



JJJ PHOTO

Clint Cannon rode at the 2011 Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg. Bareback riding kicks off each night of the rodeo, which will be held from Aug. 2 to 4 this year.

Tickets to go on sale for rodeo

Tickets go on sale Monday for Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg at Heritage Insurance Company there.

The rodeo will be held Thursday to Saturday, Aug. 2 to 4, and is run by a committee of volunteers.

It brings the people of Phillipsburg, who are known for their volunteerism, together says Mayor Fred Robinson.

"Anytime there's a need, the community steps right up to see that it gets done," he said. "The rodeo has created a willingness to volunteer among the community so that people step up when there's a need."

Community people give of their time to put

the rodeo on. The rodeo "is all done by volunteers, the ticket takers, the concessions, everything."

This year's rodeo's entertainment includes barrelman and rodeo clown Slim Garner and specialty act, the Ranch Riata Cowboy Girls, who will trick rope and trick ride. Beutler and Son Rodeo Co. will return with their string of bucking horses and bulls, and Randy Corley will call the action. The Chain Ranch longhorn herd will be part of the parade through downtown Phillipsburg on Aug. 4.

Robinson, who has attended the rodeo consistently since 1960, speaks highly of the town's rodeo.

"We have one of the nicest arenas of anywhere I've been around," he said. "The stock contractor we have is, as far as I'm concerned, at the top, and the announcer and specialty act they bring is a first class show. And they work hard to keep it that way."

Cost is \$14 for reserved seating and \$12 for general admission for adults and \$10 for reserved and \$9 for children.

Tickets can be purchased in person at Heritage Insurance at 685 Third St. in Phillipsburg or over the phone at (785) 543-2448.

For information, visit the rodeo's website at www.KansasBiggestRodeo.com.

Bowl series gets boot in favor of four-team playoff

By Ralph D. Russo
AP College Football Writer

WASHINGTON — The best way to determine a major college football champion seemed so obvious to so many for so long. Just have a playoff.

Now the people in charge of making that decision are on board, too.

Come 2014, the BCS is out. Playoffs are in.

A committee of university presidents approved a plan Tuesday for a four-team playoff put forward by commissioners of the top football conferences.

For years, the decision-makers had balked at any type of playoff because they said it would diminish the importance of the regular season. If only two teams had a chance to win a championship in the postseason, even one loss

could be too many. That made for some high stakes regular-season matchups. As recently as 2008, Southeastern Conference Commissioner Mike Slive proposed the type of plan adopted Tuesday, and it was quickly shot down.

The move completes a six-month process for the commissioners, who have been working on a new way to determine a major college football champ after years of griping from fans. The latest configuration is certain to make even more money for the schools than the old system — and it still won't satisfy everyone. Some will think it's too small and, yes, there are some who liked things just the way they are.

Nebraska Chancellor Harvey Perlman was the most notable holdout. He had said that he preferred the status quo or a tweak of the Bowl Championship Series.

Perlman said the playoff still wouldn't be his first choice, but he was not going to stand in the way of progress. After the commissioners presented their proposal to the presidents, it took the CEOs about an hour and a half to come to a decision.

Instead of simply matching the nation's No. 1 and No. 2 teams in a title game after the regular season, the way the BCS has done since 1998, the new format will create a pair of national semifinals.

No. 1 will play No. 4, and No. 2 will play No. 3 on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The sites of those games will rotate among six bowls. The Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., is guaranteed a spot, and the to-be-determined site of the newly formed bowl created by the SEC and Big 12 is likely to be another, Slive said.

The other current BCS bowls

— the Orange, Sugar and Fiesta — are not yet guaranteed spots in the rotation, but will get first crack at bidding for them.

The winners of the semis will advance to the championship on the first Monday in January that is six or more days after the last semifinal. The first "Championship Monday" is set for Jan. 12, 2015.

The site of the title game will move around the way the Super Bowl does, with cities bidding for the right to host.

Nine teams earn honors for academics

The National Junior College Athletic Association in Colorado Springs recently released the 2011-12 list of All-Academic teams.

The Colby Community College men's basketball team earned the top grade point average (3.21) in the sport. In recognition of the achievement, the Trojans are the Men's Basketball Academic Team of the Year.

Over 450 teams qualified for academic team accolades. Nine Colby Community College teams were recognized by the national organization. To qualify for this honor, the overall team grade average must be 3.0 or above. In addition to the men's basketball team, eight Colby teams qualified for recognition.

Lady Trojans women's basketball (3.15 grade average), men's cross country (3.15), women's cross country (3.15)

women's golf (3.21), men's indoor track (3.0), men's outdoor track (3.06), women's volleyball (3.14) and women's softball (3.0) were recognized by the association.

Coaches for the teams that were selected include Dustin Pfeifer (men's basketball), Brady Jasper (women's golf), James Ortiz (men's cross country and track), Crystal Berndt (women's cross country), Miles Ladenburger (women's golf), Carey Jones (volleyball) and Ryan Sturdy (softball).

Since 1938, the National Junior College Athletic Association has been the governing body of two-year college athletics, offering athletic and academic opportunities to college students. It is the second largest national intercollegiate athletic organization in the United States with over 500 member schools in 43 states.

Meadow Lake sees 41 men for golf night

For ladies' night at Meadow Lake Golf Course on June 19, the women played a par 3 golf game. The results are, for the first flight, Audrey Hines, first, and Susan Wark and Cheryl Edmundson, tie for second. For the second flight, the results are Pam Augustine, first; Wendy Frahm, second; and Dana Bolyard, third.

The next ladies' night was to be Tuesday with low net as the game. Tee off was at 6 p.m. and cost was \$2 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

Last Wednesday, 41 men attended men's night and played a three-man scramble blind draw. The results are, for the first flight, Waddington, Arensdorf and Kriss, first; Kersenbrock, Haas and Minnihan, second; and J. White, Koerperich, Harper, third. For the second flight, the results are VanHorn, Schlick and Extra, first, and Turner, S. Molstad and C. Schwanke and B. Arnberger, K. Molstad and

D. Blake, tie for second.

The next men's night is tonight and the game will be three-man scramble, course played backwards. Tee off is at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

On Friday, couples played a one-couple scramble. The results are Audrey and Lou Hines and Randy and Mary Lou Jones, tie for first.

The next couple's night is Friday and the game is one-couple scramble. Tee off is at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee per couple for nonmembers.

Registration begins today for the 44th Annual Buffalo Chip, which will be held from Thursday to Saturday, July 26 to 28 at Meadow Lake Golf Course.

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, call Meadow Lake at 460-6443 to register.

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