

Fans watching weather

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — For Kansas State football fans, the most important part of the news isn't the sports report.

It's the weather report. Wildcats fans hoping to travel to Dallas for the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day could be hampered by a storm on Christmas day that covered Oklahoma and northern Texas with a layer of ice and disrupted travel by land and air.

Amy Button Renz, president of the KSU Alumni Association, said her organization had planned a "University Tour" to the Cotton Bowl, with reservations made by about 1,000 fans.

Renz said she had checked forecasts, which indicated conditions would improve toward the end of the week.

"We're not anticipating any problem," Renz said. "People will probably be waiting to travel until the 31st."

A recording at American Airlines

headquarters in Dallas said that as of Tuesday afternoon, the airline had canceled more than 700 flights in and out of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. Representatives weren't ruling out further delays.

The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety issued warnings Tuesday against driving in 70 of its 77 counties because of slick roadways.

According to public safety offices in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, treacherous portions of Interstate 35 caused delays as far south as Denton County, Texas, just northwest of Dallas.

Ed Hanlon, Kansas Highway Patrol administrative assistant for the Kansas Turnpike Association, said if snow or ice falls in the next few days, crews will work 24 hours a day to plow, sand and salt roads to keep them open and safe.

"We've had some temporary stop-

pages because a truck gets turned around," he said, "but we're not closed, and we haven't been yet."

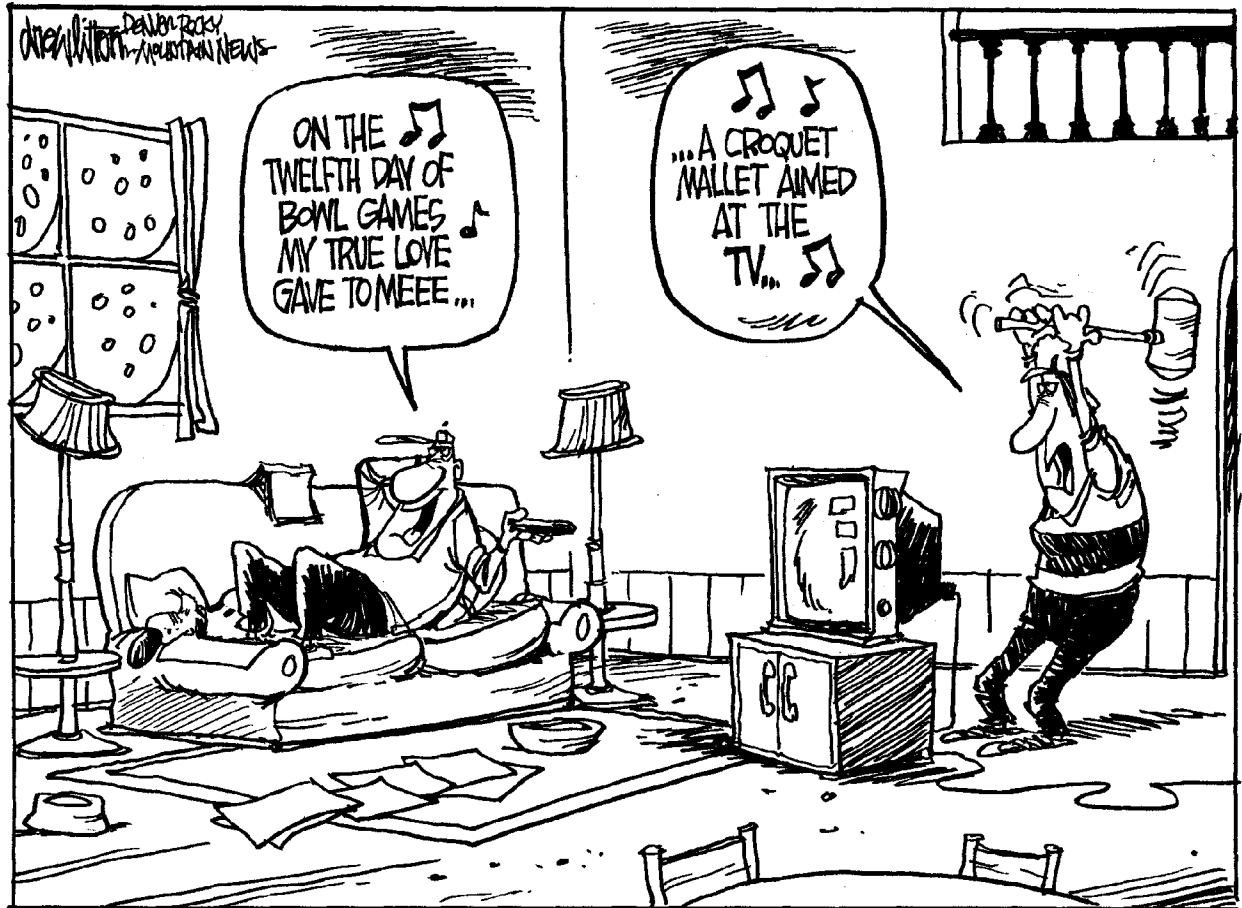
Hanlon urged Kansas State fans to leave early and drive more slowly.

"Take all the precautions the highway patrol preaches all winter long," he said.

Ticket sales from the Kansas State box office indicate that more than 15,000 Wildcat fans may make the trip to Dallas for the game against the Tennessee Volunteers.

Die-hard followers said they aren't going to let cold or icy weather hamper their enjoyment.

"We're watching the weather mostly to see how many clothes we need to take to be prepared," said Lee Borck, a Kansas State alumnus who plans to fly to Dallas on Saturday. "As long as it's just cold weather, I believe we'll have the same turnout we normally do."



Chiefs head for makeover

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs are headed for their biggest makeover since Carl Peterson arrived in 1989 and practically cleaned out Arrowhead Stadium.

The biggest question surrounds coach Gunther Cunningham, who's gone 16-16 in two years as head coach.

As players struggled out of Arrowhead Stadium Tuesday at the conclusion of a disappointing 7-9 season and a third straight non-playoff year, they

could only guess at the boss' fate.

"I want to give my vote of confidence to Gunther. He did well with what he was dealt," said center and team captain Tim Grunhard.

"I always find it funny that instead of firing the player, you fire the coach. Then that player hangs around and infects another team."

"He's looking forward to next year," quarterback Elvis Grbac said after meeting with Cunningham.

"I think in his mind he's getting prepared for next year."

A month ago, Peterson indicated support for the 54-year-old Cunningham. But in the final weeks, and especially after a lackluster 29-13 loss on Sunday to woeful Atlanta, that support appeared to waver.

"I'll do what I do at the end of every year," Peterson said. "I'll tell everybody to get out and then I'll make all my decisions in an unemotional way."

Chiefs give players awards

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Wide receiver Derrick Alexander and safety Greg Wesley were voted the Derrick Thomas MVP and Mack Lee Hill rookie of the year awards for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Alexander caught 78 passes for a team-record 1,391 yards and 10 touchdowns. His 78 catches were third-highest in team history. He led

the AFC in yards per catch (17.8) and was third in both receiving yards and touchdowns.

Wesley, third-round pick out of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, became the first rookie to start opening day for the Chiefs since 1990. He totaled 100 tackles and two interceptions and had a team-leading 10 passes defended. He also had a fumble re-

covery, two forced fumbles and a sack.

The awards are voted on by players. They're named in honor of former Pro Bowl linebacker Derrick Thomas, who died following a car crash last February, and wide receiver Mack Lee Hill, who died following his second season with the Chiefs in 1965.

Baltimore Ravens' coach spends holidays preparing to face Broncos

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Brian Billick spent Christmas night studying game film of the Denver Broncos. He also expects to put in long hours the remainder of the week, perfecting a game plan for the Baltimore Ravens' initial foray into the playoffs.

It sure beats the alternative.

This is the time of year when the Ravens traditionally clear out their lockers and begin looking toward next season. Nineteen NFL teams have already done it.

But the Ravens have at least one more game to play, perhaps as many as four. That means Billick will be stuck in his office this week, making plans for Sunday's playoff game against Denver instead of charting an itinerary for a winter vacation.

And he couldn't be happier.

"This is what you do it for, just to have this opportunity," Billick said Tuesday. "There are a whole bunch of guys sitting at home right now who

didn't have to disrupt their Christmas Day. They're going to have a nice, relaxed, laid-back week. And they'd trade places with me in a New York minute."

Before this year, the Ravens (12-4) never had a winning season since moving from Cleveland in 1996. There's a certain danger to participating in the playoffs for the first time, because it's uncharted territory for players who have never experienced the sensation of performing in a national spotlight in a win-or-go-home situation.

"Take Denver," Billick noted. "They went 8-8 in Mike Shanahan's first year, then went 13-3, got into the playoffs and got eliminated in the first round. The next year they go to the Super Bowl. You saw the same thing in Green Bay."

That's one reason why veterans such as Shannon Sharpe, Rod Woodson and Trent Dilfer will be invaluable

on and off the field this week. They're being asked to provide enough leadership to help the Ravens to avoid that pattern.

"There's a certain growth period you go through. In today's free agency, you bring in veterans to help you in this situation," Billick said. "We'd certainly like to leapfrog that learning curve, in that reaching the playoffs is new to this organization. But we also have a fair amount of players this is not new to."

Experience is important, but playing sound football is the ultimate requirement for winning in the playoffs. The Ravens have won seven straight, yet there are signs that all is not well with the home team as the city prepares for its first NFL playoff game since 1977, when the Baltimore Colts lost in overtime to the Oakland Raiders.

The defense yielded 524 yards in last Sunday's 34-20 win over the New York Jets and fell to No. 2 overall be-

hind the Tennessee Titans, a statistical affront to a team that set an NFL record for fewest points allowed over a 16-game schedule (165).

"The bottom line is we won the game and forced an incredible amount of turnovers (six)," Billick said. "We

don't have anything to be ashamed of."

The offense, however, was an embarrassment. The Ravens made only five first downs, converted only two of 16 third-down plays and managed only 142 yards. Dilfer was 11-for-25 for 99 yards, numbers that probably won't

equate to a win over Denver.

"Trent knows there are certain things he needs to be better, and the guys around him know there are things they have to be better, too," Billick said. "We're going to have to do better offensively, no question about that."

Predators devour the Avalanche 5-2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Scott Walker waited his whole career for a hat trick. He didn't mind holding out for a few extra minutes.

Walker scored a career-high three goals as the Nashville Predators beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-2.

When Walker scored his second goal with 6:15 left, fans at the Gaylord Entertainment Center threw hundreds of hats onto the ice because they thought

it was his third. But an earlier goal originally credited to Walker was given to Patric Kjellberg.

"It's a big thrill," Walker said. "I wasn't that concerned. Two goals for me is huge, three goals is just unbelievable. It's extra special for me to do it at home."

The win snapped an eight-game Avalanche unbeaten streak against the Predators (5-0-3) that dated to Oct. 31,

1998, during Nashville's first month in the NHL.

Give the gift that keeps on giving!

A subscription to...

The Goodland Daily News

Local-\$55 • Out of State-\$75

1205 Main Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-2338

 **nwkansas.com &**

The Goodland Daily News
bring you Internet and E-mail access!

The world is at your fingertips via the Internet and nwkansas.com! For as little as **\$16.50 a month**, (when you pay \$198 for a full year), you get:

- Unlimited access to the Internet**, a rapidly growing network of computers all over the world. You'll find news, hobbies, businesses, law, education, census information, research papers, new products and services, museums, art, cyber tour guides, movie reviews, recipes, stock market information, weather alerts, satellite images, magazines, restaurants, travel tips, university extension information, church

and religious news and views, politics, philosophy, auto mechanics and much, much more!

- E-mail address and account.** If you want to stay in touch with friends and relatives, but dread those long-distance phone bills, or delays in the regular mail, relief is at hand. For fractions of a penny, you can instantly send E-mail to anyone with an E-mail address, anywhere in the world, down the street or over the hill.
- Technical support** is just a phone call away. If you have any questions just call 785-899-2338.

For more information about the Internet and how to sign up, call at (785) 899-2338

Special rate of \$99.80 for 5 months. There is no sign-up fee, so you save \$34.95
(Regularly \$24.95 a month, plus a one-time start-up fee of \$10.00)

E-mail • World Wide Web • Full access

The Goodland Daily News
1205 Main • Goodland, Kansas 67735 • (785) 899-2338

