

Are 'Cats kings of Kansas again?

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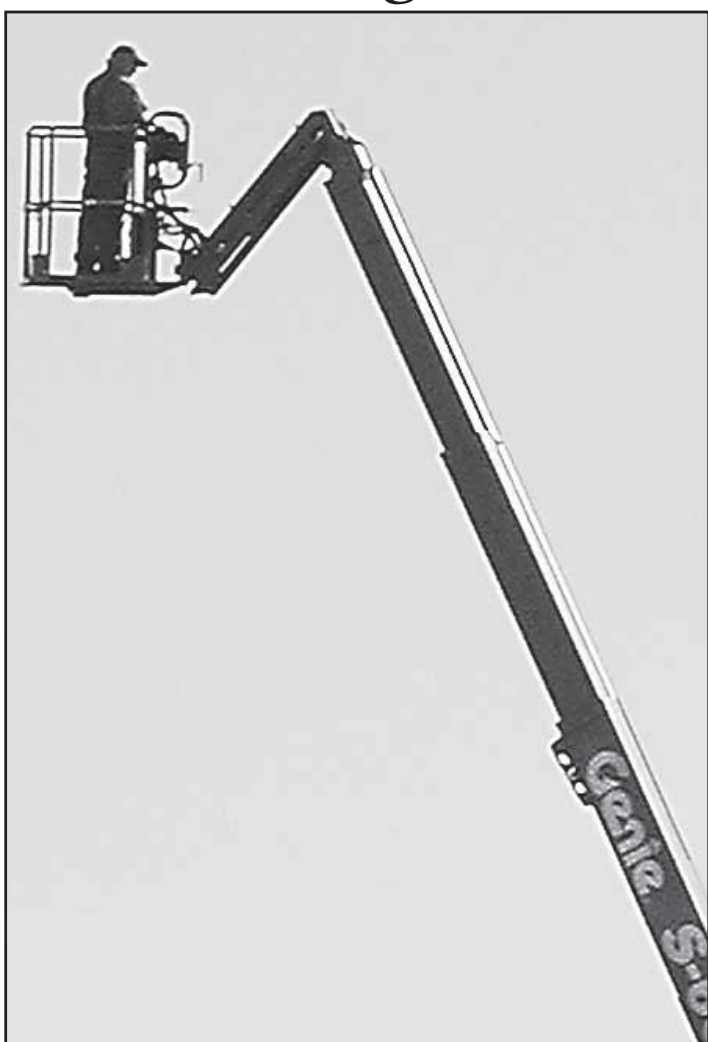
Kansas State crushed Kansas, 56-16, at Manhattan last season while warming up for the Wildcats' run to their second Big 12 Conference championship. Kansas finished 1-11 overall. The annual Sunflower state showdown takes place on Nov. 30 this fall.

Be thankful for a place like Colby, where politically correct "let's play nice" ideas and college football conference changes still can't touch one good rivalry. "Pick Kansas' football record this fall? I hate KU! If I'd known they were on here, I wouldn't have even touched this piece of paper!" Okay, that was the most extreme reaction during a friendly Tuesday survey. Some fans even suggested that Thanksgiving weekend will be a time to celebrate many Kansans' other favorite fowl. "That last game could be real close. I could see the Jayhawks beating K-State," another Colby football fan said about the new holiday tradition of Kansas and Kansas State colliding. "I say K-State will go 6-6 this season — and that's a pretty 'iffy' 6-6." Wow, that's a long drop from Kansas State's 11-2 Big 12 championship season in 2012. Though 6-6 is still far better than Kansas' 1-11 mark last fall, many Colby residents surveyed do see the gap getting closer. "I say 9-3 for Kansas this year," one said. Even neutral observers coughed a bit on this one. "Really, (coach) Charlie Weis usually does great things in his second year," this observer added while the surveyor noted several red-and-blue items nearby. "They've brought in some good talent." Another expects 8-4 for Kansas which will include a major upset victory at Texas to start November. Remember, the Longhorns barely escaped Lawrence 21-17 last fall. A glance at Kansas' football schedule supports another comment of "nowhere to go but up." The 'Hawks kick off against struggling South Dakota (1-10 last fall) followed by seemingly winnable games against Rice, Louisiana Tech, Texas Tech, Baylor, West Virginia, Iowa State and perhaps even Texas Christian University. "Charlie will get them back to a bowl game soon, and that's all really fans want to see," one more admitted Jayhawk enthusiast said. Others only believe in Weis' most famous remark about his first Kansas football team. "We're a pile of crap," he said late last fall. "I say 0-12," a fan close to the *Free Press* declared. The total survey results fall almost right between 0-12 and 9-3 for KU. Meanwhile, almost all respondents felt Kansas State would be better than that 6-6 mark previously mentioned. The Wildcats lost eight defensive starters and star quarterback Collin Klein from last year's Big

12 champs. Yet there's still great talent and another key ingredient known as coach Bill Snyder. Colby's final consensus about both teams: 40 percent say Kansas will finish 4-8. Kansas State's most popular pick was 9-3 (35 percent). In fact, most fans see K-State facing the same three stumbles: at Oklahoma State, home against Oklahoma and at Texas. Another 20 percent are calling for the Wildcats to finish 8-4, while 10 percent said a perfect 12-0 while another 10 percent predict 7-5. Not one fan believes Kansas State will be worse than 6-6, which almost surely means another bowl game. "I'd love to see them beat Nebraska in a bowl game," one

boasting purple pride proclaimed. The surveyor/Cornhusker fan quietly exited moments later. Meanwhile, these were the other most popular picks for KU: Just more than 20 percent said 3-9. Another 10 percent went with 5-7, anticipating many of those potential wins (Iowa State, Texas Tech, etc.) mentioned earlier. About five percent even said 6-6, which again would likely get KU into one of those many, many available post-season bowl games. There were also about five percent saying 2-10 and 0-12. Overall, only about 14 percent said the 'Hawks would win at least half of their games — confirming one final remark from an insightful observer. "It will be several years of rebuilding," he said.

Let there be light



HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press
It's not magic, just a man and his Genie going up to fix some lightbulbs at the Brewster High School football field. All fall sports teams officially begin pre-season practice on Monday.

Marlins cool Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Miami Marlins prodigy Jose Fernandez simply smiled when he was asked about leaving Tuesday night's start against Kansas City in the seventh inning with the game still scoreless. Best not to rattle the skipper by saying something amiss. Besides, the young right-hander had a good seat to watch Christian Yelich single home the go-ahead run with one out in the 10th inning, giving the Marlins a 1-0 vic-

tory. "Fernandez was matched by wily Royals veteran Bruce Chen, each of them allowing just three hits before they turned over the game to their bullpens. It continued to extra innings before Kansas City reliever Kelvin Herrera (4-6) brushed the jersey of the Marlins' Jake Marisnick with a pitch in the 10th. Marisnick stole second and then scored on Yelich's single through the right side of the infield.

Speedway will run special races in finale

The race season at Thomas County Speedway comes to a close for 2013 Sunday evening, a year where the track has seen some of its largest car counts in years. The track has made huge strides all season long to improve the racing surface and put on the best show possible for the fans. Jeff and Kassie Carney have spent countless hours on the track trying to keep up with yet another year of drought in western Kansas. They have been fortunate to have many local drivers and volunteers donate a lot of their time to make this season such a success. However, Jeff and Kassie are not satisfied with this and want to make the last race of the season on Sunday, Aug. 18, the best they possibly can. The first series making the trip to the track will be Blood Sweat & Tears Racing Series. Promoter Joe Bellm said "A lot of my guys are looking forward to making the trip to Thomas County Speedway." Bellm also stated that a majority of his top 15 in the BST Precise Racing Products Modifieds point standings will make the trip. Some names to look out for on the modified side that are in the top 15 will be Jeremy Frenier, Jesse Taylor, John Hansen, Eddie Belec, David Murray Jr. and Ryan Gaylord. These drivers will be competing for \$600 to win and \$100 start with no entry fee. If this is not enticing enough for the modified drivers, the purse will grow to \$1,000 to win if more than 40 cars show up. Along with the BST series, the added purse should help pull in the largest modified field the track has had in years. Also coming to Colby for the season finale is the Great Plains Dirt Track Central Stock Car Series. The series has offered one of the largest car count averages for a traveling stock car series in the nation for IMCA. The series is currently led by Colby driver Jeff Tubbs but has some very talented drivers behind him.. From Harlan, Iowa is four time IMCA National Stock Car Champion Mike Nichols, who is sitting second in points. He has won the last three series races and will



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Championship races on Sunday evening at Thomas County Speedway will be close just as they were during this showdown on July 21.

have to gain 13 points on Tubbs during the last race of the season. Drivers from the series will come from Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and possibly Oklahoma. The BST Stock Car Series drivers will also be making the trip but will not be competing for BST series points. The Stock Car drivers will be racing for \$600 to win and \$100 to start. The IMCA Sport Mods and Hobby Stocks will also having something to look forward to as well. Their purse will be increased to \$400 to win and \$50 to start.

Bellm is hoping to have five or more BST Buckeye Welding Supply Sport Mods. The IMCA Sport Mods have put on a great show all season long and are hoping to boast their largest car count ever at Thomas County Speedway. Colby is proud to have the top three in Kansas Hobby Stock Point Standings compete at the track all season long. With all of the talent that competes in the hobby stocks, two and three wide racing has become a normal for the class. The econos will also be racing for larger purse of \$250 to win.

The Jeff Hartwell Memorial Race has always been a special race for many drivers and fans but this year's memorial race should be the best one yet. Hartwell has left a huge impact on the racing in Colby and all over the region. So Sunday will be a great night to come help fight cancer and watch some amazing racing. If you have not raced at Thomas County Speedway yet this season, this will be the one to make the trip. For the race fans in town or across the region, this race will be well worth your trip and \$10 to attend.

Golfers enter tournaments

League action at Meadow Lake Golf Course this week will lead into a busy weekend featuring three days of tournament play. The Colby College Men's Basketball Fundraiser tees off at 10 a.m. on Friday with a 10 a.m. shotgun start for this four-person scramble. Contact Rusty Grafel at (785) 475-8360 or e-mail rusty.grafel@colbycc.edu. The Colby-Atwood-Oakley tournament follows on Saturday and Sunday. Golfers will tee off at 9 a.m. both days. Atwood hosts Saturday's 18 holes while the Oakley Country Club plays host for Sunday. Golfers can register by calling any one of the three courses: Atwood at (785) 626-9542, Oakley at (785) 672-3081 or Meadow Lake at 460-6443.

Meanwhile, Meadow Lake league play delivered some more entertaining competition last week. **Men's Night** A 3-man scramble last Wednesday evening drew 64 participants. First names of the top placers were not obtained. First flight: 1. McLaughlin/McKee/Grafel, 2. Mallory/Van-Horn/Harrison, 3. Harper/Garcia/Arnsperger. Second flight: 1. Saddle/Kerszenbrock, 2. White/White/Jones, 3. Barnett/Koepferich/Bliss. **Ladies' Night** A 1-lady scramble highlighted action on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Top three: 1. (tie) Susan Wark and Audrey Hines, 2. Anita Beckman, 3. Lynette Ball. No couples results were available. Look for them in an upcoming edition.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Lacey Township
Thomas

will meet on August 29, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Gem Community Building for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Thomas County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2014 Expenditures and Amount of 2013 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2014 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2012		Current Year Estimate 2013		Proposed Budget 2014		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2013 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	4,418		9,200		9,250		
Debt Service	179						
Road	18,722	15.034	32,332	15.034	35,132	25,161	13.619
Totals	23,319	15.034	41,532	15.034	44,382	25,161	13.619
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	23,319		41,532		44,382		
Total Tax Levied	31,106		23,717		XXXXXXXXXXXX		
Total Assessed Valuation	1,619,813		1,577,568		2,188,729		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					1,847,483		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

	2011	2012	2013
Jan 1			
Lease Purchase Principal	82,698	72,305	74,294
Total	82,698	72,305	74,294

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

Vernon Roemer
Treasurer

I make insurance simple.

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