than us, so they can over play us on the wing but also beat us on the back door or really press them on the perimeter. If we tried to beat them on a ball screen, or just a straight drive, they were able to recover. We just have to be a little bit faster. It hurt us not having those guys out there."

Kansas State Wildcats 2011-2012 Men's Basketball Schedule			
			Record
01/18/12	vs. Texas	W, 84-80	13-4
01/21/12	at Oklahoma State	W, 66-58	14-4
01/25/12	at Texas Tech	W, 69-47	15-4
01/28/12	vs. Oklahoma	L, 63-60	15-5
01/31/12	at Iowa State	L, 72-70	15-6
02/04/12	vs. Texas A&M	W, 64-53	16-6
02/07/12	vs. Texas Tech	W, 65-46	17-6
02/11/12	at Texas	1:00 PM CT	
02/13/12	vs. Kansas	8:00 PM CT	
02/18/12	at Baylor	12:30 PM CT	
02/21/12	at Missouri	6:00 PM CT	
02/25/12	vs. Iowa State	12:30 PM CT	
02/28/12	at Texas A&M	6:00 PM CT	
03/03/12	vs. Oklahoma State	12:30 PM CT	
Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship			
03/07/12	TBD	TBA	

2011-2012 Women's Basketball Schedule			
			Record
01/17/12	vs. Oklahoma	L, 65-57	13-4
01/21/12	at Baylor	L, 76-41	13-5
01/25/12	vs. Iowa State	L, 66-57	13-6
01/28/12	at Oklahoma State	W, 67-56	14-6
02/01/12	at Texas	W, 64-55	15-6
02/04/12	vs. Baylor	L, 70-41	15-7
02/08/12	at Texas A&M	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/12/12	vs. Kansas	12:00 p.m. CT	
02/15/12	at Oklahoma	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/18/12	vs. Texas	6:00 p.m. CT	
02/22/12	vs. Oklahoma State	7:00 p.m. CT	
02/25/12	at Missouri	12:00 p.m. CT	
02/29/12	at Iowa State	7:00 p.m. CT	
03/03/12	vs. Texas Tech	6:00 p.m. CT	
2012 Phillips 66 Big 12 Championships			
03/07/12	TBD	TBA	

Big 12 Men's Basketball Standings		
	Big12	Overall
Missouri	9-2	22-2
Baylor	8-2	21-2
Kansas	8-2	18-5
Iowa State	7-4	17-7
Kansas State	6-5	17-6
Texas	5-6	15-9
Oklahoma State	5-6	12-12
Oklahoma	3-8	13-10
Texas A&M	3-8	12-11
Texas Tech	0-11	7-16

Big 12 Women's Basketball Standings		
	Big12	Overall
Baylor	11-0	24-0
Texas A&M	7-3	16-5
Oklahoma	7-4	15-7
Kansas State	6-4	15-7
Kansas	5-5	16-6
Texas Tech	4-6	16-6
Oklahoma State	4-6	12-7
Iowa State	4-6	13-8
Texas	3-7	13-9
Missouri	0-10	10-11

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Spradling Leads Wildcats Past Aggies, 64-53

KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Will Spradling scored a career-high 19 points as Kansas State snapped a two-game losing streak, beating Texas A&M 64-53.

Despite shooting woes in his past four games, Spradling came out firing as the sophomore guard knocked down four 3-pointers including a four-point play.

The Aggies (12-10, 3-7) began the game with a furious attack, taking a quick 10-point lead after using a 12-2 run. The Wildcats (16-6, 5-5) were able to chip away at the lead using an 8-0 run of their own to cut the Aggie lead to 16-14 highlighted by the Spradling four-point play. Both teams would trade baskets and Texas A&M held a slim 25-24 halftime lead.

K-State grabbed its first lead of the game after Angel Rodriguez slashed to the rim and made a lay-up. After Naji Hibbert made two free throws and an Elston Turner 3-pointer gave the Aggies a 34-30 lead, the Wildcats began an 11-0 run started by a Thomas Gipson lay-up and a Rodney McGruder 3-pointer. Turner finished with a team high 18 points.

Despite scoring zero points in the first half, Rodriguez quickly changed his fortune scoring 11 points in a span of two minutes. The freshman guard finished the game with 13 points and dished out four assists while also pulling down five rebounds.

The Wildcats were able to dominate inside the paint, outscoring the Aggies 30-14 and were able to capitalize off of second chance opportunities scoring 17 points after hauling in nine offensive rebounds.

This was the final time K-State would face Texas A&M

as a Big 12 Conference opponent in Manhattan with the Wildcats making the return trip to College Station at the end of the month. The Aggies are winless all-time in the series in Manhattan. K-State has defeated Texas A&M all 10 times the Aggies have come to town.

K-State finishes its two-game homestead on Tuesday as the Wildcats host Texas Tech. K-State won the first meeting 69-47. The game can be seen live on the Big 12 Network at 7 p.m.

Kansas State Coach and Player Quotes

Head Coach Frank Martin

On the impact of Will Spradling and Angel Rodriguez ...

"It is a lot easier, and what we tend to forget is that one is a freshman and the other is a sophomore. The sophomore (Will Spradling) tends to understand things a lot better than the freshman (Angel Rodriguez). It was good to see Angel not foul out of the game for a change. If Angel stays in the game, he can really help us with his offense and his understanding of the game. What I have told Will in the last five days is that it is not that his shot was not going in because Jacob Pullen had a game against Oregon where he went 2-for-17. But you still have to shoot and you have to trust the fact that Jamar (Samuels) and all of our other guys will go get an offensive rebound. We cannot get an offensive rebound when our shooters do not shoot the ball. When those two guys were in attack mode, which they have not been, they have kind of been holding back, that is something that takes time for these guys to continue to understand that it makes us a much better offensive team."

On K-State's defensive pressure...

"Going into the game, that was part of my process. Those poor guys are playing without their point guard. Will can probably tell you that is not an easy thing to do. To play without a point guard is difficult and my thought process going into the game was that anytime we had the opportunity to press them, but to press people you have to score the basketball. Your offense has to put the ball in the rim, you have to get to the foul line; you have to do all those things, which we really did not do in the first half. When we did score, it was not in rhythm. We missed a bunch of good shots early and got out of sync but we made good shots in the second half. Our guys were really good defensively in the second half, even our man-to-man defense was solid in the second half. Our ball-screen defense is better, we still made some mistakes but it was better. I am really proud of these guys from what they did today."

Freshman Guard Angel Rodriguez

On pressure coming off of last loss...

"As a team we want to make NCAA Tournament. We lost two games, so I guess you could say there was a little bit of pressure for us. We responded in a good way and got the win."

On today's performance....

"The first half is pretty much how I prepared the past two days of practice before the game. I came out flat these past two practices. Coach Brad talked to me and told me to pick up my energy level and to start making positive plays. That got me going. I tried to be aggressive I guess I was creating good things and finishing my shots as well so the offense was good. I don't worry much about scoring I care more about winning and playing happy, but our fans, our fans are always unbelievable it feels great to



Will Spradling (55) lead K-State with a career-high 19 points against the Aggies. (Stock photo by Ben Brake)

play here and I thought I finally got a good performance here the second half obviously. Today I was very careful about the fouling. Two back to back games I fouled out. Obviously, I want to stay in the game and help the team win. I was trying to be careful today just being

aggressive being disciplined."

Sophomore Guard Will Spradling

On good night of scoring...

"Yeah definitely the only shot I really missed was an in and out and it was still a good shot. I'm going to keep the confidence and go into practice tomorrow feeling better about myself and keep being aggressive. I am not going to relax like I did with the rest of the games where I haven't been playing well."

Texas A&M Player Coach and Player Quotes

Head Coach Billy Kennedy

Opening statement...

"I have to give Kansas State credit, Frank has his program in good shape, they have a lot of depth. They wore us down physically in the second half. We miss some lay ups, we missed some free throws. You got to make those to beat a good Kansas State team here in Manhattan."

His thoughts on Will Spradling...

"I really think he is the heart of their team, I like his toughness on both ends of the floor. We should have been up 8-to-10 in the first half, I thought we had opportunities to extend the lead, but Will Spradling got

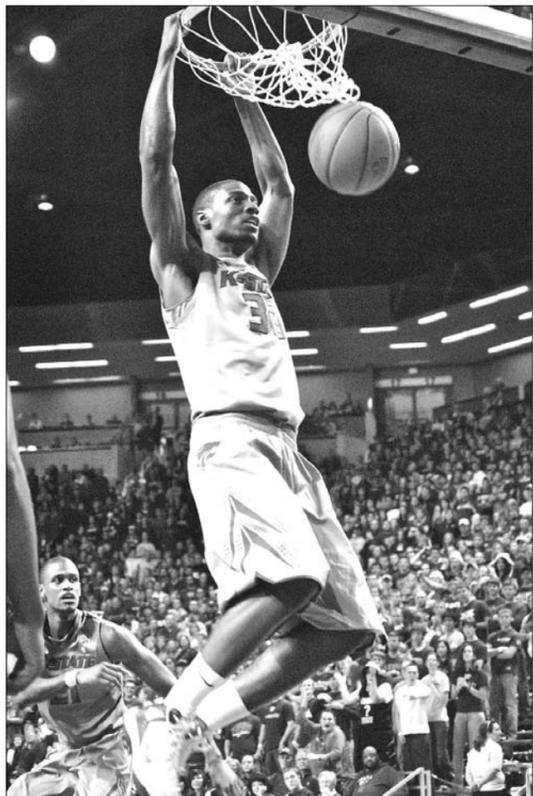
free and hit a 4-point play on a missed free throw by us. I thought that got them right back into the game. He is a very good player and we did not do a very good job on guarding him."

On his first thought of Freshman Guard Angel Rodriguez...

"We knew he was crafty with the ball, and I thought we did good in the first half against him. We just wore down and didn't cut the baseline with our post guys. Our post guys did a poor job of helping, but to his credit he got to the free-throw line and made a couple of tough shots."

On K-State's defensive pressure...

"We expected the pressure. They started off that way in the beginning of the game. We got up on them. We broke the pressure and got some open shots, but they physically just wore us down. We played Wednesday night and lost a tough game to Baylor. We are just a little short handed right now. That is just what K-State does to you. I was really concerned coming into the game on turning the ball over. They forced 19 turnovers. Last game we only had seven turnovers. The defense was just really good."



Jamar Samuels (32) towered over Texas A&M as he dunked. He K-State with 6 rebounds.



Angel Rodriguez (13) drive the ball past the Aggies' defense and scored 13 points for the Wildcats.

Photos by Tonya Ricklefs.

Snyder Likes Variety of 2012 Class

By Mark Janssen

Twenty-six players from a dozen states that Snyder sees as "variety" being the plus. That includes a mixture of nine deferred enrollees from last year, plus the formula of high school and community college talents. "Then position-by-position we've recruited people at every single position on the board."

That was coach Bill Snyder's general assessment of the 2012 Kansas State football recruiting class Wednesday afternoon.

He would add, "It takes several years to accurately assess the quality of a recruiting class. Hopefully we have assessed the skills, capabilities and intrinsic values of these young people accurately."

Snyder pointed to defensive line as perhaps the single position of emphasis with the 2012 signing roster including six. Two of those come from the community college ranks in 6-3, 290-pound Chaquill Reed of Wichita, Kan., and transfer from Butler County Community College, and, 6-2, 300 Wesley Hollingshed from Atlanta, Ga., and transfer from Trinity Valley Community College.

Of that collective position on the field, Snyder said, "Some positions someone can step on the field quickly at a young age and defensive line is one of those, along with running back and wide receiver as compared to offensive line, secondary and quarterback."

FANCY NUMBERS:

Marquez Clark, a 6-0, 180-pound wide receiver from Texarkana and graduate of Navarro Junior College was ranked the No. 16 junior college player in the nation. This past year he caught 98 passes for 1,639 yards, which was a national single-season record.

Clark totaled at least 100 yards in receiving in his last 10 games and had nine catches or more in six of those games.

"The numbers tell you something," admitted Snyder. "You can't get that kind of yardage without having some skill. He has good feet, runs pretty well, has good hands and a pretty good knowledge of the position. I like the fact he seems to have a humble commitment for becoming the best that he can become

and is disciplined to what he needs to do."

MEET MR. BENDER: Tavarius Bender, call him Tay, comes to K-State as a 6-2, 210-pound quarterback from Southwest High School in Lincoln, Neb. Bender is ranked the No. 20 dual-threat quarterback in the country after passing for 1,025 yards and rushing for 699 with 20 total touchdowns.

Of Bender's makeup, Snyder said, "I like the kind of person he is when it comes to dedication and his commitment. I like his passion for the game and commitment to trying to get better. He seems to have a willingness to learn. He's a sponge for the knowledge it takes to play the position he plays."

BY THE NUMBERS:

- Using approximate numbers, Snyder indicated every recruiting season starts with roughly 1,200 players that are sliced to around 300 by the start of the fall season before narrowed to the mid-30s where the final class will come from.

- The class covers 12 different states: 9 from Texas, 5 from Kansas, 2 from Oklahoma and Louisiana, and one from Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Nebraska.

- 6 community college and 20 high school graduates

- Defense: 6 linemen, 2 linebackers, 3 defensive backs

- Offense: 1 quarterback, 3 running backs, 5 wide receivers, 1 tight end, 3 offensive linemen, 2 athletes

- Scholarships were awarded forward to two members of last year's roster in defensive lineman John Sua and starting left guard Nick Puetz.

- Nine members of the class are currently enrolled at K-State and a total of 11 could take part in spring drills.

EARLY ASSESSMENT: While normally saying that the value of a recruiting class is not known for two to three years, of last year's recruiting harvest, Snyder said, "We had nine or 10 starters (in 2011) that came from last year's class. Based on that, it was a pretty successful recruiting class."