

THE TROJOURNAL

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Running back Adam Stephenson “busts loose” around left end for a 28-yard run against Eureka. The Trojans won 49-0 but lost to TMP at Hays Friday, ending their chance for the state title. See the story on page 10. (Photo by Nataliya Chornak)

What do you think of the KSDE proposal to add three more graduation requirements?



"Great, so I can be smart!"
Brooke Kent - freshman



"Dumb, because I want to choose my own career path."
Kelsey Losey - freshman



"Very stupid! People not going in the math field won't need that much math and most people won't go into a field that requires advanced math."
Kelsey Delker - junior



"It's not a good idea because it takes away from the opportunity to choose other classes."
Taylor Garretson - freshman

Economy is always an issue

By Nataliya Chornak

Huge houses, huge malls, fancy cars and a lot of money -- these are things that Ukrainian people usually think about when they hear about the United States of America. Having come to America, I can see that our perspective on America is partially true.

However, I also have heard that Americans are concerned about their economy. They are concerned about losing their jobs, losses in the stock market, about stores not making profits during the Christmas season and about personal debt.

Even though Americans do experience economic problems, their problems are not even close to the economic problems in Ukraine.

The economy of Ukraine is pretty bad nowadays, and that affects all ways of life in the country. People don't have enough jobs, so they don't earn enough money. Many people very often just sit at home because they don't have a place to work.

Even those who are lucky enough to have a job may not be paid on time. Very often the factory or business they work at isn't strong enough to pay the workers con-

sistently, so it isn't uncommon for a Ukrainian worker to wait for three or four months for his or her pay. That's why there are a lot of strikes in Ukraine. People are just tired of the government's everlasting promises which never materialize. So, very often they refuse to work. They go out to the streets and demand their money or more jobs.

Strikes at schools are common, too. We have had a lot of times when some schools were closed because teachers refused to work there.

Our typical schools always face other problems also. Either the schools lack books or they have books that are twenty years old with half of the pages gone.

Computers are also rare. Unlike Southeast of Saline where there are computers in the library and in several labs, Ukrainian schools may have only two computers for an entire high school. Students usually get excited when they have an opportunity to operate the computer.

Climate control also presents a problem. When the winter comes, some of the rooms are freezing cold because the school doesn't have enough money to heat each room so that students can comfortably study in them.

When it's time for students to think about college, it also becomes a touchy question. (See "Ukraine..." on page 3)



Southeast of Saline THE TROJOURNAL

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What happened to free choice?

By Tammi Verhoeff

Literary essays, research papers, projects, worksheets, tests, quizzes, sports, jobs, clubs and parents. With this load, who has time for a social life?

Not only that, but the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) wants to see students do even more.

A KSDE proposal that will be voted on in December calls for another math, science and fine art graduation requirement in addition to the already rigorous graduation requirements.

Currently, the graduation requirements for the state of Kansas include four units of English, three units of social science, two units of science, two units of mathematics, one-half unit of health, one-half unit of physical education and one unit of computer applications.

The KSDE seems to want more standardized testing and challenges, and fewer classes that students take just to pass the time.

But what's wrong with that? A lot.

Right now students are struggling with the current curriculum. They are trying to balance the challenging classes that are required to be eligible for scholarships and qualified admissions to state universities and still take electives in classes that interest them.

For example, a student who wants to take both band and vocal and still follow the qualified admissions/state scholar curriculum gives up the right to take any more electives. If this proposal goes through, the stu-

dent could be forced to limit choices even further and choose between band and vocal.

Students need non-required classes that let them relax and explore the right side

“The only reason to take higher math is to take more higher math.”

of the brain instead of concentrating completely on our left.

Robots have no imagination, no flare or color. Pretty soon we'll be nothing more than robots, walking androids with numbers and facts running through our heads.

What happened to allowing students to explore their interests through the fine arts or vocational education? If this proposal goes through, what will happen to classes like woods, metals, vo-tech, On the Job Training (OJT), FACS, auto mechanics, journalism, yearbook or the agriculture courses?

When is the last time somebody (other than Mr. Sauber) had to use the Pythagorean Theorem? But which teachers have had to write a resume, fix a car, cook, etc.? Why aren't these daily life classes a priority?

They are confining us to certain areas that they feel are important. They are proposing a “One Size Fits All” kind of plan. If their plan is adopted, we may be able to map the human genome, but won't know how to fix our toilets when they run.

The basic idea of standards is understandable. Policy-makers want to advance our learning, yet in doing so, they are taking away other opportunities that are equally as important and they are causing students an astronomical amount of stress.

They see our test scores, but what they don't see are the bloodshot eyes and our exhaustion as we live our lives on caffeine highs to guarantee future success and make the best of our high school lives. The KSDE and the federal government gurus are too far removed from the students to make decisions for us.

It has been said that “the only reason to take higher math is to take more higher math.” For many, this is true. Students today are taking very advanced classes in their high school career. If a student wants to be an English teacher, why is it necessary to know physics, postulates, discrete math or calculus?

Now if students who want to study the arts or vocational classes have an interest in learning higher math, that's different. But if a student is required to learn how to make an atomic bomb when all they want to do is paint for a living, why torture them?

Another problem with this proposal is money. The state and federal government have drained education dry and yet they still want schools to produce more results with less or equal money. We're like a car running on empty. The education system is running on fumes and the KSDE is still revving up the engine.

•Ukraine stays positive

(continued from pg. 2)

tion. Our colleges are pretty expensive, so parents usually don't have enough money to send students to college. Teenagers don't work like they do here, so they can't earn any money. One reason teens don't work is that school takes all their time, but even if they had time, there aren't a lot of places where teens can work.

In spite of all these everlasting problems and difficulties that we face every day in Ukraine, we always stand very strong as a nation. Even though we don't have wealth, we are rich in spiritual values. And the most important value for us is our friends and relatives, with whom we can always share our problems and difficulties, our happiness and joy. We always stay as positive as we can and believe in the better future.

Top ten picks you won't hear on the radio

By Kelsey Delker

Sick of the same old radio songs? In need of something new? Well, here's your chance to get Kelsey's insight into recommended songs to hear that not many people know about, or that have gone forgotten over time.

Keep in mind that I'm not telling you to break the law by downloading songs, but if you want to make it legal, here is what you need to do: download the song and see if you like it.

If you like it, keep it and go support the artist by buying the entire album or other merchandise by that artist. If you hate it, delete it. This will keep me

from getting in legal trouble.

1. Cowboy Mouth – “Everything You Do”
2. Greenwheel – “Breathe”
3. Foo Fighters – “Everlong”
4. Dashboard Confessional – “Swiss Army Romance”
5. Autopilot Off – “Frequency”
6. Weezer – “Undone (The Sweater Song)”
7. Reel Big Fish – “Where Have You Been”
8. Good Charlotte – “Little Things”
9. Jim's Big Ego – “Stress”
10. Cake – “Love You Madly”

Socks, soccer and Spain: Saioa suits the states

By Nataliya Chornak

You can see her wearing the red and white striped polo of her favorite soccer team and cheering for the Southeast football team at the same time. It means only one thing – our school has Spanish exchange student Saioa Arostigui, who loves soccer and adores football.

“When I was in Spain, I hated football. I thought that everybody just fights with each other in this game,” she said, “but now I love football. It’s great! I have been to all of the games except the one we lost,” she said, smiling.

She said that her opinion about football is not the only opinion that has changed since she came here.

“When I was in Spain, I thought that typical American family was something like Simpsons,” she said, “but now my mind has changed. My new host family, the Schmidts, are great.”

In Spain, Saioa’s family consists of five members: two older sisters, a mother who doesn’t work outside the home, and her father who owns a truck factory. She said her American family doesn’t differ from her Spanish one, but her city where she lives does.

“It’s much bigger; we have a lot of high buildings,” she said.

She said, however, that the size of the town is not an important difference; the most important difference is people who live in this area.

“I found a lot of friends here,” she said. “But the first week of school was very hard for me. It was very hard to find real friends here. I had an I-am-going-back-to-Spain mood. However, now it’s much better.”

Some would say that it’s not surprising that she has found a lot of friends in America, because she is very sociable and friendly. Her sociability and tolerance just catch people’s attention.

Saioa also considers herself as an open-minded person. She is just like all typical teenagers in Spain, she said.

“Si has a lot of insight, and she is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in. I love Si; she is so cool!” said senior

Tammi Verhoff.

For fun in Spain they go out to the clubs or just hang out in the parks with their friends. Each year they have a street party with music and food.

“We usually stay the whole night at this party and we finish with having breakfast there,” she said.

She added that teenagers in Spain don’t have dates for their parties.

“We usually hang out with a group of people, and when we like some boy, we (girls) just follow him, meet him, and then we hang out all together.”

School is another thing that is also important to teenagers no matter where they are from. School in Spain is practically the same as here, Saioa said. Students go to school from 8:40 to 4:00. However, they have three big breaks: two twenty minutes breaks and one forty minute break each day.

Also, she said the teachers don’t have just one classroom.

“We don’t move from class to class; our teachers move,” she said.

However here she moves from teacher to teacher and she does it with pleasure.

She likes teachers in

Southeast very much.

“They are so nice. They even give you their phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Our teachers in Spain never do this,” she said.

Another difference is that students in Spain don’t play sports in high school. She said that maybe that’s why she was interested in playing volleyball here even though she doesn’t think she plays very well.

“I was SO bad,” she said.

Her teammates disagree.

“I think she is awesome,” said her teammate Emily Eilders.

“She rocks,” added Laura Reed.

Saioa likes this school, her friends and her family ... and socks (just in a case you want to give her a present).

“I want to come here in forty years and still have friends here,” she said.



Seniors Kyle Hartman and Saioa Arostigui cheer on the Southeast of Saline football team at the regional playoffs against Eureka. Arostigui’s newfound love for the American game of football shows in her enthusiastic spirit and loud cheers. (Photo by Nataliya Chornak)

Sophomores win trophy and \$100 cash

By Janie Verhoeff

Motors running, metal crushing and steam billows over the stadium, sophomore Scotty Wolford revved his engine and jammed his Dodge into gear. Wolford said he was a bit nervous as the race began, but felt great after the first crash of his first demolition derby Oct. 12.

"I was nervous at first, but once I was in the arena I got more confidence. I was in heat four, so I had to wait 3 heats, which made me even more nervous!" he said.

The nerves totally vanished, however, when the derby was finished and Wolford found himself holding a trophy and a \$100 check. He had finished eighth out of 50 contestants.

His success began when he won his first heat.

"I won my heat and then I went into the Final Feature, which had 22 cars at once in the arena," he said.

Wolford said that his car was pretty beat up for the final heat.

"Since I had used the front end (in the first heat), the radiator got smashed into the fan and all the antifreeze gushed out. The fan, water pump and power steering belt came off so the engine wasn't getting cooled down and it overheated. It died and then it wouldn't start back up."

He said that his crew of mechanics – Eddie Rego, Matt Short and his dad Jeff Wolford – tried to install a spare radiator, but it didn't fit.

"We were trying to replace the radiator before the final feature and only had a short amount of time. It didn't fit, so we put the other one back in. We didn't have enough time so we quickly put it in and hooked up everything. We didn't even bolt it back into place; we just used bailing wire and wired it in so it wouldn't fall out!" Wolford said.

Now that Wolford knows how the derby works, he's learned a few things from the wise.

"I wished that my spare radiator would have fit. Then I could have made it further in the final feature. I also shouldn't have used my front end as much as I did," he said.

Wolford said his interest in demolition derbies began when he got to go to the demo derbies at the Tri-Rivers Fair in Salina with his family when he was a little boy. The only setback he could see was finding a demo car.

"I eventually found one. So I decided that I would do it," Wolford said. He said that he can't wait to attend his next demolition derby.

"There is a derby every year in August at the Salina fair. Then there might be one in September at the Salina Speedway and another one in October in Salina (which was the one I was in)."

Wolford said he's ready to go again as long as Rego and Short were willing to work as mechanics.

"I couldn't have done it without them," Wolford said.

Wolford said that his mom was a little bit nervous but now seems o.k. with his interest in future demolition derbies.

"My mom was a bit nervous (at first)," Wolford laughed. "She got over it."



Matt Short, Scotty Wolford and Eddie Rego show off their beat up Dodge trophy after the demolition derby on Oct. 12, 2002. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Susie Wolford)

“Every person is a new door to a different world”

By Jessica Conway

Sarcastic, witty, serious, shy, quiet. All these words describe senior Eric Tweedy, but “religious” would describe him best.

One of Tweedy's major interests is church. Tweedy is very much involved with his church and strong in his beliefs.

"I am very conservative in my beliefs, and I strongly emphasize Christian teachings and morals. I'm not strict or harsh, but I do believe the Bible is God's inspired and that the Bible is the perfect example we are to live by. I don't



force my beliefs on anyone else, but I would sure tell them about my faith if they asked me," he said. "But religion is nothing without faith in God. Without faith, and without God, life is meaningless."

Tweedy someday hopes to include his faith in his job. However, he is not sure what he wants to do as of yet.

"God's working a plan in my life; I don't know what that is yet. But if I had to choose some-

thing, I would love to become a pastor or a youth worker, or possibly a missionary," he said.

Tweedy doesn't just see missionary work as a job, however.

"As a Christian, I believe all Christians are called into some sort of ministry. Ministry can be preaching to multitudes of people nationwide or witnessing to your neighbor across the street. Whether I become a pastor or a blue-collar worker, I will be doing "ministry" my entire life.

Other than ministry work, Tweedy is currently involved in the On the Job Training (OJT) program. He works at the office of K.C. collectibles in Salina.

"On Tuesdays and Thursdays I get out of school at 11:30 and go to work until 5:00," he said. "I have a job in Salina that I had this past summer. I do office work; I'm on a laptop a lot! I work cataloging data, compiling it on a database, and comparing prices and I work on the company website from time to time."

Tweedy is not currently involved in any other job programs but he has done a lot of job shadowing.

"I have job shadowed several youth pastors, and visited many churches, attended tons of youth rallies, conventions, youth leadership academy training, etc," he said.

Tweedy also works very actively in his com-

munity helping his father and neighbors.

"I work at home helping my family out by doing some jobs and cutting firewood, and I help around the community," he said. "I do not get paid for either and I don't want to."

Other than church and his community, Tweedy is also interested in music, woodworking, youth group, writing, history, philosophy, and cooking.

"I like music, especially the piano," he said. "I also like woodworking, youth group, writing, history, philosophy and let's not forget cooking!" Tweedy also enjoys driving and golf.

"I drive around a lot. I just travel to different places, but not too far, and check things out. It calms you down," he said. "I try to squeeze in some golf when it's nice out."

From golf to driving, music to cooking, youth group and philosophy, history and church, God is a big part of all of Tweedy's life, especially in the new people he meets.

"Every person is a new door to a different world," he said.

In all he does with family, community and church, he said he has one motto:

"Most importantly trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path."

A funny thing happened



Ben Ryan (*Pseudolus*) enjoys the attention of the courtesans: Erinn Rogers and Nicole Koffman (*the Geminae*) while Logan Henry (*Marcus Lycus*) prepares to sell his product. The play debuted Nov. 14 and 16. (Photo by Sarah Maine)



Shai Elliott (*Philia*) gazes lovingly at her "Hero" Mitcher Barnes. (Photo by Sarah Maine)



Ben Ryan (*Pseudolus*) tries to woo "Philia," aka Joe Sparacino (*Hysterium*), with song. (Photo by Sarah Maine)

on the way to the forum



Racheal Flax (Domina) sings about the ups and downs of Senex, her "Dirty Old Man" (Photo by Sarah Maine)



Joe Sparacino (Hysterium), dressed up as Philia, attempts to hide himself with flowers from Adam Stephenson (Senex). (Photo by Sarah Maine)



Jason Korbelik (Captain Miles Gloriosus) reprimands Ben Ryan (Pseudolus) for losing his bride. (Photo by Sarah Maine)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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CORN
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 FEAST
 HARVEST
 INDIANS

MAIZE
 MAYFLOWER
 PIES
 PILGRIMS
 TURKEY

Rachael Flax sings her story

By Lindsay Zeller

"Who is the girl with the voice?" asked Mrs. Melony McClure during last year's musical, 'Diamond Studs.'

Rachael Flax, who transferred from Salina her freshman year, was that girl, and pictures show her trying to sing and dance at a very early age. Finding herself looking in a mirror with her hair brush and action figures, she knew that she wanted to sing.

"I have pictures of me when I was two, holding action figures and brushes, using them for microphones," Flax said. "I always loved to sing."

Her first "performance" occurred during third grade.

"I was singing at recess in third grade and a teacher heard me and asked me to sing for her," Flax said.

It was two years after third grade when she sang her first real solo. This time she had a little bigger audience, her fifth grade class and their parents at the fifth grade musical program.

"My first solo was in fifth grade at our musical program. I sang 'He's Gone Away,'" Flax said.

Though the parents thought she did an excellent job, Rachael wasn't so thrilled.

"It was alright, I guess. I don't like to watch the tape. It makes me cringe," Flax said.

Since then, Flax has sung at many different places including church, school, the Bi-Centennial Center at Cagerz games and other basketball and football games — wherever singing groups perform.

Flax's voice is mostly adapted to country music.

"I don't really care what it is I sing. I like to sing country songs and I love Broad-

way stuff!" Flax said. "My favorite song is 'Independence Day' by Martina McBride."

Flax has been in musicals this year and

last year. In last year's performance of "Diamond Studs," she played Belle Star. Belle owned a saloon and was quite a floozy.

This year, she played Domina, a shrew. She said she wonders why she is cast to have guy problems.

"G e e z ! Why do all my characters have guy problems!?" Flax said.

C a s t i n g aside, Flax enjoys the musicals but doesn't only want to sing in high school musicals. She also wants to produce and sing her own songs.

"I want to take this as far as I can. I want to write music and sing it so that people can hear it

and be helped or inspired by it," Flax said.

She likes to write poems and sometimes they turn into songs.

"I just write poems, whatever I feel at that time. Sometimes I get a melody in my head and put words to it," Flax said.

Like any other singer, she has dreams of singing in important places, like movie awards shows or big towns like New York. Her dream is to sing in the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn. And she wants to someday try Broadway.

With all the singing gigs and musicals, she said she sacrifices some things.

"This year some sports are going by the wayside. I'm not playing basketball this year so I can spend more time with my music," Flax said.



Rachael Flax has been singing and dancing since she was a small child. "I was singing in recess in third grade..." Flax said. (Photo courtesy of Rachael Flax)

Southeast Shorts

NHS adds new members

By Jessica Conway

NHS is going to be quite busy in the next month with new members and scavenger hunts.

On Dec. 7 they will be hosting a scavenger hunt to help out the Salvation Army. The students will meet at Mrs. Judy White's house and then travel around Salina gathering canned goods and things to donate to the Salvation Army.

They will also be adding several new members Dec. 4 at the initiation ceremony.

The new members are seniors Amanda Preston and Laura Reed; juniors Caitlin Bunger and Klay Spiller; and sophomores Andrew Clifford, Coy Cox, Justin Dupes, Shelly Hillyard, Brian Korbelik, Garrett Mugler, Alex Mutschler, Matthew Myers, Jeremy Plymell, April Ptacek, Amanda Repp, Christopher Rogge, Chantay Seim, Erica Stein, Jessica Swanson, Christina Tillman, Ashley Turnball and Danielle Weese.

Vandals hit Southeast

By Tammi Verhoeff

Rubber-gloved law officers, cop cars and pictures. It looked to be a scene right out of CSI, not a typical Tuesday at Southeast of Saline.

Last Monday night, Southeast of Saline was one of the targets as vandals swept across the community. The vandals not only hit Southeast, but also the towns of Bridgeport and Assaria.

The damage included one broken kindergarten bus window, 16 bus windows out of an activity bus along with a door window and windshield, two work lights. A yellow craft show sign was run over, the wooden Southeast of Saline sign was run over and the plastic lettering board was broken.

Currently the Saline County Sheriff's office is investigating the crime. They are still in the preliminaries of the investigation.

"The vandals, when caught, will be charged and prosecuted," Captain Augustine said.

If you have any information regarding this crime or any other crime you can give an anonymous tip by visiting the Southeast of Saline homepage and clicking on the "Officer Scott's Notepad" icon or call Crime stoppers at (785) 825-TIPS.

Trojans end their season 9-3

By Mitcher Barnes

Last Friday, the Southeast of Saline Trojans saw arguably the greatest season in Trojan football history come to an end with a 32-21 loss to the TMP-Marian Monarchs in sub-state play. The Trojans ended their season with a 9-3 record after a game that was much closer than the final tally showed.

In the first half of play, the Trojans tried to shake off a sluggish first half start after falling down early 17-0. The Monarchs ran back the opening kick-off into Trojan territory and drove to the Trojan one-yard line. The drive came to a halt with fourth and inches, but TMP scored two plays later when the Monarchs tackled running back Adam Stephenson for a safety.

Field position was vital in the first quarter with the Monarchs running the ensuing punt back to the Trojan 30-yard line, establishing field position for another score.

The Trojans battled back late in the second quarter with running back Adam Stephenson's five-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 17-7. That was the closest the Trojans would get in the first half, because on the ensuing possession with time dwindling under two minutes, the Monarchs scored again to widen their lead 24-7.

Going into half time behind was familiar territory for the Trojans. The Trojans had previously trailed in three other contests including a 20-point comeback against the Concordia Panthers.

After seeing a first half where a total of 31 points were scored, the third quarter came to a stalemate with the Monarch lead still remaining at 17. The Trojans finally broke free with 9:49 remaining in the game when senior quarterback Matt Garretson hit wide receiver Broc Tanner with a 23-yard strike to cut the lead to 24-14.

The Trojan defense then went to work and forced the Mon-

archs to punt the ball, giving the Trojans 6:45 seconds remaining in the game. Garretson then guided his team downfield and scored from one yard out to cut the Monarch lead to just three. After the Trojans forced TMP to punt with 2:52 seconds remaining in the game, it looked like the Trojans would yet again come from behind to win.

That was the closest the Trojans would get. A costly interception by TMP's Jeff Keberlein with under 2:40 seconds remaining in the game dashed the Trojans' hope of a comeback. The Trojans lost 31-21, falling two games short of the state championship game.

Coach Pat Haxton's Trojans saw their season come to an end with a 9-3 record. The Trojans have a lot to be proud of this year, marking the first year since 1985 that the Trojans made the state playoffs and their nine wins is a school record. Adam Stephenson's 2,170 rushing yards probably would be an individual record. However, individual records are not kept at Southeast of Saline.

The Trojans also had nine players recognized as first team NCAA All-League, the most for any NCAA league

team. The offense had four recognized: tailback Adam Stephenson, wide receiver Broc Tanner, left tackle Roy Riffel, and right guard Jason Korbelik.

The defense had five members chosen: defensive linemen Joe Sparacino, Jason Korbelik, Jason Mann; linebacker Bradley Brack; and defensive back Vernon Cathey.

"We had a great season, and we enjoyed it immensely. We're all proud of what we've accomplished and hopefully we've started a winning tradition," said senior Jordon Komp.



Senior running back Adam Stephenson scorched the Eureka defense for over 300 rushing yards. Stephenson had 2,170 rushing yards this season. The Trojans beat Eureka 49-0. (Photo Nataliya Chornak)

Cross country teams return to State

By Mitcher Barnes

The Southeast of Saline Trojan Cross Country squads capped off their seasons by competing at State for the first time since 1998.

The young Trojan girls finished 11th and the Trojan boys finished 12th.

Freshmen Joni Heimer helped her team to their 11th place finish by placing 8th overall. Heimer ran the course in 13:06.

The 8th place finish made her an All-State runner. Only the top 20 runners in 3A cross country in the state of Kansas can achieve this goal, and Heimer accomplished this feat in just her first year of cross country.

After Heimer, freshmen Brooke Kent finished 62. Sophomore Hannah Zerbe was 72 followed by sophomore Dani Weese, who finished 86th. Fresh-

man Chelsey Mueller rounded out the top five coming in 96th.

The Trojans boys were hampered by an injury to their number one runner Tucker Weese. Weese, who was injured the last month of the season with two stress fractures in his leg, ran a gutsy race at Wamego but was unable to do as well as the previous year at state when he placed 29th.

Without a healthy Weese, the Trojan boys placed 12th. They were led by senior Jason Brady, who placed 56th with a time of 18:35. He was followed closely by sophomore Ian Hughes, who placed 59th.

Rounding out the Trojans' top five were freshman Mark McClure, 77th, and seniors Mitcher Barnes and Tucker Weese, 90th and 91st.



Freshman Mark McClure runs at the state meet.



Jason Brady, Tucker Weese and Ian Hughes pack tight early in the Regional Cross Country meet at Ellsworth. Normally Southeast's first runner, Weese was injured and did not place in Southeast's top five, but Brady finished eighth. (Photos courtesy by Mr. Gary McClure)



Freshman Brooke Kent was Southeast's second female runner at State.



Joni Heimer kneels on the winner's platform at the state cross country meet in Wamego. Heimer placed 8th and received All-State honors.

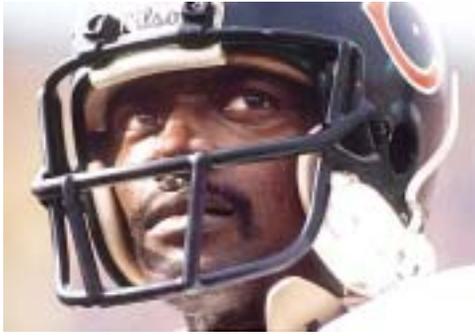


Senior Mitchell Pounds runs at the State cross country meet.



Determination shows on junior Justin Davis's face as he runs at regionals.

The Greatest of All-Time...



Payton?



Sanders?



Smith?

Opinion

By Mitcher Barnes

Last month Dallas Cowboy running back Emmitt Smith surpassed the Great Walter Payton to become the NFL's leading ground gainer of all-time. Statically, Smith now sits atop the list as the NFL's greatest ground gainer with 16,804 rushing yards.

Smith's record puts him ahead of great running backs such as Walter Payton and Barry Sanders who are now number two and three respectively on the all-time rushing list. In my mind, though, even though Smith holds the record, he isn't better than Payton or Sanders.

No one can dispute that at first glance, Smith's stat sheet is very impressive. His 150 touchdowns and 16,804 rushing yards are among his greatest accomplishments. For his career Smith has carried the ball on average 4.3 yards per carry in 13 seasons. Smith became the first player in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in 11 consecutive seasons, surpassing Barry Sanders who retired prematurely before the 1999 season.

My argument is that Smith did this on teams with offensive lines that were as impressive as Smith himself. Smith was fortunate enough to play on three super bowl championship teams — teams that included massive offensive lines that dominated defenses during the 90s. Some of the holes that were created for Smith you could have driven a dump truck through.

Payton's stat sheet reads almost exactly the same as Smith's. His 16,726 rushing yards was an NFL record, and his 77 games with

at least 100 yards is still an NFL record. Payton carried the ball on average 4.4 yards per carry in 13 seasons. Payton also played on great teams including the 1985 Super bowl champion Chicago Bears. The Bears also had a punishing offensive line that included the great William "The Refrigerator" Perry.

Sanders was not as fortunate with the Detroit Lions. Sanders made the bad Detroit Lions offensive line look good. If there wasn't a hole, Sanders made one. He was a defensive linemen's nightmare.

In the open field there was no one that could tackle Sanders. His ability to start and stop then start again in a matter of milliseconds was like nothing that anyone had seen.

In 10 seasons Sanders's ran for 15,269 total rushing yards. Sanders still holds the NFL record with 14 consecutive 100-yard performances. In 1997 Sanders ran for a magical 2,053 rushing yards. For his career he averaged an amazing 5.0 yards per carry behind some horrendous offensive lines and Lions teams.

Since Sanders was on such bad teams, he became angry with the Detroit Lions organization and vowed never to play for the organization again. So in 1999 Sanders called it quits, 1,457 yards shy of the NFL's all-time rushing record.

If Sanders wouldn't have retired, he would have literally "run" away with the record, and there wouldn't even be an argument. Barry Sanders would have been considered by everyone the Greatest Running Back of all-time.

Wrestlers rely on experience

By Mitcher Barnes

The Southeast of Saline Trojan wrestling program looks to be very competitive this season.

The Trojans return 10 members from last year's varsity team. Coy Cox, the Trojans only state competitor last year as a freshman, returns this year along with sophomores Adam Spaeny, Austin Barnes, Jimmy Thomas, and Matt Breen.

Juniors returning are Jeremy Will and Kyle Davis. The seniors that are returning are Tucker Weese, Kody Losey, and Matt Lacey.

Second year head coach Jeff Tanner hopes the Trojans can build off the experience they gained last year from his first year of coaching the team.

"Virtually all of our varsity wrestlers are returning this year, and we intend to build off of the experience from last year," said sophomore Austin Barnes.

Volleyball team wins league

By Mitcher Barnes

The Southeast of Saline volleyball team saw their season end with a sub-state loss to Hesston 15-8, and 15-11 on October 26, 2002. Hesston Swathers eventually went on to be the eventual champion.

The game marked the end of the careers of Emily Eilders, Haylie Colby, Mandy Preston, Saioa Arostegui, and Laura Reed.

The Trojans ended their season with a 16-11 record and an NCAA league title.

The Trojans had four first team NCAA all-league players: Emily Eilders, Laura Reed, April Ptacek, and Jessica Swanson.

Chantay Seim was also honorable mention.

Girls hope to become a powerhouse

Trojan Girls at a Glance



Coach: Wayne Sager

Key Players: Emily Eilders, Jamie Schropp, Chantay Seim

Key Losses: None

Returning Starters	Key Subs
PG Emily Eilders	Erica Stein
SG Jamie Schropp	April Ptacek
SF Chantay Seim	Tammi Verhoeff
PF Jami Brown	
C Jessie Swanson	

By Mitcher Barnes

Last Season, Coach Wayne Sager's Trojan Girls had a breakout season. Their 17-5 was a complete turnaround for the program from its previous year when they were 4-17. The Trojan girls also captured the NCAA league title.

This year the Trojans' team includes a

heavily senior-dominated team with first team All-County guard Emily Eilders running the show. The Trojans also have two honorable mention all-county returnees senior shooting guard Jamie Schropp and sophomore shooting guard Chantay Seim.

This season the Trojans hope to take the final step towards being a heavy contender for this year's state title. Even with 5'9" sophomore Jessica Swanson and 5'8" Jami Brown playing post, the Trojans lack size down low. To overcome this they hope they can utilize their speed and aggressive play to exhaust and perplex teams.

The team has decent depth on their bench with sophomores April Ptacek and Erica Stein. Both Stein and Ptacek played extensively last year for the Trojans as freshmen.

Coach Sager's Trojans seem to have everything in place to be a top contender this year.

"If we can continue our aggressive style of play, we established over the last couple of years, I think we will be a top contender in 3A basketball," said senior Emily Eilders.

Boys look to turn heads

Trojan Boys at a Glance



Coach: Eric Swanson

Key Players: Jordon Komp, Matt Garretson, Ben Ryan, Jay Knopf, Jason Mann, Nick Ryan

Key Losses: Adam Ptacek, Tom Komp, Chaid Schwartz

Returning Starters	Key Subs
PG Nick Ryan	Brett Keeler
SG Matter Garretson	Kyle Hartman
SF Jordon Komp	Travis Penn
PF Jason Mann	Ben Ryan
C Jay Knopf	

By Mitcher Barnes

During head coach Eric Swanson's first year the Trojans showed flashes of what Swanson was trying to establish. Most notably was the Trojans defeat of the Minneapolis Lions who were the number two-ranked team in 3A basketball. But a week later the Trojans saw Jordon Komp, one of

their starting guards go down with a season-ending knee injury, and the Trojans ended their season with a 6-16 record.

This season Swanson hopes not only for a healthy team but also hopes to make vast improvements in his second year much like the Trojan girls did the previous year. The Trojans will be led by senior point guard Matt Garretson and shooting guard Jordon Komp.

Other returning seniors include Jay Knopf, Kyle Hartman, and Ben Ryan.

The Trojans also hope to get a lot of help from younger players such as Nick Ryan who started occasionally for the Trojans last year, and from Brett Keeler, Jason Mann and Travis Penn.

The Trojans lack height down low in the post. To overcome this, they must use their speed and aggressive defense to put pressure on teams this year to be successful.

"We hope to have the same success as we did in football, and hopefully we will turn a lot of heads this season," said senior Matt Garretson

Sports Box

By: Mitcher Barnes

Football

Smoky Valley	27-23W
@Marion	21-6W
Concordia	34-28W
@Ellsworth	49-0W
Russell	25-21W
@Beliot	21-7L
@Belleville	35-14W
Minneapolis	14-13W
@Riley Country	21-7L
@Hesston	12-7W
Eureka	49-0W
@TMP-Marian	31-21L

Record 9-3

Volleyball

Lincoln	15-6, 15-7
South	9-15, 0-15
Dodge City	7-15, 14-12, 11-15
Smoky Valley	15-12, 7-15, 12-15
	15-9, 13-15, 15-12

S.E.S. Invitational (5th Place)

Salina South	11-15, 15-10, 11-5
Moundridge	15-12, 8-15, 9-15
Smoky Valley	15-8, 15-7
Russell	15-9, 15-6, 15-4, 15-2
Beloit	15-8, 15-10, 15-6, 12-15, 15-7
Minneapolis	8-15, 13-15
Clay Center	9-15, 3-15
Marysville	15-12, 11-15, 10-15
Beloit	15-5, 15-8
Hillcrest	15-3, 16-14
Belleville	15-13, 15-4, 15-12, 15-4
Santa Fe Trail	11-15, 6-15
Northern Heights	15-3, 15-6
Sacred Heart	6-15, 6-15
Ellsworth	15-6, 15-8, 15-12, 15-4
Minneapolis	8-15, 15-11, 15-13, 9-15, 15-11, 12-15

Record 16-11

Cross Country

(Boys)

Abilene	4th
Hesston	6th
Clay Center	11th
SES Invitational	4th
Lyons	3rd
Ellsworth 5th	
Downs (League)	3rd
Regionals 3rd (State Qualified)	
State in KS)	(12th Best 3A CC Team)

(Girls)

Abilene	4th
Hesston	15th
Clay Center	7th
S.E.S. Invitational	10th
Lyons	N/A
Ellsworth 6th	
Downs (League)	N/A
Regionals 3rd (State Qualified)	
State in KS)	(11th Best 3A CC Team)

Seven students fly to Minneapolis, Minnesota

By Jessica Conway

Candles, cookie dough, trash bags and frantic faces depict the seven members of the SES Care Group the past couple of months.

After months of frantically trying to raise the final dollars for their trip to Minnesota, Jesica Brown, Melissa McDowell, Jessica Conway, Erin Boyd, Whitney Cameron, Ryan Bartlett and Shawn Lingo flew out of Wichita Nov. 6 at 2:05. They were accompanied by five sponsors: SES teacher and head of the care groups Mrs. Melinda Smith, SES English teachers Mr. Terry Anderson and Mr. Bill Gies, SES Foreign Languages teacher Ms. Cathy Cordill and SES school nurse Mrs. Sandy Rogers on their four-day trip to the National Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Conference.

On their trip, the students woke up each morning around 7:00 a.m. and headed to the Convention Center where they went to their previously chosen conference sessions. Each session had a different speaker and a different topic. They also joined in the many assemblies held for everyone, the boxed lunches and one sit-down banquet dinner.

The group was involved in activities at the youth center and the art studio.

Garst wins Pride scholarship, others seek scholarship honors

By Jessica Conway

Senior Meladee Garst was recently named the winner of the Shocker Pride Scholarship and two other seniors are vying for a Wendy's Heisman scholarship.

Jamie Schropp and Jordan Komp have received notice that they are state finalists in the Wendy's Heisman Scholar Athlete Program. This is the first time SES has had both a male and a female candidate make it to this level.

This past week, Wendy's Heisman Scholar program also announced that Komp was selected as the state finalist for Kansas, meaning that he will be considered for the next level of competition for the final award of a trip to New York.

Three students have also been nominated to compete for the Principals of Leadership, Toyota Community Service, and Kansas Youth Senate scholarships.

Alicia Pavkov will be representing SES in Principal's Leadership. The Principal's Leadership award is based upon leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, employment experience, and academic record. Contestants are also required to write an essay.

Kyle Clifford will represent SES in competing for the Toyota Community Service award. Toyota chooses students based upon academic record, effective leadership, and well-documented service records within and outside the school setting. Students must have initiated or be actively involved in a service program addressing a school or community need.

Joe Sparacino will represent SES in Kansas Youth Senate. For the Kansas Youth Senate award, each student has to be a permanent resident of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state (or the District of Columbia) in which one or both of their parents or guardians legally reside.

Participants will be involved in meetings and briefings with the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Cabinet, the Departments of State and Defense, the Supreme Court and, if possible, the President and Vice President.

They will also observe the operation of the office of their senators.

In the youth center, participants used computers and played games. In the art studio, they decorated boxes that were used to make a bridge and created journals, cards, and checkbook holders.

Cameron said she learned a lot at the conference, but her favorite session was the opening assembly.

"I liked the opening assembly best because we divided into groups and met new people," Cameron said. "I learned how to meet new people there."

The students also went to the world's largest mall, the Mall of America, on their trip to Minnesota. They were there for a total of nearly 11 hours. Their first visit Friday night lasted only two hours, and their second Saturday afternoon and evening lasted from 1:00 p.m. to around 10:00 p.m.

Cameron also enjoyed the mall but she said it was a little too much time. Overall she is glad that she went.

"I enjoyed being at the mall. It was huge!" she said. "We stayed a little too long, though. Eleven hours is too much time even for me. Overall it was a great trip. I'm glad I had the opportunity to go."

The group arrived back in Kansas Nov. 10 around 1:30p.m.



Junior Alison St. Clair and sophomore Allenay Simpson carve pumpkins for Art Club. The students got together before Halloween to make "pumpkin art." (Photo by Janie Verhoeff)