

# Too many changes hurt college football's image

Colleges changing conferences are a fact of life, but among NCAA Division I-A football teams it seems to have become a fashion trend.

Most fans know about the Miami Hurricanes and the Virginia Tech Hokies switching from the Big East to the Atlantic Coast Conference. They will be followed by the Boston College Eagles in 2005. This will increase the number of teams in that conference to 12, which will then be divided into two divisions so they can have a conference championship, something I've already griped about.

Unfortunately, Boston College isn't the only school bit by the wanderlust bug. Next year, Conference USA will lose five of its 11 members that play football.

Three of the five — Cincinnati, Louisville and South Florida — will fill the void left in the Big East. The



**greg stover**

• greg's gripes

Horned Frogs of Texas Christian University will switch conferences for the second time in five years when they go to the Mountain West Conference in 2005.

Army joined Conference USA in 1997, which I thought was the biggest mistake in college football. In 2005, the Black Knights will go back to being a NCAA Division I-A independent, and they will remain members of the Patriot League for all other sports.

It's hard to feel sorry for Conference USA, because although it's

losing five teams next year, it will gain six. Rice, Tulsa, Southern Methodist and Texas-El Paso will switch from the Western Athletic Conference to Conference USA. Marshall and Central Florida will make the move from the Mid-American Conference.

Let's see, next year's changes in just the one conference will affect 11 teams and four other conferences. And that's not mentioning changes among teams that do not play football or what else is happening in the other conferences.

This mercenary attitude, which I'm sure is money driven, must cease before the spirit of college football dies completely. As Big Joe says in the movie "Kelly's Heroes," "Enough is enough."

# 4-H supporters lead fair parade

CRAFT, from Page 1

also worked on the State Fair Board as a member.

The couple moved into town from their farm 17 years ago but, Jesse still farms on land northeast of Edson and in Wallace County.

"He goes out every day and runs this big tractor," Doris said.

They raise wheat, corn, milo and beans now, but Jesse said he used to raise cattle.

For fun, Doris likes to spend time in the garden. As a couple, they like to be with their grandchildren.

"We spend a lot of time with our grandkids," Doris said. "We have eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren."

She said they used to travel, but

hobbies and pastimes are hard to develop when you run a busy farm. "I'm a farmer's wife," she said. "I don't have any spare time."

Both Doris and Jesse have been involved in community programs throughout the years. Together they served as Goodland Ambassadors for the Chamber of Commerce, on various church boards and they were leaders and founders with Loren Whippis, county extension agent at the time, of the 4-H Junior Leaders of Sherman County.

Doris worked on the Goodland Arts Council, the Sherman County Good Samaritan board and is currently serving on the board for the Goodland United Methodist Church. She also was a Sunday school teacher.

Jesse served on the Edson School Board as later was its president, the Farmers Home Administration county board, the Goodland State Bank (now Bankwest) board, the Farm Bureau board and the state Board of Agriculture.

As they got older, the couple said, they decided they didn't have as much time or energy to devote to their causes, so they resigned from the boards.

"We kind of phased out of stuff," Doris said.

Doris said she has not been practicing waving to the crowd, but the couple is looking forward to riding in the parade.

"I hope we do a good job," she said.

# 4-H ambassadors expect parade to be a success

PARADE, from Page 1

this is an election year, they expect to have politicians in the parade.

The fire department and the

emergency vehicles join the promenade down Main. The parade starts, Duell said, with the sheriff's department, followed by the color

guard and the grand marshals.

Parade entries are judged by a panel picked by the 4-H clubs in three categories, individual, floats and others.

# Tigers may change conferences

The Tigers of Fort Hays State University might be competing in a different conference within the next two or three years.

Last month, officials at the University of Missouri-Rolla notified the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association that it would leave the conference after 70 years and join the Great Lakes Valley Conference after the end of the 2004-2005 academic year.

Fort Hays State, along with Lincoln University in Missouri and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, are being considered as possible

replacements. "We're not actively considering a move because we haven't received an invitation," said Edward Hammond, president of Fort Hays State, in a press release.

In the meantime, Hammond said, the university remains committed to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. If Fort Hays State accepts an invitation, it would be a year and possibly two, after notification, before the move took place.

If Fort Hays State moves to the Mid-America conference, that would put all four NCAA Division

II schools in Kansas in the same conference. The others are Emporia State University, Pittsburg State University and Washburn University of Topeka.

The Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference has 14 members of which Fort Hays State is the only one from Kansas. Two of the schools are in Nebraska and one in New Mexico. The other 10 are in Colorado.

The Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association has 10 members, seven of which are in Missouri.

# Sports television schedule

## SATURDAY MORNING

10:00 22/56 ESPN Fishing Bassmasters. From Charlotte, N.C. (Live) (CC)  
11:00 13/7 FOX MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago. (Live) (CC)  
22/56 ESPN Basketball Puerto Rico vs. United States. From Jacksonville, Fla. (Live) (CC)  
30/55 FXSP Soccer Manchester United U.S. Tour — AC Milan vs. Manchester United. From Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. (Live)  
54/57 ESPN2 ATP Tennis Tennis Masters Series — Canada — Semifinals. From Toronto. (Live) (CC)

## AFTERNOON

12:00 4/6 ABC MLS Soccer All-Star Game. From the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. (Live) (CC)  
12:30 28/37 TNT NASCAR Nextel Cup Happy Hour (Live) (CC)  
1:00 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC Golf U.S. Senior Open — Third Round. From Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis. (Live) (CC)  
7/11 CBS PGA Golf Buick Open — Third Round. From Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc, Mich. (Live) (CC)  
22/56 ESPN WTA Tennis Acura Classic — Semifinal. From San Diego. (Live) (CC)  
1:30 28/37 TNT NASCAR Racing Busch Series. From Pikes Peak International Raceway in Fountain, Colo. (Live) (CC)  
2:00 4/6 ABC WNBA Basketball Indiana Fever at Houston Comets. From Toyota Center in Houston. (Live) (CC)  
54/57 ESPN2 Horse Racing From the Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (Live)  
3:30 22/56 ESPN Fishing Bassmasters. From

Charlotte, N.C. (Live) (CC)  
5:00 99/36 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Detroit Tigers. From Comerica Park in Detroit. (Live) (CC)

## SUNDAY MORNING

10:30 22/56 ESPN Baseball Tonight (Live) (CC)  
11:00 25/35 IND MLB Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves. From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)  
54/57 ESPN2 NHRA 2day (Live) (CC)  
11:30 28/37 TNT NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series — Pennsylvania 500. From Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Pa. (Live) (CC)  
**AFTERNOON**  
12:00 99/36 WGN Lead-Off Man (Live) (CC)  
12:10 99/36 WGN MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago. (Live) (CC)  
12:55 54/57 ESPN2 Women's Soccer China at United States. From East Hartford, Conn. (Live) (CC)  
1:00 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC Golf U.S. Senior Open — Final Round. From Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis. (Live) (CC)  
4/6 ABC IRL Racing Michigan Indy 400. From Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. (Live) (CC)  
7/11 CBS PGA Golf Buick Open — Final Round. From Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc, Mich. (Live) (CC)  
22/56 ESPN WTA Tennis Acura Classic — Final. From San Diego. (Live) (CC)  
3:15 99/36 WGN Tenth Inning (Live) (CC)  
3:30 22/56 ESPN Fishing Bassmasters. From Charlotte, N.C. (Live) (CC)  
5:00 22/56 ESPN Baseball Tonight From Orlando, Fla. (Live) (CC)

# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

- 1. Biblical measure
- 6. Fail to mention
- 10. Cooking direction
- 14. Sports venue
- 15. Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
- 16. \_\_\_-mutuel betting
- 17. Clean up broken glass, say
- 20. "Shame!" syllable
- 21. Tot's "piggies"
- 22. Battleship in 1898 news
- 23. Sideshow setting
- 24. Corporation's constitution
- 26. Leave high and dry
- 29. Limerick, e.g.
- 30. March 17 slogan word
- 31. Bit of punctuation
- 32. Greek T
- 35. Follow up a fried chicken dinner, maybe
- 39. Adversary company
- 40. Comic Professor Irwin \_\_\_
- 41. "Bus Stop" playwright
- 42. A great deal
- 43. Large Andean flier
- 45. Diacritical marks above vowels
- 49. Extinct bird of Mauritius
- 50. Containing gold
- 51. Tibia or fibula
- 52. Hyundai competitor

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- 55. Stand firm
- 59. Baseball's "Slammin' Sammy"
- 60. Bell-ringing cosmetics
- 61. Noted Big Apple restaurateur
- 62. "Baseball Tonight" network
- 63. "I win," in chess
- 64. Some saxes

- 5. Stretch tight
- 6. Group of eight
- 7. Mineral hardness scale
- 8. Wrath
- 9. Beer source
- 10. Asparagus unit
- 11. Quietly understood
- 12. Castle or Cara
- 13. Choir's platform
- 18. Walden, for one
- 19. 1967 Spencer Davis Group hit
- 23. Propane holder
- 24. Warm and snug
- 25. Half: Prefix
- 26. Egotist's love

- 27. The Kingston \_\_\_
- 28. Red beans go-with
- 29. Stands for a sculptor
- 31. Mint brand
- 32. Watch over
- 33. Jason's ship
- 34. Exploitative type
- 36. Basie's "One \_\_\_ Jump"
- 37. Lunch time, often
- 38. NFL Hall of Famer Marchetti
- 43. Scoop holder
- 44. Ukrainian port
- 45. Tricky pool shot
- 46. Mercury and Saturn, for two

- 47. Like fresh lettuce
- 48. Puerto \_\_\_
- 49. "Death Be Not Proud" poet John
- 51. Italy's shape
- 52. Russell of "Backdraft"
- 53. \_\_\_-European languages
- 54. Yard sale proviso
- 56. Scot's topper
- 57. Eggs, biologically
- 58. Guy's sweetie

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