

THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Former K-State MBB star Michael Beasley returns to Manhattan, arrested at airport

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Former Kansas State men’s basketball star Michael Beasley was back in Manhattan for the Sunflower Showdown as the Wildcats took down rival No. 16 Kansas 81-73 last Saturday.

The following day, Beasley was arrested at the Manhattan Regional Airport for possession of marijuana. He was released on a \$750 bond. Following the arrest, Beasley released a statement on Instagram.

“Though it’s still fresh, I’m focused on learning and making better decisions,” he said.

Beasley went on to thank the K-State staff and fans for their unwavering support of him. A No. 2 overall pick in 2008, he was out and about, meeting a lot of the fans and signing autographs at Rockin K’s before the game.

“Everyone is treating me like I’m a cool guy. I didn’t realize I would get this much respect as a former player,” Beasley told the Wichita Eagle.

On Saturday, Beasley joined a collection of former Wildcats, sitting courtside with former Big 12 champion guard Barry Brown.



Photo by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Former K-State men’s basketball star Michael Beasley smiles on the sideline at Bramlage Coliseum on Saturday. Beasley, a former No. 2 overall NBA Draft pick, returned to Manhattan for the Wildcats’ Sunflower Showdown win over rival Kansas. He was arrested Sunday morning at the Manhattan Regional Airport for marijuana possession.

“This program belongs to the Michael Beasley’s, Barry Brown’s and Kamau Stokes’, and all of those guys,” K-State head coach Jerome Tang said after the win. “I hope they feel this place is home, and that they’re welcome here all the time. I didn’t like coaching against them, but I love the fact that they’re part of the family and that I’m a part of this family now.”

Beasley’s appearance in Manhattan brought back

a lot of memories for K-State fans who watched him play as a one-year star at K-State.

He was the Big 12 player of the year and was also named a consensus first-team All-American. Even more impressively, Beasley led the nation in rebounds as a freshman, speaking to his impressive size and strength at a young age.

Still, he didn’t want his return to overshadow the showdown.

“I wanted to come back and show some support,” Beasley said on the 3MAW podcast. “I didn’t want to make it a big thing; it’s a big game and I want them to win.”

Beasley grew up in Washington D.C. and was named by Rivals as the No.1 high school prospect in the nation. He was named a McDonald’s All-American and won MVP in the All-American game.

SEE PAGE B3
“BEASLEY”

Pro-life speaker Seth Gruber visits campus



Photo by Cole Bertelsen
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
On Tuesday pro-life speaker Seth Gruber visited the Student Union after an invite from Young Americans for Freedom.

JAKOB TWIGG
website manager

Young Americans for Freedom hosted conservative speaker Seth Gruber on Tuesday in Kansas State’s Student Union, where he discussed abortion laws and ethics.

Gruber spent the day tabling and also delivered an hour-long speech in favor of the pro-life movement to about 150 people that evening.

After the Supreme Court overturned the federal right to an abortion through Dobbs v. Jackson’s Women’s Health Organization in 2022, Kansans rejected an amendment to remove the right to an abortion from the state’s constitution.

Over 19,000 abortions were performed in the state in 2023, and 78% of those abortions were performed on nonresident women.

Gruber said abortion must be banned at the state and federal levels.

SEE PAGE A2
“GRUBER”

‘Cats Against Cat Flu | K-State vets discuss avian influenza

MEREDITH MCCALMON
managing editor

Kansas State veterinarian Susan Nelson warns cat owners to keep their furry friends safe from highly pathogenic avian influenza — also known as bird flu — as cases crop up in domestic cats around the country.

“Avian influenza is not just new this year,” Nelson, clinical professor at the Pet Health and Nutrition Center, said. “It’s been around. ... But, what really set it off this year is, starting in March, dairy cattle started getting infected. It’s an influenza virus. They tend to start mutating to make it easier to infect the other animals as well.”

Kenneth Harkin, professor and section head of small animal internal medicine, said owners shouldn’t worry about avian influenza as long as their cat stays indoors.

“When I say a housecat, I would imply the average cat that spends most of its life living indoors with its owner,” Harkin said. “I’m not really sure that there is an increase in highly pathogenic avian influenza in those cats at all. In fact, I

would say in indoor-only cats there is zero increase in the disease.”

Randi Price, sophomore in interior design, said she keeps her cat inside regardless because of other threats outside.

“She’ll probably stay inside, especially because I don’t trust all the dogs in the neighborhood,” Price said. “Cars, I’d be scared she would get run over by a car or eaten by a coyote or something. Or, if it’s really cold like it is right now, she would get too cold and freeze.”

Housecats can, however, become infected with bird flu if they consume raw meat from an animal with the disease. Harkin has a staunch recommendation for pet owners:

“No one ever should feed their pet, dog or cat, raw meat, period,” Harkin said. “I’m sorry, that’s just a common sense thing. You don’t feed your cat raw food. You don’t feed it to your cat, your dog — you don’t eat it, you shouldn’t be feeding it to your cats.”

SEE PAGE A2
“CAT”

Construction of new hotel approved by city commission

JAKOB TWIGG
website manager

The Manhattan City Commission voted unanimously to approve and provide \$20 million in funding for the construction of a 105-room hotel and 100-stall parking garage at the Manhattan corner of Laramie and 12th Street on Jan. 21.

Back 9 Development made a development agreement with the City of Manhattan in 2022. The new amendment shifts \$2.3 million in penalties for non-performance by Back 9 Development to new objectives relating to the hotel construction.

Manhattan’s deputy city manager Jason Hilgers said Back 9 Development will underperform if they “fail on the building permit application, starting construction within 30 days or completing [construction] by October of 2026.”

“If they fail on any of these three, they would then owe the city the \$2.3 million that they negotiated, and we, the city, agreed to back in 2022,”



Photo by Lilly Crist
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
The empty lot between Chipotle and Kite’s on 12th and Moro has talk of constructing a hotel.

Hilgers said. “It’s obviously shifted so the developer is approaching with this amendment to shift that \$2.3 million obligation back to these three criteria and relieve him of prior obligations and those prior agreements.”

Owner of Back 9 Development TJ Vilkanskas said the initial plans to build a multi-use office space fell through after the Kansas State University Foundation completed an office building in Kansas State’s edge district.

SEE PAGE A2
“HOTEL”

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Feb. 14 — **Home is Where the Heart is Gala** — Hilton Garden Inn Manhattan
- Feb. 15 — **2025 Polar Plunge** — Tuttle Creek State Park Swim Beach
- Feb. 16 — **Manhattan Seed Swap** — Flint Hills Discovery Center
- Feb. 14 — **Women Managing the Farm Conference** — Hilton Garden Inn Manhattan
- Feb. 15 — **Sweetheart Mart: Thrift and Art Market** — Switch Wicked
- Feb. 18 — **Local Love Bingo** — Auntie Mae’s Parlor

"GRUBER"

CONTINUED FROM A1

“If you believe every human being has a right to life, then so does the unborn,” Gruber said. “But in the meantime, if that’s not going to work in this cultural moment, then states are moving towards abolishing abortion or codifying it into their state constitution.”

President of K-State’s

Young Democrats club and junior in political science, Samantha Suchanek, said Kansas has already decided on the issue of abortion.

“We live in a democracy, and the people voted; they made their decision very clear that they wanted to protect the right to an abortion in Kansas,” Suchanek said. “The more time we spend going back and readdressing that issue, the less time that we spend working on policies that can

actually help solve problems that the state is facing at a local and state level.”

Chairman of K-State’s YAF chapter and senior in history, Thomas Adcock, said the effort to bring Gruber to K-State began after their executive team heard Gruber speak in Washington, D.C. earlier this year.

“We knew right then and there we wanted to bring him,” Adcock said. “We were able to generously have YAF help cover

most of the cost for this event. We did a lot of the material costs, but we didn’t have to request any funding from the school.”

YAF treasurer and senior in finance and accounting, Joe Ackerman, said other students erased or drew over YAF’s promotional chalk outside the Union.

“We are the only conservative group on campus at this point, besides Turning Point, and we have, over the past two years,

brought a lot of ideas from the conservative ideology to campus,” Ackerman said. “We want there to be an expression of everybody’s views on campus, but the expression of a person applies to free speech, right? We want to bring this here and have the discussion, an open dialogue ... and where there’s silence, there is destruction. Destruction of that would lead to the destruction of America as a country, and I certainly don’t want that.”

"CAT"

CONTINUED FROM A1

The safest foods for cats are ones rated by the Association of American Feed Control Officials, Nelson said.

“It just tells you it’s had some sort of testing that means it meets the nutritional needs for ... the life stage,” Nelson said. “So,

if it’s an adult cat, just get adult cat food. If it’s a kitten, feed it kitten food, but make sure it has that AAFCO statement on it.”

Price said even though her cat eats commercial food, she still worries about bird flu.

“[My cat] doesn’t have any allergies right now that I know of, so if she did start sneezing or having snot running out her nose, I’d probably take her immediately

to the vet just to make sure everything is okay,” Price said.

Nelson said people who work around cattle and poultry should be especially cognizant.

“People who work on dairy farms or poultry, where it [avian influenza] has been documented in those places, before you come home to your pet cat, taking off their clothes, making sure you’re not dragging it home with you

[can help],” Nelson said. “So, kind-of biosecurity that way.”

Nelson said many of the recorded cases of avian influenza in cats were strays.

“Without an owner attached to them, a lot of them are ... probably going to get euthanized and tested,” Nelson said. “They will test for rabies first, if they’re neurological because they can’t risk people

catching rabies from these guys either in case it is a rabies case.”

A rabies test can only be performed after an animal is deceased. However, Nelson said vets can test pets for avian influenza.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ONLINE



"HOTEL"

CONTINUED FROM A1

“The Manhattan market just doesn’t support it,” Vilkanskas said. “Right now, we have over 100,000 square feet of empty office space. For us to go add more to the inventory just didn’t make a lot of sense and when we changed what we were going to do there it delayed the project, so needed an extension of the timeline.”

Hilgers said the hotel would provide a \$4 million property tax increment through 2038 to Aggieville’s tax increment finance (TIF) district, established in 2018 as part of the Aggieville Community Vision to finance the district’s public improvements.

“Whatever development we can leverage within Aggieville, public or private, can help in terms of generating revenue,” Hilgers said.

The city has estimated the need for 40 to 50 million dollars in total public infrastructure investment in Aggieville.

“Our streets, our water lines, our stormwater lines and even our sewer have all either been replaced or on the docket to get replaced in the next two

or three years,” Hilgers said. “When we passed the 2020 sales tax that took effect in 2023, there was a significant portion, 70%, that was going towards public infrastructure that was going to come into Aggieville and assist with that infrastructure costs. TIF is not paying for everything. There’s not enough forecasted revenue to cover all the infrastructure costs in Aggieville, but it is covering a pretty substantial portion.”

The Aggieville Business Association and the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce voiced unanimous support for the amendment.

Director of BHS construction, Gavin Schmidt, said the city would be “ecstatic” about the hotel construction if the 2022 development agreement were not proposed.

“We’d be jumping up and down that we have a \$20 million project that’s going to come out of the ground and make a big difference to the community’s coffers — to Aggieville TIF district,” Schmidt said. “If that parking lot was still pavement and the city still owned it, and they had the opportunity to turn that parking lot for \$1 sale to an asset that’s going to generate 12 million in the next

three to four years. That’s a really good return on investment for a taxpayer.”

Owner of Riffel Asset Management, Gwyn Riffel, said Manhattan “has incurred significant lost opportunity costs” from the project’s setbacks.

“This second amendment is not in fair exchange when it reduces the 40 million dollar development requirement to 20 million dollars, and the developer isn’t required to pay back a pro-rata portion of the \$2.3 million for his failures,” Riffel said. “This simply is not providing the citizens of Manhattan with what was clearly expressed in the 2022 agreement.”

City commissioner Jayme Minton said this amendment puts Manhattan in a “better, more responsible spot.”

“Honoring that [original] contract, I think that’s irresponsible of us if we know we have an option that does better for our city,” Minton said. “By saying, ‘We want the \$2.3 million, we are going to forgo any additional property value, additional sales tax, economic impact,’ I would say that’s irresponsible for us. Because our job is to look at what’s best for the city.”

Mayor Karen McCulloh said it was a hard decision to approve



2022
DEVELOPMENT
AGREEMENT
2ND
AMENDMENT

☒

BACK 9 PROPOSING TO BUILD 105 ROOM HOTEL

☒

BACK 9 PROPOSING TO CONSTRUCT A 100 STALL PARKING STRUCTURE

☒

CITY COMMISSION TO REVIEW DESIGN

☒

CITY COMMISSION TO REVIEW FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

☐

BACK 9 - APPLY FOR A BUILDING PERMIT BY JULY OF 2025

☐

BACK 9 - ONCE BUILDING PERMIT ISSUED, START CONSTRUCTION WITHIN 30 DAYS

☐

BACK 9 - COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION BY OCTOBER 2026

☐

BACK 9 — FAILS ON ANY OF THE 3 ABOVE — BACK 9 OWES THE CITY \$2.3M WITHIN 60 DAYS

Graphic by Jakob Twigg | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

the new amendment.

“Aggieville has some very serious infrastructure, sewer lines, water lines, drainage and it’s a very old district,” she said. “Many of the water lines and things like that have been there for over 100

years, and we are going to see — probably, knock on wood — failures in some of the things that are there. We need to go in and we need to fix it. [The city] really had a vision when they started this ... and it simply isn’t working.”



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CORRECTIONS

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Photos by Cole Bertelsen | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Snow Football | K-State students rush to Memorial Stadium after winter weather



COLE BERTELSEN
editor-in-chief

While for many, Wednesday’s snow day announcement meant staying indoors avoiding frigid temperatures, for some guys on campus, this was the perfect opportunity for snow football at Memorial Stadium.

Andrew Schwinn, senior in economics, said every year the group flocks to the stadium after fresh snowfalls.

“It’s been a long running tradition in our group,” Schwinn said. “We have a group of guys over from St. Isidore’s, and every year we hope to get a good snow so we come out here and play

some snow football.”

Samson Jeminez, senior in chemical engineering, said their group was out there for about two hours.

“Usually we’re once or twice a year,” he said. “I think last year was one of the first years where we didn’t get a good one since our freshman year, probably eight or so years back.”

Schwinn said as soon as they heard the forecast, they were eager to repeat the tradition.

“It’s fun to get a little tackle football going in the snow,” he said. “I see a little bit of energy out and little contact, while still keeping it safe.”

First Snow Day | Student experiences being snowed in for the first time

COLE BERTELSEN
editor-in-chief

Kansas State’s campus was closed due to inclement weather Wednesday, leaving many students with unexpected free time on their hands without classes to attend.

For some, like freshman Alexandra Ghabour Haroun, this was even more significant than simply a day off classes. For her, it was the first time seeing large amounts of snow.

Ghabour Haroun is from Dubai, and while she said she has seen a drizzle of snow before in Germany, this was her “first real snow day ever.”

She said she was ecstatic when she

heard classes were cancelled due to winter weather.

“I was really excited,” she said. “My dream was to build a snowman. It’s on my bucket list, and I can finally build a snowman.”

While she hadn’t yet made her snowman, she and her friends were hard at work making the most of the snowfall, throwing snowballs and drawing in the snow.

Since starting school at K-State in August, Ghabour Haroun said she has enjoyed her time here and, while it is different to what she’s used to, she has made lasting friends and memories.



For some students, like freshman **Alexandra Ghabour Haroun** (right), this is their first time seeing large amounts of snow. Ghabour Haroun said her dream was to build a snowman.

The Graphic Design Editor works in unison with the desk editors and very closely with the Editor-In-Chief and Page Design Chief to create appealing visual elements. This includes illustrations, infographics, layouts and other visual elements.

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OPINION | What is an evil strongman?

PAETON MCCARTY
staff writer

Think of a dictator — straightforward and intense; clinging to power and downright sadistic to his opponents. Men like Hitler, Stalin, Saddam Hussein and, more recently, Kim Jong-Un and Nicolas Maduro are easily shown as malevolent and even evil. Given their actions in both previous generations and present, this label is perfectly justified.

One question is: Are all strongmen evil in all their manifestations? Could a strongman ever do good as society would define it? In no defense of autocracy, government-induced famine or any resulting suffering, I think it's crucial to ask. A discussion would help establish a metric by which foreign government is judged by our own.

American citizens are presented with evil dictators constantly in media and pop culture. Movies like “Fury” or the “Call of Duty” gaming franchise craft maniacal fig-

ures who have seduced their country and convinced it to lash out. There have been numerous examples of this archetype, and it's well established with figures like Vladimir Putin or Kim Jong Un. Of course, this does make sense given our constitutional foundation, where we believe in representative democracy and enlightenment principles. Authors like John Locke and Ben Franklin would easily dismiss autocratic systems given their education and insight.

Going deeper, any Western journalist would relish the chance to look into the eyes of Kim Jong-Un and ask how he could starve his own people. What mind is needed to commit such a heinous act?

History presents readers with numerous leaders who, by present standards, would be deemed strongmen. Marcus Aurelius, held in high esteem by stoics worldwide, was still proclaimed an emperor. A figure who, according to “Marcus Aurelius Meditations, Deaths

and Facts,” held control over the Roman military and population. He led a successful campaign and can claim authorship over “The Meditations.” It's a book on his view of life and personal development. Given this information, the next question is simple: What separated Aurelius from contemporary strongmen like Nicolas Maduro?

Aurelius engaged in philosophical training, while the latter, or potentially any contemporary strongman, engages in pathology. They have an intense and systemic character vehemently opposing political opposition. This discrepancy offers scholars one way to distinguish between a benevolent ruler and a malevolent autocrat.

Now we can ask, does the phrase evil always precede the word autocrat? Perhaps we should investigate the driving factors behind a rising strongman. But first we need to use a thought experiment. This tool will allow us to conjure hypothetical situations and pose questions simultaneously. In

the next few paragraphs, we will investigate a series of hypotheticals for what could motivate a strongman.

On the off chance a national leader like a president, chancellor or prime minister is assassinated, chaos could ensue. The lack of leadership, whether planned or accidental, could easily grant an autocrat a chance to come to power.

This was the case in Macedonia with the death of Philip II. His son Alexander, better known as Alexander the Great, took command after his father's passing. According to “Alexander the Great | Biography, Empire, Death & Facts,” after conquering from Macedonia to the Indus River Valley, he established Hellenistic laws and culture across the Persian Empire, preventing chaos. Of course, a leader is as well known for establishing laws as he is breaking them.

Pushing forward in time, a beloved American figure suspended habeas corpus. According to “President Lincoln suspends the

writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War,” during the rebel uprising, Abraham Lincoln found himself in a nation at war with itself. The man who suspended one of the most cherished American freedoms brought the nation together, paradoxically, by rejecting a legal part of it.

These examples, interpretatively speaking, show men who could balance extreme power. Moreover, their ability to take said power and be constructive with it speaks volumes about their character. All of this does not defame American democracy or encourage regular use of strongmen. After all, having access to representatives vouching for their constituents makes our system function. With that, maybe these men cripple, if not challenge the common idea that all strongmen are evil in every instance. Surely there must be more to the story than just an autocratic archetype. Supposed strongmen may think themselves necessary in times of crisis. Such times may call for more authoritarian measures to save a nation.

Italian bruschetta recipe

LIBBY ZUCK
arts & culture editor

This bruschetta dip has become my favorite quick and easy appetizer to make on the way to a night in with friends or even an upcoming Galentines celebration. Serving eight people, this recipe can easily be doubled to fit your guests' needs.

Ingredients:

- 8 Roma tomatoes
- 1/3 cup and 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/3 cup chopped basil
- 1 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (2)
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper (2)
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder (2)
- 1/4 teaspoon Italian seasoning (2)
- 1 French loaf

Directions: Bruschetta

- Dice the tomatoes (If you're in a hurry a vegetable chopper on Amazon was quick and easy to finely dice the tomatoes).
- In a small bowl, mix in your Italian seasoning, minced garlic and basil.
- Combine tomatoes and seasonings into a larger bowl and mix until evenly distributed.
- Pour 1/3 cup olive oil over mixture; mix until evenly covered.
- Let sit in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Directions: French bread

- Preheat your oven to 400 F.
- Thinly slice the French bread into bite size pieces.
- In a small bowl mix Italian seasoning, minced garlic and basil with 2 tablespoons of olive oil.
- Brush oil mixture over the slices of bread.
- Place on a parchment paper-covered cookie sheet.
- Cook in the oven for 7 minutes or until crispy.
- Enjoy!

Want to share a recipe with the Wildcat family? Send your recipe and a photo to The Collegian at collegian@kstatecollegian.com.



Photo by Libby Zuck | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP



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Big Game Bramlage | Students deliver success for K-State basketball at home

TOBY HAMMES

sports editor

With recent hoops success hitting the floor at Bramlage Coliseum, totaling over four Top 25 wins since Jan. 25, both Kansas State men's and women's basketball feature a common denominator: The K-State student section.

Amid a six-game win streak that sparked nationwide conversation surrounding an improbable turnaround from 7-11, the K-State men have collected three top-25 wins since students returned from winter break.

Most recently, the Wildcat faithful surrounded the walls of the Ice Family Basketball Center, fittingly in freezing temps for a win over No. 13 Arizona. Before that, students wrapped around Bill Snyder Family Stadium's east entrance for a Sunflower Showdown win over No. 16 Kansas.

"To have a student section like that, who shows up on a night when it's 19 degrees outside, and they stand in line and come to support us, I love that," men's head coach Jerome Tang said. "I call them my people and I roll with them all of the time because they've got our backs."

It's not just men's basketball K-State students have rallied



Photo by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

K-State students fill the "Octagon of Doom" for the Sunflower Showdown on Saturday, Feb. 8. K-State beat KU for the third consecutive year in Manhattan.

around. Bramlage is at the forefront of a revolution in supporting women's athletics. The now-No.14 K-State women downed No. 9 TCU last week in front of a crowd of 7,477 fans.

"There's nowhere in the Big 12 that we go that is even close to that environment," star senior Serena Sundell said after the win. "Women's basketball in general throughout the country, you do not see that ... They were big-time tonight."

Global phenom and WNBA Rookie of the Year Caitlin Clark and No. 3 Iowa lost at Bramlage on Nov. 17, 2022. Since that upset, some of women's basketball's best players in Clark, TCU's Sedona Prince and Hailey van Lith

are winless in Manhattan across four separate tries. Opposing coaches have taken notice as well.

"An awesome college basketball environment," TCU coach Mark Campbell said. "It was great to see the support for this team. We simply didn't play well enough to win on the road in a tough environment against a really good team."

It's not all just being rambunctious for two hours, as K-State women's head coach Jeff Mittie described the basketball savvy of K-State students.

"When your fans are really good, they cheer when things aren't going well," Mittie said. "It's easy to cheer when things are going well. When you have a really knowledgeable fan base

and they feel like they can help you, they cheer louder when things aren't going well."

The K-State women host UCF on Saturday, followed by a one-game trip to No. 18 West Virginia on Wednesday. Then on Feb. 22, K-State hosts the second round of the Sunflower Showdown against Kansas.

For the men, three home games remain on the 2025 slate: Arizona State on Feb. 23, Colorado on March 2 and No. 10 Iowa State on March 8.

"Every game we play for the rest of the year is super important, and we need [the fans]," Tang said. "I'm so thankful for the students and the band. This is just an incredible community here at K-State."

Former QB Will Howard helps recruit Ohio State transfers

Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

Offensive tackle **George Fitzpatrick** works out with his new teammates at the Vanier Football Complex. Fitzpatrick transferred from Ohio State, where national champion quarterback Will Howard advised him on coming to K-State out of the portal.

TOBY HAMMES

sports editor

Former Kansas State quarterback Will Howard, the Wildcats' all-time leading touchdown passer, may have finished his college career hoisting the national championship trophy for Ohio State, but he still has love for Manhattan.

"I stay close in touch with my guys over at K-State," Howard said during a College Football Playoff press conference. "The relationships I made there, I'll never take that for granted; they are my brothers for life. I love Kansas State. God has blessed me with the opportunity to play for two really amazing universities."

The Wildcats signed two transfers — offensive tackle George Fitzpatrick and line-backer Gabe Powers — from the national champion Buckeyes this offseason, and both credited Howard for a glowing recommendation of Manhattan.

SEE PAGE B3

"HOWARD"

Men's golf opens spring season in 3rd at Hal Williams Collegiate

TREY THOMAS
staff writer

Kansas State men's golf delivered a strong performance at the Hal Williams Collegiate, placing third and earning a second consecutive podium finish to open the spring half of the season.

The Wildcats had a 54-hole score of 20-under par 832. Kent State finished in second as the Wildcats trailed the Golden Flashes by four strokes. No. 15 SMU was the champion of the tournament, which was hosted by South Alabama.

K-State's performance at the par-71, 7,059-yard RTJ Magnolia Grove Golf Club tied for ninth in school history for the best 54-hole score.

The Wildcats had two seniors finish in the top 10 between Nicklaus Mason and Cooper Schultz. Mason tied for sixth place, this being his third top 10 finish this year. Schultz tied for ninth place and put on a season-best with a three-round total of 206.

"All in all, it was a pretty good week for

Archive photo by Macey Franko

Senior **Cooper Schultz** rolls a put from off the green at the Wildcat Invitational at Colbert Hills Golf Course on Sept. 17, 2023. Schultz carded a season-best 206 on Tuesday.

us," head coach Grant Robbins said to K-State Athletics. "We got ourselves in a great position with four holes left, but we were unable to close like we needed to. It's a good learning experience, and we are looking forward to competing at The Prestige next week."

Another highlight occurred for senior Kobe Valciek, as he jumped up 18 spots during the final round. The jump allowed him to tie for 18th, falling out of the top 10 by only a few spots.

Freshman Fionn Dobbin had the best

54-hole score of his college career, tying for 28th place at 1-under par 212.

The Wildcats now turn their focus to the Prestige, which takes place on Monday through Wednesday at the PGA West in La Quinta, California.

During the fall season, the Wildcats collected a pair of podium finishes. K-State won its home tourney — the Wildcat Invitational.

The Wildcats got third at the Steelwood Collegiate. At Big 12 match play, K-State finished 10th of 15.

K-State downs No. 13 Arizona, extends win streak to 6 games

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Kansas State men's basketball met Arizona as two of the hottest teams in the country, with both teams on long winning streaks, but it was K-State who advanced its win streak to six games with a 73-70 win on Tuesday night.

The Wildcats, the ones in lavender, have played as well as anyone nationally the last few weeks and they continued their performance over Arizona, who lost their six-game win streak.

"Our message today, and the last couple of days was humility," head coach Jerome Tang said. "For every 1,000 men who can handle adversity, only one can handle success. We wanted to show that we weren't going to allow all the text messages, and everything else that people are saying, to impact what we needed to do to keep this thing going."

Tang is now 13-3 at home vs. AP Top 25 opponents, including

Photo by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Junior guard **Dug McDaniel** celebrates a made shot against No. 13 Arizona on Tuesday. McDaniel played a key role in K-State's sixth-straight win.

4-1 in 2024-25. K-State moved to 13-11, 7-6 Big 12 while Arizona dropped from a tie for first place in the Big 12, falling to 17-7, 11-2.

While the Wildcats didn't have shots fall like they have lately, making just one 3-pointer (1-19) they have found a way to win with their play inside and defense. Arizona was nearly identical as they made just two 3-pointers, one in each half for 2-22.

"Last game we made shots, tonight we didn't. We had to guard and not hang our heads when the ball didn't go through the hole and

they did whatever was needed at the time for us to have a chance to win," Tang said.

Making the biggest impact on the game with his scoring around the rim was none other than the smallest player on the court in Dug McDaniel, personifying former guard Markquis Nowell's 'heart over height' mantra.

McDaniel scored 24 points on the night and used his scrappiness to grab five steals as well. The Michigan transfer added four rebounds and three assists.

SEE PAGE B3

"MBB"

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

K-State MBB takes 6-game win streak into tough road environment at BYU

BY THE NUMBERS
K-STATE
3-POINT % 34.6% 6th in Big 12
REB. / GAME 33.8 reb. 14th in Big 12
STL / GAME 7.8 steals 7th in Big 12
BYU
3-POINT % 36.9% 4th in Big 12
REB. / GAME 37.2 reb. 5th in Big 12
STL / GAME 7 steals 12th in Big 12

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

K-State (13-11, 7-6)

Coming off back-to-back emotional wins at home against Kansas and Arizona, the Wildcats have won six consecutive games and now return to the road, where they have recently improved. Still, BYU's environment is one of the toughest in the Big 12 and will provide a challenge for the 'Cats.

Guard Dug McDaniel has been the leader for Kansas State's winning streak with his scoring, playmaking and even his

defense. McDaniel stands at 5-foot-11, but is ultra quick in the open court. McDaniel had a 24-point scoring outburst against Arizona and was unstoppable getting downhill.

Forward Mobi Ikegwuruka was a pleasant surprise for K-State in Big 12 play. Ikegwuruka plays with a lot of effort and can guard all positions, which allows him to play valuable minutes and provide depth. His effort has made him a fan favorite, and it is well deserved.

BYU (16-8, 7-6)

BYU comes off a big win on the road at West Virginia. Like most BYU teams, they shoot the 3-ball a lot and are difficult to beat when it falls. BYU has one of the loudest and best home environments in the Big 12, making it very difficult to go there and win, which K-State learned in football this year.

Freshman guard Egor Demin leads BYU and is a projected lottery pick in the NBA draft this sum-

mer. Demin is 6-foot-9, but is listed as a guard because of his ability to handle the ball and shoot. Demin is a massive matchup problem for anyone because of his size and quickness.

The leading scorer for BYU is forward Richie Saunders, a sixth man last year on BYU's tournament team. He's taken a step forward this year, averaging nearly 15 points per game. Saunders is a sharpshooter from the outside shooting 43% from three.



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

8 P.M. SAT., FEB. 15

WATCH LIVE ON ESPN+

Page by Toby Hammes | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

WHO TO WATCH:

K-STATE: PG Dug McDaniel, F Mobi Ikegwuruka

BYU: G Egor Demin, F Richie Saunders

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"BEASLEY"

CONTINUED FROM A1

Former K-State assistant coach Dalonte Hill was a big reason why Beasley came to K-State. Hill coached Beasley's AAU team and Mike wanted to come play under him in college.

"I'll admit, I never heard of it [K-State], it was a whole new experience for me being from the city to now seeing cows," Beasley said. "Dalonte Hill really gets the credit."

Beasley spent just one season with the 'Cats before entering the NBA draft as a 19-year-old freshman. He averaged 26.2 points and 12.4 rebounds per game as a Wildcat. In four of his first five games, he scored 30

points. He also reached double figures in every game except one that season.

Beasley's career high in points came against Baylor when he scored 44. Other dominant scoring outputs from the freshman phenomenon were 40 points against Missouri and 39 points in Allen Fieldhouse against the Jayhawks.

Beasley recalled a lot of great memories, but his favorite is when his Wildcats took down KU in Bramlage for the first time in 24 years.

"I never experienced anything like that up until that point," Beasley said. "Beating KU at home was one memory I wish I cherished more here."

Beasley always played with a swagger and unmatched confidence, thinking no matter what he was the best player on the court and his team was going to win.

One of Beasley's most famous quotes in college was when he said, "We're going to beat Kansas at home. We're going to beat them at their house. We're going to beat them in Africa. Wherever we play, we're going to beat them."

Beasley's spectacular year left him with an easy decision of entering the NBA draft at the end of the year. His size and scoring ability with a smooth 3-point shot made him the second pick in the draft to the Miami Heat.

On the podcast, Beasley said if he could go back, he would stay in the Little Apple for three more years. He credited going to the NBA quickly with helping out his family with money, providing stability as soon as possible.

With the Heat, Beasley was never

able to get the same scoring ability we saw him play with in college. After two seasons he was dealt to the Minnesota Timberwolves, where he put up his best NBA season, scoring 19.5 points per contest.

After an NBA and overseas pro career of 14 years, Beasley now plays in IceCube's Big3 league on the 3's Company team in the three-on-three league. This past season, he was named the league's MVP.

For fans of Beasley who want to watch him play, the reigning Big3 League MVP will return to action this summer.

"Returning to Manhattan felt like coming home," Beasley said on Instagram. "And that win over KU truly showcased the heart and resilience of our community."

"HOWARD"

CONTINUED FROM B1

"[Howard] was definitely selling me hard on it, just saying how he thought I could fit in," Fitzpatrick said. "He thought it'd be a great fit here and how all the guys here are all hard working. He told me a lot about coach Tru [director of strength and conditioning coach Trumain Carroll]

and the culture here. He definitely did a good job selling it."

Fitzpatrick, who practices alongside Will's younger brother, freshman offensive lineman Ryan Howard, became very close with the Howard duo.

"Will and I got really close," Fitzpatrick said. "He came in [to Ohio State] and totally took over the locker room. He's a real guy and a really good dude and a great person. I've had some good conversations with

Ryan, too. It's definitely a good fit."

Powers, who was roommates with Fitzpatrick at Ohio State, took Howard's words on The Little Apple to heart as well.

"Hearing him give the highest of praise, he was obviously here for a while," Powers said. "So getting a kind of secondhand experience from somebody was really good."

In addition to Howard, Powers was impressed with the K-State fan base and its treatment of Howard after transferring.

"A lot of fan bases hate on guys that

transfer," he said. "You didn't see that here. You saw the most love from this fan base towards Will, cheering Will on. So seeing that, seeing both sides of it was really amazing."

Now that Fitzpatrick and Powers are here, they're looking forward to getting a chance to compete at the highest level again — but this time sporting purple.

"I've seen what it takes to go to the national championship, and I think we have the group to do it here," Fitzpatrick said.

"MBB"

CONTINUED FROM B1

McDaniel's five steals were a part of 17 turnovers by Arizona leading to K-State scoring 23 points off those turnovers. The steals and points off turnovers have been something K-State has forced lately and that has been a big help to its success.

"Whatever I can do to help us get that edge and win it, I'm going to do it," McDaniel said. "The fact that they are looking at me to make those big plays, just makes it even more meaningful. They count on me, and I'm counting on them too."

One of the teammates McDaniel counts on is the reigning Big 12 Player of

the Week David N'Guessan, who continued his run of good performances with 16 points and seven rebounds in just 23 minutes. N'Guessan was in foul trouble throughout the night but was effective in the minutes he played.

On the other side, Arizona's star player and All-American candidate Caleb Love was shut down by the Wildcats' defense, holding him to just six points. Love shot 3-15 from the field and 0-7 from three as nothing came easy for him.

Both teams were hot and energetic early but after the quick start things really slowed down for both teams as neither team was hitting many shots from the outside which continued throughout the night. Going into the under-four media timeout K-State was trailing 29-22 and it

seemed like Arizona was gaining the momentum.

However, K-State answered with a massive 13-0 run to end the half and be up 35-29 at the break. During that run, they got a great burst from guard C.J. Jones, who provided valuable minutes and scored nine first-half points.

In the second half, K-State maintained its lead but wasn't able to pull away from Arizona as they kept it close by its relentless on the inside and on the glass.

Keeping it close allowed Arizona to make a run and take a two-point lead at the under-four timeout and was looking to steal a victory in Bramlage. However, K-State went on an 8-0 run sending Bramlage into a frenzy as K-State looked to pull off another massive upset.

The exclamation mark on the run came from forward Mobi Ikegwuruka who had an and-one dunk. Ikegwuruka played with great energy on the defensive end all night, and a big offensive play at the end of the game seemed fitting.

"I'm just trying to win. I'll do whatever it takes to speak up, do whatever for my team that's bringing the energy up and I'll do that," Ikegwuruka said.

The win moves K-State into a tie for sixth place in the Big 12, a position that seemed nearly impossible to be in a month ago. K-State is back on the bubble for ESPN's Joe Lundardi who had K-State on the next, next four out before the win.

The Wildcats look to continue their hot streak at BYU on Saturday with tip-off at 8 p.m. CST.

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