

# Kansas Shrine Bowl continues to grow

It began as simply a football game, featuring many of the top graduated high school football players in a charity football game for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

That basic idea has not changed through the years, and indeed the Kansas Shrine Bowl has become a Sunflower State tradition, and the unofficial start of the football season in Kansas.

But the Kansas Shrine Bowl has blossomed into more than just the state's premiere high school All-Star game. It's a series of events designed to involve hundreds of Kansas students and dozens of volunteers in activities ranging from a high school football clinic and combine, a band camp, cheer-leading and dance clinics, and an All-State cross country meet.

This year's game, the 39th annual, will be held in Emporia, with the football game kicking off at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at Welch Stadium on the Emporia State University campus.

"We estimate there will be upwards of 500 young people involved in the Shrine Bowl activities in 2012," said Kansas Shrine Bowl Executive Director Emeritus, Dave Mize. "And that's not counting the coaches, sponsors and volunteers that make it all work. Shrine Bowl week has become one of the most anticipated weeks of the summer in Kansas because of the wide range of opportunities we present, and the ex-

cellent instruction that goes along with each activity."

The newest Shrine Bowl event will be a dance clinic, to be held July 26 to 28.

"Dance teams have become part of high school entertainment in the past few years", said Mize. "Like our cheer camps and band camps, we want to offer students the opportunity to get excellent instruction and to learn new routines that they can take back to their schools this fall."

The dance clinic will be led by members of the Emporia State University dance staff, and the dancers will perform at the Shrine Bowl itself.

Popular events returning in 2012 include the football clinic and combine to be held on the morning of game day. It features the opportunity for high schools players to have their skills measured and recorded. The All-State Masonic Marching Band camp, which engages about 200 Kansas high school and junior high bandsmen, will gather a few days before the game for some high-intensity practices before its performances at the Shrine Bowl Banquet on Friday, July 27, the annual Shrine Bowl parade on game day and at the game itself. And many of the state's cheerleaders will hone their cheerleading skills at a cheer camp to be held at Emporia State from July 26 to 28.

The Fifth Annual All-State Cross-Country meet, featuring 60

of the state's top high school cross country runners will be run prior to kickoff, with the last few yards to be run on the Welch County Track just prior to the football game. There will also be a two-mile charity run open to anyone.

An important aspect of this year's Shrine Bowl weekend will be a free screening clinic offered to parents of children who may qualify to be helped by Shriners Hospitals for Children.

The clinic will be held at the Flint Hills Community Health Center from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Medical staff will be on hand to examine children from birth to 18 years old with orthopedic challenges, burns, or cleft palate and lip to determine if the kids would benefit from treatment at a unit of Shriners Hospital for Children.

All Shrine Bowl events are produced and presented to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children, a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, research and teaching programs for medical professionals.

Children up to the age of 18 are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

Tickets and additional information are available at [www.kansasshrinebowl.com](http://www.kansasshrinebowl.com) or by calling (800) 530-5524.

## Base running



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press  
Zack Stones dove back to second base Sunday during a Legion baseball game at the Colby ball fields. The Burlington second baseman was quick to the punch, though, and tagged Stones out.

# Lawsuit says football league hid injury links

By Maryclaire Dale  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A concussion-related lawsuit bringing together scores of cases has been filed in federal court, accusing the NFL of hiding information that linked football-related head trauma to permanent brain injuries.

Lawyers for former players say more than 80 pending lawsuits are consolidated in the "master complaint" filed Thursday in Philadelphia.

Plaintiffs hope to hold the NFL responsible for the care of players suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's disease and other neurological conditions. Other former

players remain asymptomatic, but worry about the future and want medical monitoring.

The suit accuses the NFL of "mythologizing" and glorifying violence through the media, including its NFL Films division.

The league has denied similar accusations in the past.

Mary Ann Easterling will remain a plaintiff despite the April suicide of her husband, former Atlanta Falcons safety Roy Easterling, who had been a named plaintiff in a suit filed last year.

Easterling, 62, suffered from undiagnosed dementia for many years that left him angry and volatile, his widow said. He acted out of character, behaving oddly at

family parties and making risky business decisions that eventually cost them their home. They were married 36 years and had one daughter. She believes the NFL has no idea what families go through.

Roy Easterling played for the Falcons from 1972 to 1979, helping to lead the team's "Gritz Blitz" defense in 1977 that set the NFL record for fewest points allowed in a season. He never earned more than \$75,000 from the sport, his widow said. After his football career, he started a financial services company, but had to abandon the career in about 1990, plagued by insomnia and depression, she said.

## Scott City plans triathlon in July

The Scott Recreation Commission of Scott City will be holding its fourth annual triathlon on Saturday, July 28, at Scott State Park.

The events will be a 300-meter swim at Camp Lakeside and a 12-mile bike ride and 5K run around Scott Lake.

Registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. and athletes will be assigned to heats that will begin in staggered times, depending on the number of competitors who enter.

A participant may compete as an individual or put together a three-person team.

Each competitor receives a T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the top three individual and team winners. Participants must be 12 years of age or older.

The deadline to register is Monday, July 23, and cost is \$40 per person or \$60 per team.

For information or to register, call the commission at (620) 872-2372 or find it online at [www.scottrec.org](http://www.scottrec.org).

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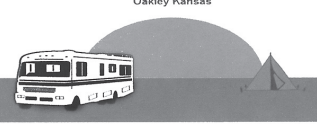
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