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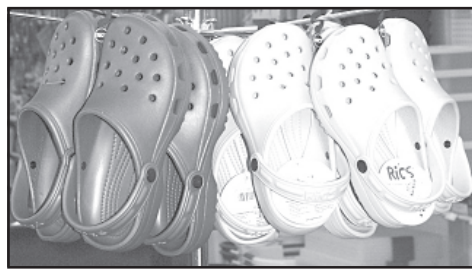
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Swim fun day canceled

The Oberlin Swim Team fun swim meet set for Saturday has been canceled due to a schedule conflict with the county fairs in the area. The meet will not be rescheduled this year.



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

jtmerritt@nwkansan.com

Not biting? Try elsewhere

One of the things I have learned over the past 40 years of fishing is what to do when the fish aren't biting.

During the hot end of summer, especially in those "dog days," I have some suggestions on how to approach those tasty walleye, saugeye and sauger.

The most important thing a fisherman can do is cover lots of water. This doesn't necessarily mean you need a boat, but if you on a bank, you should be on the move. If they aren't hitting in the area that you are fishing after 15 minutes, move.

For bank fisherman, I would suggest to start on a point. Use the "cut the pie" theory, as I call it.

I will use two patterns on different rods. Then I cut the pie. I start casting to my left, making two casts, then about every 20 degrees I cast the same lure until I have covered the 180 degrees with both. If I get no results, I move. This way you can cover quite a bit of area. I try to cover 50 yards of bank, up and back, before I leave for the next 50.

Think to yourself, "Have I only fished the points?" If the points are the only place you have fished, think "What choices are still available? Have I fished the gravel? What did I overlook?"

One rule of thumb is if the fish are not shallow or deep, they have to be in between. This is where water temperature comes into play.

Fish will look for their "comfort zone," the area where the temperature is just right and the oxygen levels are good. This is called the thermocline.

So, fish shallow, fish intermediate and fish deep for success.

Finally, if I am fishing for the walleye and its relatives, a good rule of thumb to remember is use:

- Flutter jig tipped with a minnow.
- Fuzz grub tipped with a minnow.
- Hammered chrome spoon.
- Firetail spoon.
- Leadhead jig tipped with a four-inch smoke-sparkled rubber worm.
- Gitzit in white and motor-oil colors.
- Lindy Lil' Joe yellow grub.
- Lindy Rig minnow.
- Lindy Rig worm.
- Spinner with a minnow.
- Bottom Bouncers.
- Crankbaits.

When fishing for walleye with a spinning rod, try using two split shot about 36 inches above the worm with a No. 6 bait hook.

Use a worm blower, hook up the worm twice through the head, cast out gently and retrieve slowly. This technique works best in the late evening in mid-summer.

A boat is really the best way to cover the most water, but some people can't afford one, so make some fishing buddies.

This arsenal should help you during the late summer. I have found the best time of the day is either before dawn or right at twilight. If you are a diehard, drift fish at night. Good luck.

"The Jayhawker," Jim Merriott, has fished walleye tournaments in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas over the past 30 years. He is a founder of the Colorado Walleye Association.

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Can KU make two bowl games?

BY JIM MERRIOTT

Can University of Kansas football Coach Mark Mangino, now 19-29 in his fifth year, take the Jayhawks to back-to-back bowl games this year?

If he does, it will be the first time in school history.

His 2005 team gave Jayhawk fans something to get pumped up about, finishing 7-5, then blowing out the University of Houston in the Fort Worth Bowl, but his 3-5 conference records left skeptics wondering.

Street & Smith's football forecasting magazine puts the Jayhawks fourth in the Big 12 Conference North this year, ahead of Colorado and K-State.

Phil Steele's College Football Preview magazine, another famous football prognosticator, picks Kansas dead last.

Lindysports.com says if KU can just have a winning season, that will be a success for the round man.

The positive side to the Jayhawks' schedule is that they do not have to play Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech until 2008.

The negative side is that KU has never finished in the upper half of the Big 12 North. Their non-conference schedule is a little stronger than last year, and KU will need to have someone step up and become a leader on defense.

The defense lacks the experience that made them a bowl team in 2005. The Jayhawks are only returning three starters on the defensive side, but have several players who have backup playing experience.

Key players who have all-conference ability on defense are cornerback Aquib Talib, defensive tackle James McClinton and red-shirt freshman free safety Darrell Stuckey.

Mangino has many key positions to fill, especially with the loss of linebacker Nick Reid, defensive end Charlton Keith, cornerback and punt returner Charles Gordon, linebacker Kevin Kane and quarterback Jason Swanson to graduation.

The program is 91-135-4 (.404) and had only four bowl games in the past 20 years, with a combined Big 8 and Big 12 conference record of

43-105-2 (.293). KU has always been a basketball school. Now with the baseball program on the rise, where does that leave the football program?

The Jayhawks return seven starters on offense. Key players to look for are running back Clark Green, who rushed for 813 yards and caught a record 37 passes out of the backfield last season.

Green is a great blocker but lacks break-away speed. Canadian-born running back Jon Cornish, who almost signed with USC, is the quick back the Jayhawks need. They also have John Randle, but depending on how weak the secondary turns out, Randle may be switched to cornerback.

Other veterans include wide receiver Brian Murph and tight end Derek Fine.

Quarterback has been a revolving door. Red-shirt freshman Kerry Meier, an All-stater from Pittsburg, has been named the most anticipated recruit from the Mangino era.

KU must find stability at this position to have a chance to be a contender in the north.

Meier won the starting role in spring practice. He comes from a strong bloodline; his older brother plays in the National Football League and his other brother, Dylan, is in the mix for the starting quarterback job at K-State.

Mangino also has eight other red-shirt starters to guide the offense.

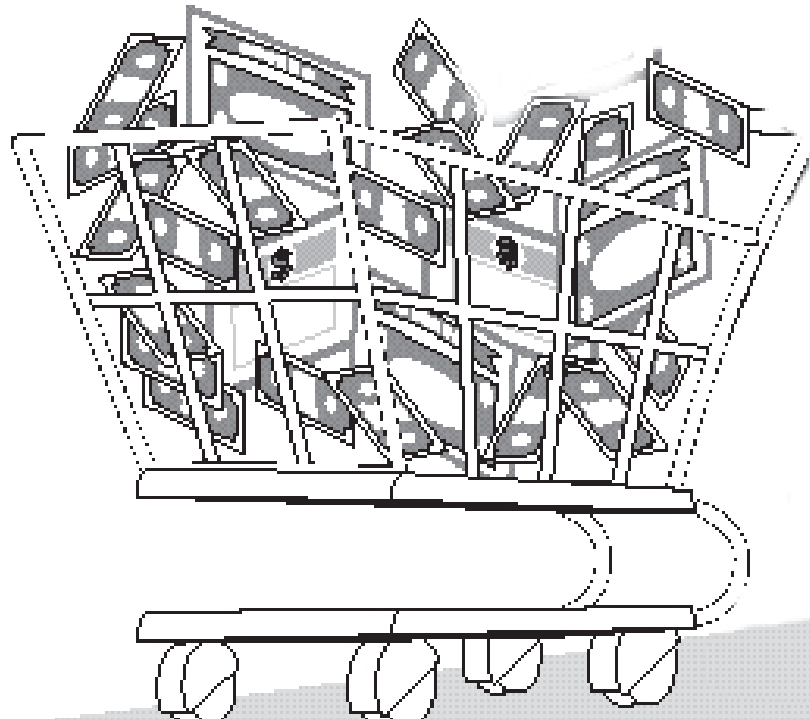
Experts say Kansas' 2006 recruiting class is fifth out of six schools in the Big 12 North. His top recruit is 6'4", 295-pound offensive lineman Rameses Arceo, a transfer from Cerritos College in California. Other potential stars include Phillip Strozier, a defensive back, and Sal Capra, a linebacker, both from Rockhurst High in Kansas City, and Xavier Rambo, a wide receiver from South Oak Cliff High in Dallas.

KU is picked to finish fourth in the Big 12 North by most of the experts.

The Jayhawker's pick: As much as I love the Jayhawks, Mangino will have to prove to me that he can produce a winner. My pick: conference (5-7) overall, (2-6) conference.

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