

# Royals avert player arbitration

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Right-hander Jeff Suppan and the Kansas City Royals agreed Thursday to a \$6.5 million, two-year contract that avoids a salary arbitration hearing. Suppan, who made \$1,625,000 last season, gets a \$700,000 signing bonus, \$2 million this year and \$3.8 million in 2002. He can earn an additional \$150,000 in performance bonuses during the contract.

He had asked for \$3.55 million in arbitration and had been offered \$2.7 million. A hearing had been scheduled for Friday in Phoenix.

Suppan, 26, was 10-9 with a 4.94 ERA in 35 games last season, reaching double digits in wins for the second straight season.

He went 8-3 after the All-Star break

and finished the season with consecutive complete games against Anaheim and Detroit

Suppan's career record is 30-34 with a 5.15 ERA.

Pitcher Brian Meadows is the last Royals player in arbitration. He has asked for a raise from \$360,000 to \$2.55 million. Kansas City has offered \$1.55 million.

# K-State goes juco route for help

MANHATTAN (AP) — Kansas State lost 14 starters from last season's 11-3 squad.

The Wildcat coaching staff responded by targeting junior college players and top high school players for the 2001 recruiting class in hopes that some can compete immediately for starting positions.

Coach Bill Snyder announced the 28 class members on Wednesday. The class includes 10 junior-college transfers, 17 incoming freshmen and one transfer from Michigan State.

Kansas State signed a player at every offensive and defensive position except tight end. Ten states are represented in the class, including eight players from Kansas.

"We tend to recruit probably where we lost seniors," Snyder said. "But we recruit every position. By design, the transfer student is in a position to get on the field faster than a high school kid. Every youngster knows they will have to continue to compete."

The Wildcats picked up six wide receivers, four defensive backs, three

running backs, three fullbacks, three defensive ends, three offensive linemen, three linebackers, two defensive tackles, two quarterbacks, one kicker and one punter.

Kansas State lost starting quarterback Jonathan Beasley, All-Big 12 wide receiver Quincy Morgan, wide receiver Martez Wesley and two running backs to graduation. The entire starting defensive line is gone as well.

In the 2001 class, two of the wide receivers, three defensive tackles and two defensive backs are junior college transfers.

Expected to compete with sophomore Eli Roberson for the void left by Beasley is Marc Dunn from Ricks (Idaho) College.

Dunn, the NJCAA Offensive Player of the Year, threw for 4,351 yards and 42 touchdowns last season.

"A lot of people tend to overlook his athletic ability," Snyder said. "He has the talents to be an escapable quarterback. We've thought all along that he has that competitive spirit across the board. He's a mature guy and he has a sense of urgency."

The class, which was ranked 14th by the national recruiting website Rivals.Com, includes five junior college All-Americans and two high school Parade All-Americans.

Garden City Junior College defensive end Henry Bryant was NJCAA All-America selection after making 103 tackles this season. Wide receiver Chavez Donnings, Butler County Community College, caught 37 receptions for 937 yards. Defensive back Bobby Walker from Trinity Valley Community College had 11 interception in his two year career.

Jerome Janet, a wide receiver from Tulsa Union, and Joe Rheem, a kicker from Wichita Collegiate, are Parade All-Americans. Rheem is the younger brother of former Kansas State kicker Jamie Rheem. Janet had 49 receptions for 656 yards last season.

"The perception would be that that this is a class of fine young athletes and quality people," Snyder said. "The student-athletes presently in our program were also pleased."

# Cowgirls whip Cougars

By Janet Craft  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The Goodland Cowgirls junior varsity whipped the Burlington Lady Cougars on Monday 39-32.

At the end of the first quarter, Goodland was leading Burlington 12-9. In the second quarter, Goodland scored 12 points to Burlington's 7, which

made the score 24-16. Then in the third quarter, Burlington made 8 points to Goodland's 4, which brought the score to 28-24 with Goodland still in the lead. In the last quarter, Goodland scored 11 points to Burlington's 8.

Steph Fairbanks was the high scorer with 12 points on three field goals and six free throws. Danielle Hellerud

scored 11 points with four field goals and three free throws.

Hayley Jarmin made 7 points with three field goals and one free throw. Tess Schultz and Jessica Vignery both scored 4 points on two field goals. Deanna Livengood scored 1.

Kendra Billinger, Tranda Ihrig and Britany Pettibone also played.

# Jayhawks hope to win

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Friends as well rivals are beginning to wonder if the Kansas Jayhawks weren't a bit overrated.

Roy Williams' team has lost two of its last three, at Missouri last week and then at home Monday night to Iowa State. Two weeks ago, the Jayhawks (18-3, 7-2 Big 12) appeared to be coasting to the Big 12 title. Now, going into Saturday's home date against Oklahoma State, they find themselves trailing Iowa State by half a game and dropping lower and lower in the polls.

"I think our confidence, you'd have to say, is not what it was," said Williams. "I don't think it's possible to have that."

"But have we been shaken enough to wonder if we're any good or not?" he asked. "I don't think it's to that extent, not with me. But maybe I've had a more realistic opinion of this team than anybody else because I knew more about the warts. I have not been surprised by anything that has happened to our team."

The Jayhawks continue to lead the Big 12 with a scoring average of 83.2 points per game. Their rebounding margin of plus-5.1 a game is second

only to Iowa State's plus-6.3.

"We can be, at times, very good offensively," Williams said.

Yet, a realistic view of the Jayhawks would have to conclude they have problems with perimeter defense.

"Defensively, we have some deficiencies which is what I said the very first day," Williams said. "We don't have the Jacque Vaughn kind of quickness on the perimeter that can guard anybody in any spot anytime, anywhere."

Two of the Jayhawks' losses have come on the road — an 84-53 blowout at Wake Forest and a 75-66 setback on Jan. 29 at Missouri, before the Tigers lost league-leading scorer Kareem Rush for the year to a thumb injury.

Then Monday night their 13-game home court winning streak was stopped by a 79-77 loss to the Cyclones. When they host Oklahoma State Saturday, the Jayhawks will be looking to avoid their first back-to-back home losses since 1989.

"I don't think (our confidence) is shaken at all," said center Eric Chenoweth. "I think we are disappointed we lost two big games, but it is not the end of the world. We are only

a half-game out of first place and we still have another chance at Iowa State and Missouri."

When they travel to Baylor for a Monday night game next week, it will be the fourth week in a row the schedule-makers have had the Jayhawks play on Saturday and then turn right around and appear on the Monday night ESPN series.

So far, they're 1-2 in the Monday night stretch, with an 85-75 victory at Colorado.

Some have speculated the Jayhawks are getting run-down in the late stages of the Monday night outings.

"It's hard to say. We've got some new opportunity here to find out," Williams said. "It is something we're concerned about. It's something we've talked about. But the schedule is there and we've got to play it."

"We've cut practice back so much over the last three weeks, we're probably spending less work time on the court than maybe any team I've ever coached," Williams said.

"Once we got through that five-week stretch of one game a week, we immediately went into three games in a six-day period."

# Coach talks

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Gunther Cunningham says that yes, the first word he got that Dick Vermeil would replace him as head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs came when he went into his office and read about it on the Internet.


Cunningham, who lost his job after going 16-16 in two seasons, had not talked publicly about his firing until Wednesday. Adam Teicher of *The Kansas City Star* interviewed him on a flight from Kansas City.

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# Warrant filed for Bronco

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. (AP) — An arrest warrant was issued for Denver Broncos tight end Byron Chamberlain after he missed a court hearing in a driving-under-suspension case.

Chamberlain was scheduled for a pre-trial conference Wednesday, said Michael Knight, spokesman for the Douglas County district attorney's office.

"I think he probably forgot. It's not like driving under suspension is a very serious charge," Knight said. "I assume his lawyer will make every effort to get a hold of him and bring him in before he gets picked up."

Chamberlain's lawyer appeared.



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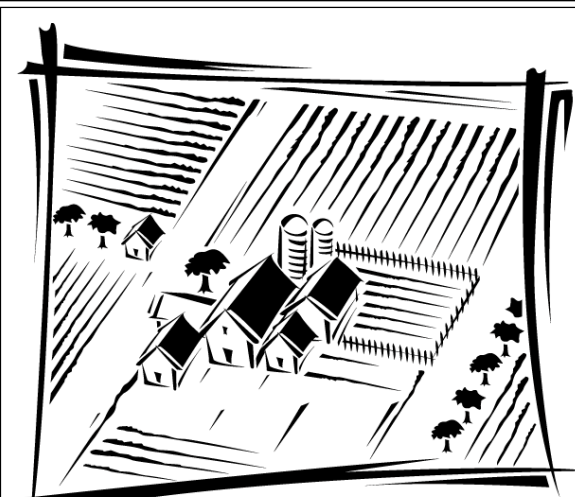
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