

Kansas high schools talking about forming a 24-member league

By Mark Schnabel

Newton Kansan NEWTON — While no action was taken, the Newton School District Board Board of Education listened to details of a proposed merger between the Ark Valley League, which Newton High School has been a member of for 90 of the league's 92 years, and the Chisholm Trail League.

The proposed merger, which includes Salina Central and Salina South of the I-70 League, would form a 24-

Under the latest proposal, Newton would be in the second largest division. "There is a need to do something different," Newton superintendent John Morton said.

"Enrollment changes have changed the composition of these leagues. There seems to be fairly unanimous agreement that something needs to be

"The question is what needs to be

school league with four divisions of six done and how to do it in a somewhat

with the Newton coaches Friday to dis-

The Chisholm Trail League, already

6A schools in the western half of the state (Western Athletic Conference and Greater Wichita League schools are not involved) are involved, Morton said it would be important for the New-

Since all but 12 of the Class 5A and think that's good for our community. I think we have to be an active participant."

An initial proposal had three divisions of eight teams with Newton as the smallest school in the first division.

"That would have been competitive suicide," Newton football coach Brent Glann told the board.

"Just the level of teams and level of programs (involved). The four-division proposal seems perfect to me and

"There is a concern about scheduling. We're in the middle of everything. We'll have no trouble filling the schedule. I coached in Scott City, the middle of nowhere, and we had no trouble filling the schedule."

Morton said there will be a meeting of superintendents and school representatives after the holiday break to come up with a final proposal.

The board will act after a final proposal is presented, probably in the next couple months.

The bowl beat goes on

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher The beat continues as we head towrd the showdown on Jan. 3 to see who will wear the crown of the nation's best football team.

That drama will unfold at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., between neighboring Nebraska and far-away

Of interest to the state of Kansas, will be the match-up on Saturday at the Insight.com Bowl in Phoenix pitting the 6-5 Kansas State University Wildcats against 9-3 Syracuse.

Game time is 4:30 p.m. Despite the records, the 'Cats are 5-point favor-

Here's what's left between now and Jan. 3 (all times Central):

• Dec. 27 — Seattle Bowl, Georgia Tech vs. Stanford, ESPN, 3 p.m.; Independence Bowl, Shreveport, La., Iowa State vs. Alabama, ESPN, 5:30

• Dec. 28 — Gallery furniture.com Bowl, Houston, Texas A&M vs. Texas Christian University, ESPN, 12:30 p.m.; Music City Bowl, Nashville, Tenn., Boston College vs. Georgia, ESPN, 4 p.m.; Holiday Bowl, San Diego, Calif., Texas vs. Washington, ESPN, 2:30 p.m.

• Dec. 29 — Motor City Bowl, p.m. for the national championship.

Pontiac, Mich., Toledo vs. Cincinnati, ESPN, 11 a.m.; Alamo Bowl, San Antonio, Texas Tech vs. Iowa, ESPN, 2:30 p.m.; Insight.com Bowl, Phoenix, Kansas State vs. Syracuse, ESPN2, 4:30 p.m.

• Dec. 31 — Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas, Washington State vs. Purdue, CBS, 11 a.m.; Humanitarian Bowl, Boise, Idaho, Louisiana Tech vs. Clemson, ESPN, 10:30 a.m.; Silican Valley Classic, Fresno State vs. Michigan State, FOX Sports, noon,; Liberty Bowl, BYU vs. Louisville, ESPN, 3 p.m.; Peach Bowl, North Carolina vs. Auburn, ESPN, 6:30

• Jan. 1 — Outback Bowl, Tampa, Fla., Ohio State vs. South Carolina, ESPN, 10 a.m.; Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Arkansas vs. Oklahoma, Fox, 10 a.m.; Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla., Virginia Tech vs. Florida State, NBC, 11:30 a.m.; Citrus Bowl, Orlando, Fla., Michigan vs. Tennessee, ABC, noon; Fiesta Bowl, Tempe, Ariz., Colorado vs. Oregon, ABC, 3:30 p.m.; Sugar Bowl, New Orleans, Illinois vs. LSU, ABC, 7:30 p.m.

• Jan. 2 — Orange Bowl, Miami, Maryland vs. Florida, ABC, 7 p.m.

• Jan. 3 — Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif., Miami vs. Nebraska, ABC, 7 equitable fashion to all the schools." Morton said there will be a meeting

cuss the proposals. The Ark Valley League has three

Class 6A schools, four Class 5A schools and one Class 4A school.

in two divisions, has one 6A school, four Class 5A schools and nine Class 4A schools. Salina South and Salina Central are both 5A schools.

ton board to support the merger. "Some change is going to take place," Morton said.

"If we chose not to participate in the change, we will be sitting here with no league affiliation and I don't think that's good for our students and I don't the coaches I've talked to....

Reject appeals in death of Emporia player

TOPEKA (AP) — Three men have the state Supreme Court. failed to convince the state Court of Appeals to overturn their involuntary manslaughter convictions in the beating death of an Emporia State University football player.

A three-judge appeals panel issued separate rulings in the cases of Andrew J. Lloyd, Kelly W. Maxfield and Rex A. Pendlav.

They were each sentenced to 32 months in prison for the death of Brian Wagner, a 19-year-old Emporia State freshman from St. Paul, who died six days after a fight in a parking lot outside a bar in April 1999.

They still can appeal their cases to

The three men had a single trial in Lyon County District Court in September 1999. According to testimony, Wagner and two friends intervened in a fight between four women.

The defendants, who also knew some of the women, then arrived on the scene. A fight began between two men, and others joined in.

Wagner died of head injuries. He suffered a fractured skull, facial fractures, a broken nose and bruises on his

The three defendants originally were charged with unintentional seconddegree murder but were convicted of

the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter.

In appealing those convictions, the men argued that there wasn't enough evidence for a jury to find that their conduct resulted in Wagner's death.

In unsigned opinions issued Friday, the appeals panel acknowledged "a welter of conflicting testimony" but said it was reasonable for the jury to reach the conclusion it did.

"We will not reweigh the evidence or pass on the credibility of the witnesses," the panel said in its ruling on Lloyd's case.

The defendants also argued that District Judge William "Lee" Fowler

should have granted them separate tri-

The key issue was whether each of the three men would defend themselves by implicating the other two, and whether witnesses would back up such statements.

But the Court of Appeals panel noted that it found no evidence that individual defendants weren't able to implicate the others and that Fowler promised to prevent witnesses from testifying about what the defendants said about each other.

"After a thorough review of the trial transcript, we find the trial court was true to its word," the panel said its in decision in Maxfield's case.

Regional Briefs

Lawrence basketball tournament

The Mid-America Youth Basketball Winter Tournament will be in Lawrence, Dec. 27-30 for grades 3-8 with a four game minimum. Call 316-284-0354 or e-mail busy@southwind.net for more infor-

Jayhawk baseball camp

The University of Kansas is hosting a mini-camp for grades 9-12 on Dec. 27-30 covering fundamentals. The camp will be at Anschutz Pavilion on campus and cost is \$275. Call 785-864-7907 for more information.

December tournaments Mid-America Youth Basketball will host tournaments for girls and boys, grades 3-8 in Chanute and Wichita on Dec. 29-30 with a three game guarantee. Call 620-431-6694 or e-mail

busy@southwind.net. January baseball clinic.

The University of Kansas is holding

its annual winter baseball clinics on Saturdays, Jan. 12,19 and 26 at Anschutz Pavilion on campus. Clinics will run from 2-4 p.m. for hitting and 4-6 p.m. for pitchers and catchers for 3-8th grade athletes. Cost for all three Saturdays is \$80 for individual sessions or \$140 for combination. Call 785-864-7907 for more information.

There will be Mid-America Youth Basketball tournaments in Lindsborg and Bartlesville, Okla. for boys and girls, grades 3-8 on Jan. 5-6. There is a three game guarantee. Call 785-227-3578 or e-mail busy@southwind.net.

January tournaments

Mid-America Youth Basketball is holding tournaments for girls and boys grades 3-8 in Park City and Olathe on Jan. 12-13. There is a three game guarantee. Call 316-284-0354 or e-mail busy@southwind.net for more information.

Mid-America Youth Basketball is

hosting a tournament for boys and girls on Jan. 26-27 in Wichita. E-mail busy@southwind.net.

CORRECTION ~

On the cover of the Sears Hometown preprint dated 12/ 26/01-12/29/01, the #66165 Maytag range was incorrectly pictured. The correct range has only a single oven and not the double oven as shown. Also, the speakers on page 3, next to the #54611 Projection TV, are not included in the \$1,699.99 price. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

HELP WANTED

Brewster, Kansas location is seeking a supervisor for 2.5 million bushel grain facility. After 20 years of service the current supervisor is retiring. Grain experience is necessary. Please contact Rex Jamison 785-694-2281.

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Sports Whirl

FOOTBALL

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) -Former Dallas Cowboys defensive end Harvey Martin, once a Super Bowl MVP, died of pancreatic cancer. He

The four-time Pro Bowler starred for the Cowboys in the 1970s and highlighted his 11-year career by being the co-MVP of the 1978 Super Bowl with teammate Randy White. Martin is the first Super Bowl MVP to die BASEBALI

BASEBALL

to try to purchase the Minnesota Twins.

Watkins, who would become baseball's first black controlling owner, is scheduled to meet with base- Albeck paralyzed on the right side and ball officials on Jan. 10. He previously unable to speak significantly. The

a possible bid for the Tampa Bay Devil

TOKYO (AP) — Hideki Matsui became the highest-paid player in Japanese baseball history, signing a oneyear, \$4.7 million contract.

Matsui, an outfielder for the Yomiuri Giants, surpassed the mark set by Ichiro Suzuki, now with the Seattle Mariners. Suzuki earned \$4 million with the Orix BlueWave in 2000.<

BASKETBALL TORONTO (AP) tant coach Stan Albeck was resting ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Alabama comfortably and remained in stable ousinessman Donald Watkins intends condition, two days after he had a stroke in the locker room before a

The stroke left the 70-year-old



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