Sports Hall of Fame in Wichita shows state at its best

ASHER FUSCO
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June is devoid of Friday night football and the madness of the NCAA basketball tournament. July leaves fans of college football counting the weeks, days, hours and minutes until their favorite teams take the field. The August heat is sweltering enough to make a simple round of golf out of the question.

Though summer is slow for sports fans, the downtime can provide an opportunity to brush up on history and relive some great moments. The Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, located about three hours southwest of Kansas City in Wichita, offers plenty of artifacts to quench enthusiastic thirst for sports.

“We have everything from Olympic gold medals to game-worn jerseys and trophies,” Hall of Fame executive director Ted Hayes said. “This is a place where sports fans can come and remember things from their past they might have experienced as a fan or even a participant.”

In its 46 years of existence, the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame has collected plenty of medals, jerseys and trophies. But the museum contains much more than that.

The two-story structure located in downtown Wichita includes sections dedicated to golf, track, volleyball, softball and the Olympics in addition to more mainstream sports like basketball, football and baseball. Accomplished high school athletes are recognized next to Kansans who ascended to the highest ranks of professional competition.

“Sports are a large part of our society, especially in Kansas,” Hayes said. “Whether it’s going to a ballgame in a small town, a Kansas basketball game or a Kansas State football game. It’s just what people love to do.”

Although the exhibits prominently feature some of the biggest names in Kansas sports history, less renowned athletes are also recognized.

WNBA stars who once called Kansas home like Jackie Stiles and Nicole Ohlde receive as much recognition as male counterparts Mitch Richmond and Danny Manning.

Authentic artifacts from the careers of legendary Kansans Walter Johnson and Ralph Houk hang just several feet from those of less celebrated baseball players Pat Meares and Darren Dreifort.

One of Hayes’ favorite pieces of the collection is a baseball autographed by Walter Johnson. The Humboldt native originally signed the ball in 1938 and handed it to a young girl. The Kansas Sports Hall of Fame came across a picture published by The Washington Post of Johnson handing the ball to the same girl who later donated the artifact. Hayes said that story and others like it are what make the hall of fame special.

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In addition to its collection of artifacts, the museum houses plaques honoring each of the 139 members who have been inducted since 1961.

Included in that select group are many athletes and coaches who starred at either Kansas University or Kansas State University. Dr. James Naismith and running back Gale Sayers are two notable Jayhawks enshrined in the hall, and famous Wildcat inductees include three-sport star Elden Auker and basketball coach Jack Hartman.

The hall of fame recently added 14 athletes to its ranks in 2006, including former Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder. An induction ceremony will take place Oct. 21 in honor of the 2007 class. Hall of fame officials have not yet made public the names of this year’s inductees, but an announcement will be made soon.

Although things are looking up in the foreseeable future, the hall of fame’s financial situation has not always been rosy.

Although the state of Kansas originally founded the hall in 1961, it has been hesitant to provide funding in recent years. Since the operation moved to Wichita almost two years ago it has been engaged in a constant struggle to stay afloat.

“The main hurdle we have had to overcome is convincing the legislators that they created this, so they need to help fund it,” Hayes said. “We’ve survived for nearly 50 years without state funding so we have an obvious track record that says there is interest in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.”

As recently as this spring, the future of the museum was in serious doubt. But in May the state legislature agreed to provide $250,000 if the hall could bring in the same amount of private funding. The state’s support does not guarantee the hall of fame will remain open permanently, but it does ensure the hall will be able to add to its number of inductees this October. Hayes said meeting the state’s funding requirement would not be a problem.

Visitor James Colburn said he thought Kansans miss out on a great experience when they decide not to stop by the museum.

“This place is great,” Colburn said. “There is just so much amazing stuff from Kansas. It’s surprising how many people are connected to the state.”

Tailgate parties and NCAA Tournament brackets may still be a few months away, but in the meantime, there is plenty to keep sports fans busy at the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.
LAWRENCE — More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

These students are from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Following are Dickinson County students named to the honor roll.

**Abilene**:
Rachel L Berry, Jennifer A Brussow, Amos John Christner, Dustin Alan Duey, Alicia Marie Facklam

**Chapman**:
Brandi Leigh Dixson, Elizabeth Louisa Hamel, Emily Elizabeth Markley, Cody Adair Riedy, Hillary Renea Stroda and David Paul Wiese

**Herington High School**:
Ryan Keith Albrecht, Taylor Christian Erickson and Jenna Renee Haire

**Hope**:
Adam P Gantenbein

**Solomon**:
Meghan L Misenhelter and Brandy Suzanne Taylor

**Woodbine**:
Cody Adair Riedy

**Herington**:
Megan Amber
Kanorado dig continues

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Digging continues at 14,000-year-old Paleoindian sites near Kanorado this summer, with students from the University of Kansas and volunteers searching for more ancient artifacts and bones along Middle Beaver Creek.

Shannon Ryan, a KU anthropology doctoral student from Salina, is in charge at the sites, both north and south of Interstate 70.

She said the small group has been working on three sites along the creek. She said the work on the eastern site (known as SN-101) was mostly to recover exposed bones and rock flakes on the surface.
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The excitement was more than just the prospect of being the home of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. It was for the validation that decisions made nearly a decade ago were correct.

In the late 1990s, Kansas State University made the decision to build on its strengths in plant and animal research and focus on becoming a national — if not global — leader in bioscience.

It meant concentrating efforts and resources on those departments, assembling an accomplished staff and making the case for increased state and federal research dollars.

The site on the north side of Kansas State's main campus was one of five announced by the Department of Homeland Security as a possibility for the new $451 million NBADF center.

Other sites still in the running are in Texas, North Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia. Originally, 18 sites in 12 states — including the San Francisco Bay Area's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — were considered by Homeland Security.

The federal facility is scheduled to start operating in 2013-14. Officials estimate the federal facility would generate 1,500 construction jobs, up to 500 scientific jobs and $3.5 billion over 20 years.

Kansas State University President Jon Wefald compared last week's announcement to making an NCAA Final Four. Landing the center would be a trophy of epic proportions for the university and state.

"I don't know that any other state has put together a unified team like we have here in Kansas," Wefald said.


The Kansas Economic Growth Act established a state policy of focusing efforts on recruiting and developing jobs in emerging technologies. The goal was to tap into this market, with projections that it could pay off as much as $500 million over 10 years. Central to that was building new research centers at Kansas State, the University of Kansas and Wichita State University.

"We saw the opportunity to create jobs in Kansas by recruiting bioscience firms to our state," Sebelius said. "So in 2004, we made a commitment to make Kansas a leader in bioscience research by building on our existing assets and by creating the Bioscience Authority.

The Authority allows us to focus our efforts and show bioscience firms and the federal government the advantages of choosing Kansas."

Kansas State will open its Bioscience Research Institute this fall, capable of handling many of the same tasks that would be conducted at the NBADF site.

That means there would be a smooth transition from the current aging Plum Island, N.Y., site to Manhattan. And it gives federal officials options, either expanding the BRI or building a new facility on adjacent ground.

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld said the announcement shows that others outside Kansas see the state's potential.

"Such a center would complement and expand the work of the Biosecurity Research Institute, a state-of-the-art bio-research facility at Kansas State, as well as the numerous plant and animal companies already located in our state," said Neufeld, R-Ingalls.

Legislators passed three measures during the 2007 session to pave the way for landing the lab. One created an interagency working group to coordinate efforts, a second conveyed land at Kansas State to the federal government to build the facility, while a resolution pledged the Legislature's full support to do everything necessary to make the project a reality.

Everyone remains on board and focused for the next round of deliberations before the NBADF decision is final.

Wefald and his staff are confident that if politics don't enter the process, Kansas State should win the competition.

But even if that doesn't happen, Wefald is confident that Kansas is now at that elite level in bioscience research.

The corridor stretching from Manhattan in the west to Columbia, Mo., in the east has the highest concentration of animal health companies in the world.

They account for nearly a third of all dollars spent on animal health in the world. In addition, Kansas is a global leader in production of wheat and beef.

Locating the lab would complement the long-standing tradition of Kansas agriculture and put researchers within a country mile of those who depend on food safety and security for their livelihoods.

Kansas has the tools, the staff and desire to win the championships, and Wefald and others say other big-time recruits, comparable to the NBADF project, will be forthcoming. He called it "the biggest thing to happen in Kansas since the Civil War."

That might be a stretch, but landing the NABF lab could have the same lasting impact on Kansas and its economy for the next 100 years as the day Clyde Cessna and Walter Beech started putting together airframes in that little old cowtown called Wichita.

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Legislators and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius took that a step further in 2004.

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Many local and area students made the list including:

**Ulysses**
Paola Jasmin Ponce, pharmacy professional prof 1

**Sublette**
Dan A. Jucan, liberal arts undergraduate, junior

**Meade**
Lindsey D. Ross, journalism undergraduate, senior

**Elkhart**
Melvyn D. Beltran, allied health undergraduate, senior
Kelisha Ann White, allied health undergraduate, senior

**Kismet**
Joshua Wayne Roehr, education undergraduate, senior
Kevin Clark Veltri, education undergraduate, senior

**Liberal**
Allen Eugene Byerly, business undergraduate, senior
Jesus Antonio Castillo, liberal arts undergraduate, senior
Ofelia Castro, education undergraduate, senior
Hong Thanh Le Do, journalism undergraduate, junior
Jesus R. Hidalgo, pharmacy professional prof 1
Stephen D. Lewis, liberal arts undergraduate, senior
Nicholas Kent McMullen, liberal arts undergraduate, junior
Ryan Eugene McNabb, business undergraduate, senior
Caityn Ngoc Nguyen, liberal arts undergraduate, senior
Suong T Nguyen, liberal arts undergraduate, senior
Reece James Petty, liberal arts undergraduate, sophomore
Kendal Ryan Reed, liberal arts undergraduate, sophomore
Joshua Andrew Schepers, business undergraduate, senior
Anh Tuan Tran, pharmacy professional prof 1
Anh Tuan Tran, pharmacy professional prof 1
Tyler Cole Westerman, engineering undergraduate, junior
Kimberly Rae Jantz, pharmacy professional prof 1
Kansas' bioscience vision coming in to clearer focus

By JOHN MILBURN
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Editor's Note: John Milburn has covered state government for The Associated Press since 2001.
Special needs family back home after fleeing Greeley flood waters

Help from supporters is a godsend when waters start rising

BY JENNIFER MORROW THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GREELEY - You might call Jackie Finney an angel.

At least that's what she is to the many medically fragile foster children who have called her house, and the one she shared with her late husband James Finney, 'home.' But during the late June flood a few weeks ago, rising waters posed such a menacing and unique threat to this special family that supporters had to move them to safer ground.

Finney's Broken-N-Acres - the name comes from the Finney's observation that "We're broke, the acres are broke and the kids are broke" - became a respite for many medically fragile foster children under the Finneys' care since the late 1980s. Serving these special kids was a dream for herself and for her husband James Finney, who was killed last fall in a train crossing accident. Jackie Finney said that things have changed dramatically since the loss of her husband.

"It was a 24-7 job with both of us and now with just me, it's really tough some days, but I just keep trying," Finney said.

When she and her husband moved from California to Greeley in 1988, they applied for foster care and asked to take in children from illegal drug environments that they could treat and then send either back to their families or to homes where they would be taken care of. Jackie said their blessings came in the form of other children however, particularly medically fragile babies that needed special care.

In March 1989, the Finney's received their first two foster children. They had thirteen total children come through the house until they gave up foster care in 1999. Of the thirteen children, nine of them were medically fragile children with problems ranging from diabetes to mental retardation to chromosomal disorders. Four of them the Finney's have adopted. Jessica and D'Ron have since passed away, Jessica in 1998 and D'Ron in 2003. The two living children, Alisha and Jalaani are 16 1/2 and 14 1/2 respectively and are

SEE FAMILY ON PAGE A4
victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome. “We have and have had the most incredible children, who are so full of life.” Finney said.

With the recent torrential rains that swelled the Pottawatomie from its banks north and south of Greeley, Finney and her two children were evacuated as a preventive measure early the morning of June 30 to KU Medical Center where the children could be taken care of. With the massive medical equipment needs of the children, Finney said it would have been almost impossible to rescue them had they truly needed to. They were able to return to their home the following Monday:

Although the 107 year old house has never flooded, not even in the 1951 flood, Finney said the lives of the children could have been in tremendous jeopardy if they were not taken out before their contact with outside sources of help was cut off. The children and all of the necessary equipment couldn’t have been removed with a boat or airplane.

Finney said their stay at KU Med Center was wonderful. The children’s conditions are so fragile that their primary physicians came onsite, which made it as stress-free as possible. Finney said they were able to relax and were well cared for.

“It was like being in a really nice hotel.” Finney said.

Even through all of the trials and tribulations that have come along with the lives of the Finney family, they have always looked to God for the strength to continue even when the water was rising. “God has always protected us.” Finney said.
Federal defense lab should go to ambitious bioscience state

Smack dab in the middle of Kansas seems exactly the place the federal Department of Homeland Security should place a big new biosecurity center.

And that is where the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility could wind up, as a site on the north side of the Kansas State University campus last week was named one of five finalists for the lucrative project.

If there exists a better location for a research center to defend against animal and plant disease threats, we cannot imagine where it would be. The NBAF would replace an aging facility at Plum Island, N.Y.

Better to put it in Kansas than New York, to be sure. And, with all due respect to the other finalists, better to put it in Kansas than North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi or Texas.

The $451 million NBAF should go somewhere in the center of the nation’s agriculture industry. We could use the jobs in the heartland, too. The NBAF would open in 2013 or 2014, generating 1,500 construction jobs, and when operational up to 500 scientific jobs and $3.5 billion over 20 years.

But, moreover, Kansas is well positioned because the state already is well down the track to being on the leading edge of the biosciences. In 2004, the governor and Legislature agreed to pursue development of the industry in Kansas. A Bioscience Authority was created and plans made to build new research centers at Kansas State, the University of Kansas and Wichita State University. The ultimate goal has been to stimulate private sector biosciences growth in the state.

And as long as a decade ago, K-State decided to build on its strengths in plant and animal research and become a leading academic institution in the biosciences. And this fall K-State will open its Bioscience Research Institute, which will handle many of the same functions that would be done at the NBAF site.

Meanwhile, Kansas has made a full-court press on the federal government to locate the new facility here. That is to the state’s leadership’s credit.

Landing the NBAF would be a huge endorsement of Kansas’ aggressive strategy with the biosciences. But, Kansas State President Jon Wefald says, even if another site is chosen, Kansas has put itself at the top of the field.

The state’s strategy was smart, pairing a longtime natural strength in agriculture with an emerging growth industry.

Runner-up for the NBAF would not change that. But, still, because of its specialties, Kansas surely is the best place to locate this specialized federal defense lab.
Hemenway mourns loss of KU student

LAWRENCE — University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway said Monday the death of a 21-year-old KU student on Friday in a Johnson County traffic accident was "a tragic loss for the KU community."

The accident killed Cecile Lynn Nativida Hernandez, of Olathe, who was a junior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at KU.

According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Hernandez was westbound in the left-hand lane of Interstate 435 when her 1999 Dodge pickup truck veered into the median, hit a sign pole and caught fire.

The accident occurred at about 5:47 p.m. Friday. She was wearing a seat belt.