

Taking a baby to KU game can cost

LAWRENCE (AP) — When Kansas football fans Owen and Lisa Foust headed to the Jayhawks' season opener last Saturday, they bundled up 3-month-old daughter Kate to go along.

But when they presented their tickets at the gate, they were told they would need an additional \$35 ticket for Kate.

"I just thought it was pretty tacky," Owen Foust said. "It's just a grab for money."

Kansas actually began enforcing the babies-pay policy three or four years ago, said Kansas associate athletic director Jim Marchiony.

"Everybody needs a ticket regardless of age," Marchiony said. "The very small children come with backpacks and bottles and toys. ... We've received numerous complaints over the years from people who are sitting next to those people — enough for us to know that even those sized children need the space."

And, Marchiony said, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has recommended that organizations require tickets for everyone at large events as a way to keep track of numbers.

The Fousts, both University of Kansas graduates, said they didn't mind paying something for Kate to get into the game, but they didn't think it should be a full-priced ticket.

"This is supposed to be a family-friendly environment," Owen Foust said.

"I don't think that policy promotes that (environment) much."

Kate — and any child under 3 — would be able to get in free for a

Kansas City Chiefs game.

"It's a question of the actual seat," said Chiefs spokesman Bob Moore. "If there's no one sitting in the seat, then there's no reason to sell the seat."

Moore said he believed most professional football teams have the same policy.

Fans under 2 also can get in free to see the Missouri Tigers or Kansas State Wildcats play, and those under 1 don't pay for tickets at Iowa State.

"We just felt like a 1-year-old doesn't take up that much room," said Matt Johnson, director of ticket operations at Iowa State. "We get calls all the time saying: 'Thanks for not making our 2-month-old pay.'"

But Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas all charge for babies who are brought to games.

"Our stadium is sold out on a season-ticket basis with a long waiting list," said Keith Mann, spokesman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "Everyone has to have a ticket."

Making exceptions for babies "leads to too much decision-making at the gate," said Kenny Mossman, athletic department spokesman at Oklahoma.

Texas women's athletic director Christine Plonsky argues that safety is an issue.

"The ruler here of stadium and game management is our fire marshal," she said.

The Fousts say the policy won't dampen their Kansas spirit.

"Kate will probably go to some games," Owen Foust said. "And we certainly want Kate to be a KU graduate someday."



Colby's Kelly Gerstner ran in the Goodland cross country meet held Aug. 31. Colby competes at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Leoti.

Football skills contest to be Sept. 15

Colby's College Drive Assembly of God is sponsoring a NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competition at 3:45 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Colby High School practice field.

The competition is for boys and girls 8 to 15 years old. Participants will test their skills and accuracy in punting, passing and kicking a football.

The four age divisions are: 8,9,10,11; 12,13; and 14,15 with boys and girls competing separately (age is determined as of Dec. 31 of the current year). Registration begins at 3:45 and competition will begin at 4 p.m.

Top scorer in all age divisions from each local competition from each of the boys' and girls' divisions will advance to the sectional competition. The top five first-place scorers in each age group from the pool of Sectional Competition champions will advance to the team championship.

Team championships take place in NFL team stadiums in November and December (the actual competition will take place prior to the game). A passing exhibition will take place either during pregame or halftime. Top four scorers from all the first-place finalists in each age division in both the boys and girls' age groups, from each of the NFL teams, will advance to the national finals. These 32 winners plus two parents or guardians will travel to the finals at an NFL playoff game in January.

For more information, contact Michael Fortkamp at 462-5588 or the church at 462-8234.

KSU hopes Clayton's return helps

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — His legal problems behind him, Thomas Clayton now hopes to put Kansas State's offensive struggles in the past, as well.

First-year coach Ron Prince suspended the junior running back for the Wildcats' season opener, a 24-23 victory over Division I-AA Illinois State in which Kansas State failed to score an offensive touchdown.

Clayton will be available Saturday, though, when the Wildcats host Florida Atlantic (0-1).

"He was very professional with the way he handled things all last week," Prince said. "I'll expect him to do the same this week and I'm anticipating him having a good game."

Clayton's suspension stemmed from an incident last September in which he struck a university parking services employee with his car.

Clayton, who also was suspended one game last year for the same incident, was convicted in June of misdemeanor battery.

"After I did some thinking, and sat down with Coach Prince, I think it's fair," Clayton said earlier this week. "Honestly, I had to take myself out of my own shoes and look at the big picture and look at the situation I put everyone in. I realized that I put the program, not so much in jeopardy, but made the program look bad."

Before his run-in with campus police, Clayton was making himself look pretty good. He was the nation's leading rusher after two games in 2005, with 329 yards.

His production tailed off after his arrest, but he still finished as the Wildcats' leading rusher with 637 yards on 137 carries.

"I'm expecting him to make a contribution, especially when the

holes are there," Prince said. "I'm expecting Thomas to get through them and run with power and authority."

Both were a bit lacking against Illinois State, which outgained the Wildcats 346 yards to 207 and kept up constant defensive pressure on Kansas State quarterback Dylan Meier.

"I think the running game is a quarterback's best friend," Prince said. "If a quarterback is ever going to have a chance to get on track, we obviously need to have a little more respect for our running game than what happened."

Florida Atlantic, meanwhile, will be down one starter, and possibly one backup, in the backfield. DiIvory Edgecomb, who was projected as the Owls' No. 1 running back, has been ruled academically ineligible and had his appeal denied this week.

SportsBriefs

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Former Ohio State tailback Maurice Clarett was indicted on new charges related to a highway chase and violent struggle with police.

Clarett, found with three semiautomatic handguns and an automatic rifle — all loaded — in his SUV, was indicted on five charges that include carrying a concealed weapon and two counts of failure to comply with an order from a police officer.

The 22-year-old was arrested Aug. 9 after authorities say he tried to flee a police officer.

The indictment also includes charges of improper handling of a firearm and one count of using a gun while under indictment on the New Year's Day robbery.

PRO FOOTBALL
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Carolina Panthers All-Pro receiver Steve Smith missed practice again and remains questionable for the season opener against Atlanta. Smith was limited to 10 practices

in the preseason because of a strained left hamstring and an ingrown toenail that required stitches. He did not play in any of Carolina's four preseason games.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tedy Bruschi returned to practice with a cast on his surgically repaired right wrist and was listed as questionable for the New England Patriots' season opener Sunday against Buffalo.

The inside linebacker, who broke his wrist on the fourth day of training camp July 31, was on the field for the stretching period that was open to the media. The injury report issued later said Bruschi missed a portion of the practice.

TRACK AND FIELD
Marion Jones' career of triumph and suspicion is back on track, and she plans to waste no time getting back to work.

Jones is aiming to compete in the World Cup in Athletics in Athens Sept. 16-17 and a meet in Shanghai a week later, her coach Steve Riddick said.

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