

A4 - NEWS

Budweiser Clydesdales visit Manhattan | The Budweiser Beer Wagon paraded through Aggierville last week.

A5 - ARTS & CULTURE

Case's Corner | A brief case of propaganda

B2 - SPORTS

K-State Men's Basketball Releases Roster for 2025-2026 Season

WEATHER

FRIDAY 68/45 SATURDAY 76/52 SUNDAY 75/56



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FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 2025

Yuma Street Cultural Festival | Bringing attention to Black history and community



Former Kansas State Baseball Head Coach, **Dave Baker**, talks about the impact of the Green Book during a tour of the Douglass Community Center at the Yuma Street Cultural Festival on Aug. 31, 2025.

JOLIE SHULTZ
arts & culture editor

When thinking of Manhattan, one's first thought might be to think of The Big Apple — Manhattan, N.Y. While New York is rich in history and culture, The Little Apple is rich with its own.

This includes the historic

block of Yuma Street in Manhattan, home of the Douglass School, the Douglass Community Center and now the Yuma Street Cultural Festival.

"This isn't just a festival — it's sacred ground," festival Director Sheila Ellis-Gasper said. "From Jackie Robinson's time here while stationed at Fort Riley, to Lena Horne's unforgettable performance, to Dr. King's speech at Shepard Chapel, Yuma Street

is living history. This is our moment to uplift that legacy and build a space worthy of its memory."

To highlight the rich history of Yuma Street, Ellis-Gasper and her team organized a festival to highlight this area of Manhattan history, with the goal of raising money to restore the area.

Sunday, Aug. 31 marked the inaugural Yuma Street Cultural Festival: A day

of music, local businesses, dancing, historical tours and more. The festival started at 1 p.m. and lasted until 9 p.m.

"I truly do believe the importance of this is to show everyone in the community what we're about, what Black excellence is about," Kansas State alumna Jazmin Graham said. "It's a great way to come together and to see people uplift each other."

SEE PAGE A2

"YUMA"

K-State becomes victim of swatting incident

DIANA PIEDRA
staff writer

At 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25, Kansas State alerted the student body of a potential active violence situation at Hale Library. The Riley County Police Department arrived within minutes. Soon after the police arrived on the scene, the call was revealed by RCPD to be a hoax, and they worked quickly to de-escalate the situation on campus.

Michelle Geering, division of communications and marketing representative for K-State, said the call went through Riley County Dispatch on their main administrative line, describing an "act of violence situation."

"So that led to Kansas State [Police], with the assistance of Riley County Police, to immediately [respond] and then they were able to determine that it was a swatting incident similar to the several that took place recently across the country at other universities," Geering said.

Dawson Wagner, assistant director/instructor of A.Q.



Concerned bystanders await updates about the recent swatting incident at Hale Library.

Miller School of Media & Communications at K-State, said students were left to make "assumptions" through social media apps such as Yik Yak about the police presence at Hale, spreading speculations in an attempt to warn other students of danger.

"... People were confused, because people didn't know what to think on Yik Yak,

whether or not Yik Yak is a legitimate source, which it shouldn't be," Wagner said. "But unfortunately, people do check that [social media] immediately, as soon as things are happening on campus, and they post stuff in there saying, 'Yes, this is happening,' or 'This isn't happening,' or 'What's going on.' ... There's so much misinformation spread, so

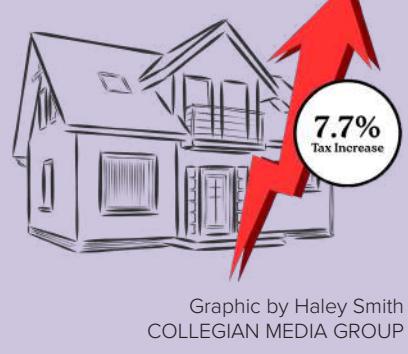
we're just trying to get the facts straight."

Geering said she thought the event was "an interesting occurrence" for any bystanders at Hale at the time of the swatting incident to witness.

"It was an immediate response because we take all of these reports seriously," Geering said.

No injuries were reported.

Proposed increases of property taxes in Manhattan



Graphic by Haley Smith
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

KATEY WEST
staff writer

The Manhattan City Commission announced the proposed 2026 city budget on Tuesday, Aug. 26, which introduced an increase in property taxes. The proposal is set to be passed at the Sept. 16 meeting.

According to The Manhattan Mercury, the Commission wants a \$1,135 to \$1,35 million increase, which will increase the property taxes for the average Manhattan resident by 7.7%. According to the Dickinson County Kansas Government website, property tax amounts are decided by taking the assessment rate multiplied by the million levy. According to Sedgwick County, Kansas, a million levy is a rate of tax; one million is equivalent to one dollar per \$1,000 of assessed value. It is determined by local authorities in order to set the total property tax. According to The Manhattan Mercury, while the process to determine a million levy and thereby property taxes is complicated, the proposed increase practically means that property taxes will noticeably rise for homeowners. It is often mistakenly assumed property taxes will only affect homeowners, who make up only 50.9% of the Manhattan population according to the Topeka Capital-Journal; however, renters will be affected by this increase as well. According to an article by the MIT Center for Real Estate, monthly rent increases as landlords often increase rent to help pay for property taxes on a home.

The money from the increased taxes will be used to fund the Riley County Police Department operations and the Manhattan Public Library. If the increase is to \$1.135, it will only be used to help with the general funding of the Manhattan Public Library and RCPD the Manhattan City Commissioners said. However, if the increase is to \$1.35 million, the extra \$200,000 will be used to help adjust cost-of-living prices for city employees. This increase for the local cost-of-living would not apply to city administrators and department heads, according to K-Man News Radio.

SEE PAGE A4
"TAXES"

WEEKLY CALENDAR

5	KSU Kickoff Party — Liquid Art Winery and Estate	5	Stand Up Comedy Night — Manhattan Brewing Co.	6	End of Summer Festival — Rohling Homestead
6	First Saturday Art Market — Switch Wicked	7	Explore Teas of Japan — UFM	9	Ben Folds and a Piano — McCain Auditorium

Construction truck falls on cars in campus lot

DIANA PIEDRA
staff writer

At 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27, cars were damaged due to a concrete pump truck falling near the south end of the B1 parking lot near Weber Hall. No injuries were reported, according to the Kansas State Police.

Students were warned to avoid the surrounding areas, including Claflin Road between Mid-Campus Drive and North Manhattan Avenue, Michelle Geering, director of news and communications services, said. According to KSUPD, the truck was near a construction site for the new Global Center for

Grain and Food Innovation.

Due to the incident occurring in an open and populated area, many students turned to social media to post photos of the aftermath. Sydney Stimpert, junior in psychology, said some students called the incident a result of "strange luck" since the truck was a city-issued vehicle.

"It's kind of crazy that I saw this right after it happened," Stimpert said. "My car was really close to where the accident happened, so I'm just glad it wasn't me."

The owner of the car receiving the most damage in this incident declined to comment.



Photo courtesy of Sydney Stimpert | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

A cement truck fell on to parked cars near the Derby complex on Wednesday, Aug. 27.

"YUMA"

CONTINUED FROM A1

The event also provided an opportunity to reflect on personal ties to the Black community in the surrounding area.

"I'm on the track and field team, and I'm very enrooted in that as well as our organization [Zeta Phi Beta], but I learned a lot — things about Dave Baker and him being the first Black

baseball coach," Monique Hardy, Masters of Business Administration student, said. "I've lived here for four, five years, so I've really been able to dive into the Black community here. Not only with my sorority but with Black Entrepreneurs of the Flint Hills, all of the Divine Nine, as well as organizations in Junction City and Manhattan. It's just a whole different community, and it brings the whole of Junction City

and Manhattan together."

The festival offered an array of activities for families, but one of the highlights was a walking tour, guided by Dave Baker, the only Black man to serve as head baseball coach in Big 6, Big 7, Big 8 and Big 12 history.

"This was my foundation," Baker said during the Douglass School portion of the tour. "If I hadn't gone here from kindergarten to sixth grade, I would not be here today."

The tour offered insight into the Douglass School and the Douglass Community Center, which originally served as a USO building for Black soldiers stationed at Fort Riley.

"Jackie Robinson spent time here when he was stationed at Fort Riley, Joe Louis, the greatest heavyweight boxer before Muhammad Ali, too," Baker said. "In fact, there's a famous picture of the two of them together during their

time at Fort Riley."

Yuma Street has long served as a home for the Black community of Manhattan, even landing a place on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Ellis-Glasper and her team plan to host a yearly Yuma Street Cultural Festival to help bring attention to one of Manhattan's most historic places.



(To the left) the Grays siblings, board members of Black Entrepreneurs of the Flint Hills, stand next to statues of their parents outside the original Douglass Community Center at the Yuma Street Cultural Festival on Aug. 31, 2025.

(To the right) Shepard Chapel, future home of the Yuma Street Cultural Center, was the focus of donations from the Yuma Street Cultural Festival on Aug. 31, 2025.

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For a letter to be considered, it must include a phone number where you can be contacted. The number will not be published. Letters can be sent to letters@kstatecollegian.com or submitted through an online form at kstatecollegian.com.

Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected, email editor-in-chief Meredith McCalmon at meremccalm@ksu.edu.



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Funeral service held for Spectrum Center to close week of mourning

GRACE PARKS
multimedia editor

Kansas State students, faculty and supporters gathered at Bosco Plaza on Friday, Aug. 29 for a funeral service commemorating the recent closure of the Spectrum Center, previously known as the LGBT Resource Center. The event

was organized by the K-State Young Democratic Socialists of America and Sexuality and Gender Alliance.

Participants marched through campus in colorful attire before ending at Bosco Plaza for the funeral service. Students carried a cardboard casket upon their shoulders, holding flags and traveling through crowds of students.

Tara Coleman, K-State librarian, said she joined the parade in solidarity after seeing the flyer on social media.

"I appreciate honoring the legacy of what the [Spectrum Center] did," Coleman said. "I know we will continue to support our students because K-State always supports our students."



Photos by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP



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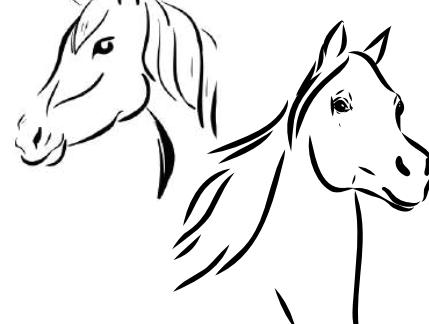
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Budweiser Clydesdales visit Manhattan

KATEY WEST
staff writer

Budweiser brought its Beer Wagon to Manhattan on Saturday, Aug. 29, with Clydesdales parading through Aggieville after some time in City Park for a meet-and-greet.

Carter Sawyer, senior in architectural engineering, said a large crowd gathered in City Park in the late afternoon for a chance to meet the well-known horses and take pictures.

Spencer Marshall, sales and service supervisor at Flint Hills Beverage, said the parade was less of an attempt to advertise or increase sales and more of a celebration of the good work that Flint Hills Beverage does, and to honor the owners.

Marshall and Carter Beardsley, merchandisers

at Flint Hills Beverage, said they are the fifth-largest Kansas wholesaler of Anheuser-Busch, the producer of Budweiser beer. Manhattan has them to thank for the appearance of Budweiser, as their high sales of Budweiser brought on the appearance of the Clydesdales, Marshall Beardsley said.

At the meet-and-greet, the Clydesdales were brought out from their trailers by their team of handlers. The large, red trailers have air-cushioned suspension and rubber flooring to help the horses stay comfortable, as well as cameras so drivers can watch over them as they travel.

The Budweiser Clydesdales, although most often featured in Budweiser commercials, have a history dating back to the early 1930s, according to Anheuser-Busch. Brothers August

A. Busch Jr. and Adolphus Busch III gifted a six-horse Clydesdale team to their father to celebrate the end of the Prohibition. After seeing the appeal of the Clydesdales for marketing purposes, Anheuser-Busch sent another team of Clydesdales on a tour through New York City and other regions in the U.S. According to Budweiser, the Budweiser Clydesdales also appeared in former President Harry Truman's and former President Bill Clinton's parades, and have also earned their own mascot: a dalmatian that travels with them.

The dalmatian mascot was even in attendance on Saturday, Sawyer said.

"I got to see the dalmatian mascot during the parade which was so cool, I never thought I would be able to see that in real life," Sawyer said.



Photo by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Workers polish and shine the Budweiser Clydesdales' carriage for their parade through Aggieville.



Photo by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
The community gathered in City Park to watch as the Budweiser Clydesdales were hitched to their carriage. The clydesdales came to Manhattan to parade through Aggieville on Aug. 29.



"TAXES"

CONTINUED FROM A1

According to The Manhattan Mercury, if the \$1.35 million increase is

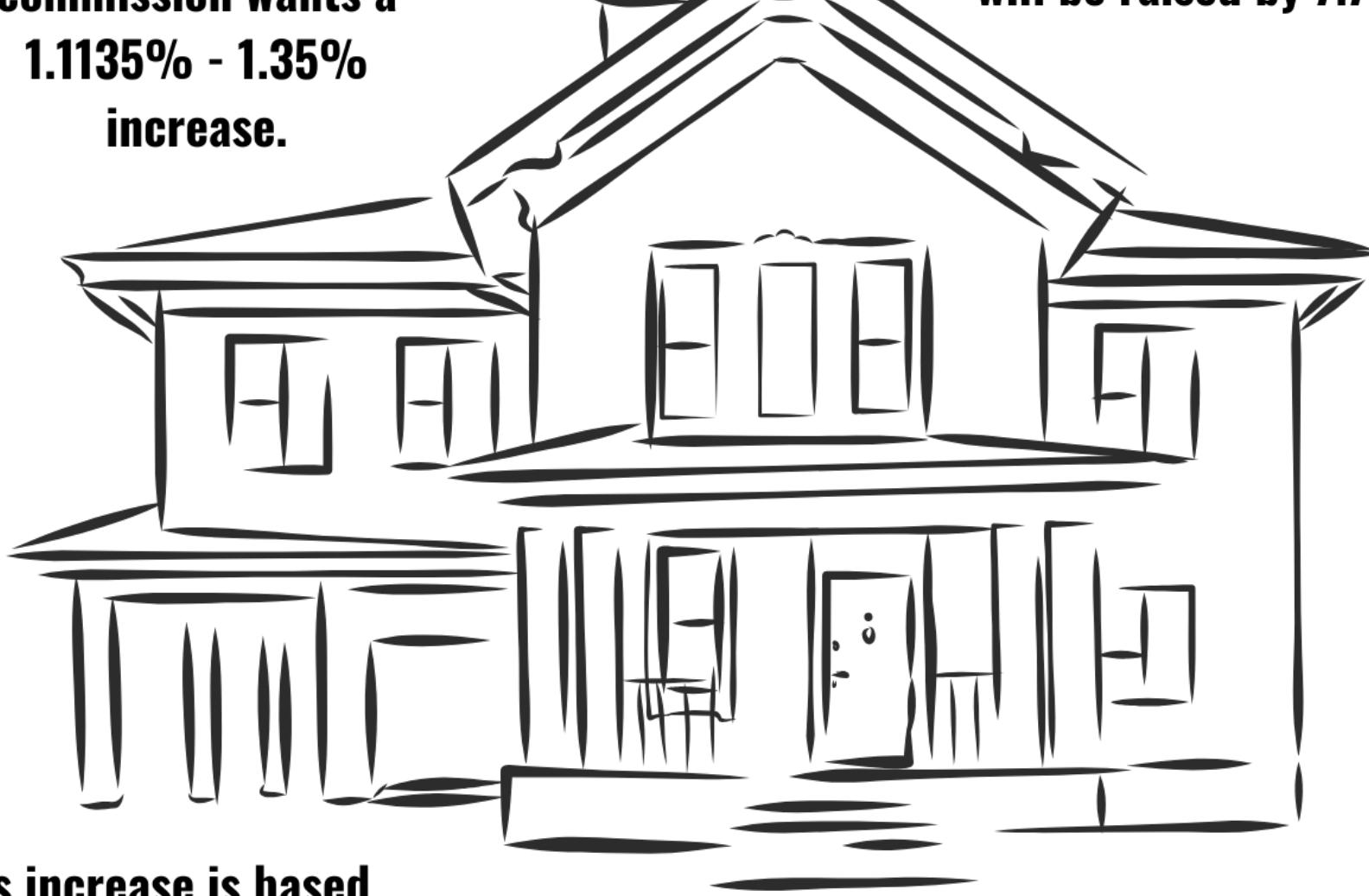
passed, the total million levy will be \$54.459 million. The Manhattan Mercury also stated that the increase is based on valuations of single-family homes rising by a 5% average within Manhattan.

The full increase to \$1.35-million may be helpful for city employees, however, according to Manhattan native Carol McCullough, some Manhattan residents are not thrilled at the increases.

"People complain about the rising costs of living in Manhattan and worry they cannot afford the property taxes," McCullough said. "I mean, people are saying, 'I can't afford the property

Property taxes for the average Manhattan resident will be raised by 7.7%

For 2026, the commission wants a 1.1135% - 1.35% increase.



This increase is based on valuations of single-family homes rising by a 5% average

Graphic by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Case's Corner | A brief Case of propaganda

KYRA CASE
copy chief

You're swiping through TikTok, the algorithm nearly perfectly tethered to your interests, tying you to the screen for hours. Suddenly, a celebrity you enjoy pops up, endorsing a political candidate you don't know too much about, but you enjoy that celebrity, so you like the video. A few videos later, you get another TikTok about the politician, this time an influencer endorsing them. Once again, you enjoy this influencer, like the video and continue to scroll. More and more videos about this politician begin to integrate into your feed and perhaps, you begin to think:

This is the candidate for me.

According to the Pew Research Center, a staggering 86% of adults ages 18-29 "prefer" to get the majority of their news from their digital devices in 2024. Of all of the adults used in the survey, 18% prefer to get their news from social media.

But what is social media? According to the American Psychological Association, social media is "forms of digital communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content." While social media isn't "inherently beneficial or harmful," there are strong chances for "negative effects" to take hold through the act of socialization and connection, including:

- Misinformation
- Disinformation
- Hate Speech
- Cyberbullying

Last week, this column discussed the use of precise language and touched on how precise language can prevent the spread of misinformation and accidental propaganda.

Propaganda, in essence, however, is not accidental. The truth, in fact, doesn't matter.

Imprecise language allows the spread of ideation and false beliefs. One needs to be careful when writing about politics, debates on climate change or even vaccine hesitancy. In the social media era, we journalists have the opportunity to reach a wider audience at an expedited rate. Polarization, however, sells better.

People are often beholden to their algorithm, fulfilling what is called confirmation

bias. Many want to hold onto their preexisting beliefs even in the face of evidence that undermines them, so when their favorite influencer or celebrity appears on their feed, spewing information on topics you already believe.

resonated with many people. People vote based on their community, oftentimes, opposed to making an individual, well-informed decision. In other words, the uninformed person may make a judgment based on the point-of-view of a

of the news media and has entered the realm of propaganda. After all, why should you trust a news outlet if it's "fake news" anyway?

Intaking information, however, isn't always as simple as seeing information,

Jeff Bezos privately owns The Washington Post through a company called Nash Holdings. An article in the New York Times by Benjamin Mullin and Katie Robertson wrote about the control Bezos had over the company.

"These days, Mr. Bezos knows more about the news business. And in recent months, he has become more involved with The Post's operations, stepping in as staff morale cratered and the business struggled."

Bezos said in a 2016 interview he wanted to keep The Post a "self-sustaining, profitable enterprise." But,

is what is good for Bezos also good for The Post, the free press? When an owner engages in other businesses outside

the news, such as Amazon, there is a conflict of interest.

During the rise of company-owned journalism, there has also been a rise of self-prescribed independent journalists. When there is a lack of trust in the media, many will take it upon themselves to become a trustworthy source.

While this isn't inherently

a bad thing and can often

hold journalists accountable,

there is a danger in the

practice of "anyone can be a

journalist."

Going back to Candace Owens, she wrote in a post in February titled, "#BecomingBrigitte book is now number 9 overall on Amazon. This is a complete disruption to the ecosystem of needing publishers, agents and the support of the mainstream media. Independent journalism and podcasting is the future."

When one works for a news outlet, there are certain journalistic, ethical standards one must follow. If there is an error in the article, it is standard practice to put an editor's note in the article acknowledging the error and correcting it. Independent journalists are not held to the same standard. The only one holding them accountable is themselves. Features on social media allow users to moderate comments, blocking criticism.

While this, perhaps, may not be the case for the majority of independent journalists, not having ethical standards

can be incredibly dangerous

and lead to the spread of

misinformation.



Graphic by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

A post on TikTok with 2.3 million likes, made on July

22, 2024, features a fancam about Kamala Harris titled, "KAMALA HARRIS PLEASE SAVE US."

TikTok, of course, isn't the only social media platform filled with propaganda. During the 2024 election, many took to X (previously Twitter) to endorse their favorite candidate. For example, Hank Green wrote in a post in 2024, "If any Harris folks are reading this, I could book you a truly kick-ass YouTuber tour."

Popular conservative influencer Candace Owens made a post on July 13, 2024, titled, "No words. Donald J Trump for President of the United States. This election is now over." This post featured the popular image of President Donald Trump pumping his fist into the air after the attempted assassination in Pennsylvania.

While the first example likely isn't a "sock puppet" account, a stream of information pushing this candidate obviously

member of their tribe.

According to "Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making," political tribalism is often seen in hyper-partisan websites, which often use "emotive (and some would argue misleading) headlines, images and captions - which are often all of an article that's read on platforms like Facebook - to get their audiences to share their messages."

To effectively spread this message and ensure it is well received, the essay highlights four characteristics necessary to make a message more appealing:

1. It provokes an emotional response.

2. It has a powerful visual component.

3. It has a strong narrative.

4. It is repeated.

Let's go back to last week's example of "fake news." This term uses a play on words, an imprecise play on words, to spread its message. It has

transcended the criticism

processing it then accepting it.

Stuart Hall wrote in his paper titled "Encoding and Decoding in the Television Discourse" in 1973 that a message "encoded" by a producer can be "decoded" in three ways:

1. Hegemonic: the acceptance of the messages encoding.

2. Negotiated: the acceptance of certain aspects of the message, but not all of the message.

3. Oppositional: not accepting the way the message was encoded.

One may try to argue that they are prudent in their information gathering if they don't fully accept a message and nitpick into what they agree or disagree with. But what if, however, the full message was propaganda?

A problem many news outlets have in this day and age is the fact many are owned by large corporations. This shouldn't be an issue for the free press, but funding (or lack thereof) in journalism is a real issue.

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THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

A K-State student's guide to shopping in Manhattan for the perfect 'Wildcat wardrobe'

AMELIA LIKENS
staff writer

Mesa Collection Boutique

Mesa Collection Boutique, located at 411 Poyntz Ave., is filled floor-to-ceiling with game day essentials, from stylish outfits to must-have accessories. You will find many options for stadium-approved clear bags, bag charms and beaded bag straps to go with! Mesa has the best selection for game day wear for the girl who wants a trendy, purple K-State look.

Some of their best pieces are the affordable matching

sets. Getting a matching set means you can mix and match it to create multiple looks for multiple game days, getting you more bang for your buck! Mesa also has a lot of understated looks that don't scream K-State, but still work perfectly for game day. A K-State button is the perfect touch to your Mesa Boutique matching set and they have the best selection of funny and trendy buttons. Another great addition to a game day look is a bracelet from their wide jewelry selection — Mesa even has customizable charm bracelets. Mesa Collection Boutique has

varying hours but is open every day and frequently has student discounts and sales. For more information or to check out their collections yourself, visit themescollection.com.

Rally House

Rally House is a classic spot for game day and K-State wear. From t-shirts to foam fingers, they have it all. Styling any Rally House t-shirt with some jeans would be a cute and easy look for game day or any day you want to rep K-State apparel. Rally House also currently has the iconic purple-and-white striped overalls in stock, which can sometimes be hard to find. Rally House has multiple locations in Manhattan, but the closest to campus is the Aggieville location at 623 N Manhattan Ave. Rally House is open every day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., except on Sundays, when the store closes at 7 p.m.

Cam and Co.

Cam and Co. is a student-run online boutique based in Manhattan. Ran by Camry Gage, senior in marketing with a minor in fashion studies, Cam and Co. is an affordable site for college students because all pieces are under \$55. With trendy gold jewelry and stylish options for game day or class, Cam and Co. is the perfect place for K-State students to shop.

"I wanted to start a cute and stylish clothing brand that all students could afford," Gage said. "Right now, I think the Violet Ruffle Mini Dress is



Photos by Amelia Likens | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Mesa Collection Boutique is a women's boutique offering clothing, shoes, accessories and small gift items located in Downtown Manhattan. The boutique is particularly known for their K-State-themed attire.

perfect for game days."

You can find more information about Cam and Co. at camandcoboutique.myshopify.com or on their Instagram.

Target

Target has stepped it up this year with its K-State clothing. Right when you walk in the store, there is a section full of K-State apparel. It has many purple dresses, tank tops and graphic tees that are perfect for any home game. These

pieces are also affordable, and Target is offering a student discount of 20% off the entire store for one purchase. There is no limit to the number of items that can be included in this purchase. While you are shopping at Target for some essentials, make sure to stop by their K-State merchandise section for a great deal. Target, located at 800 Commons Pl., is open daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Album review | Music's newest best friend makes its debut

JOLIE SHULTZ
arts & culture editor

Sabrina Carpenter has been the talk of the internet for over a year. Since the release of her August 2024 album, "Short n' Sweet," Carpenter has been making headlines. Her cheeky lyrics, which often reverse gender stereotypes, calling out men for their behaviors, resonate with all kinds of listeners. Aug. 29, just three days after the one-year anniversary of "Short n' Sweet," Carpenter released "Man's Best Friend." The album consists of 12 tracks, spanning 38 minutes, making it easily digestible in one sitting.

The featured single on the album, "Manchild," released in June 2025, was an instant hit. Past singles of Carpenter's include "Please Please Please"

and "Espresso." These singles became an internet sensation, trending on TikTok in a matter of hours. The track is the perfect opening to the album with its upbeat, retro vibes and its relatively demoralizing lyrics directed towards a man in Carpenter's life.

This vibe continues throughout the album.

Another pattern in Carpenter's music is the comfort level with her own sexuality, which is a refreshing viewpoint in female-driven music. She's been open about this since the release of "Short n' Sweet" and has received criticism, but clearly it didn't faze her. This album is just as innuendo-heavy as her heavily criticized "Juno."

Each song of the album plays well after the other, keeping the same vibe throughout. Each song sounds

similar yet familiar, without being derivative of the others.

Even songs that take a slower, less quick-tempoed approach, like "Sugar Talking" and "We Almost Broke Up Again Last Night," pair well with the quick-tempoed tracks like "Tears" and "House Tour."

As the album progresses, the tempo slows, which could be seen as a shift in focus to a more seductive tone rather than a dance tone. That is, until the second-to-last song, "House Tour," which once again gives a more lively-style tone.

The final song of the album, aptly titled "Goodbye," is yet another slower song, though the tone isn't necessarily seductive. It gives ABBA vibes in all the best ways, nailed home with the instrumentals down to the "ah-ahs" used.

Overall, the album is giving the retro vibes that listeners seem to be loving these days.

There's a good balance of dance-toned beats as well as the seductive tones that Carpenter is becoming more and more known for.



Illustration by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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Sports

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B1 vs. Colorado College —
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GOLF

M Golf @ Colbert Hills
GC — Sept. 8-9

W Golf @ Oakmont CC —
Sept. 8-9

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Wildcats wind up for the start of 2025 cross country season



Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

Competing at the 2024 Bob Timmons Rim Rock XC Classic, senior Grace Meyer finished runner up in the 5k with a time of 18:06.2. Meyer led the Wildcats in her second NCAA Midwest Regional with a 6k time of 20:55.3 for 50th place.

TREY THOMAS

staff writer

The Kansas State men's and women's cross country teams are starting to lock in, as the first race of the year is approaching.

The first race is Friday, Sept. 5, in Ashland, Neb. The race will be held at Eugene T. Mahoney Park as the Wildcats kick off the year in the Platte River Rumble.

K-State senior Grace Meyers is back, following a first-place finish for the 'Cats in the Midwest Regional last season. Meyers finished in 50th

place, also boasting a 20:55.3 in the 6K. Meyers is joined by two other seniors on the team, Cecilia Fisher and Alexa Rios.

Last year, Rios competed in the regional and put up a personal best of 22:46.1 in the competition. Aside from the seniors, sophomore Christine Jerono finished 89th at last year's regionals with a time of 21:25.0.

"This is probably the most close-knit team I've had since being at K-State," Meyers said. "Everyone comes to practice, and they work hard, but they know how to have fun too."

The Wildcats have been preparing since early August

for the first race. Something Meyers highlights about preparation with head coach Kate Bucknam is the importance of routine.

"We aren't trying to be fancy with anything, doing our normal workouts, lifts, mileage," Meyers said.

Coach Bucknam helmed the cross country team for a little over a year. She views the team as a melting pot, a blend of younger and older athletes on her squad, which she considers a positive quality of the team.

"We have a great mixture of vets and newcomers this season," Bucknam said. "Our men's

team is pretty young, so that exposure and matchups with regional and nationally-ranked teams are going to be good tests for us and ultimately prime us for November."

The returners for the men's team include junior Jacob Norris and sophomores Jackson Esquibel and Brock Olson. Esquibel comes into this year following an 89th-place finish in the 10k as a freshman last season. Norris also competed in the 10K, with a time of 31:37.7.

Both teams look poised to get running, using the experience of the veterans and the talent of the newcomers as the first step toward a hopeful season.

Back on track | K-State football wins home opener

GRETA KLEIN

sports editor

As purple-and-white striped sections filled the seats of Bill Snyder Family Stadium, the town of Manhattan was ready to see the Kansas State Wildcats take on the North Dakota Fighting Hawks.

K-State was the first to score, paving the way for their 38-35 win. While the Fighting Hawks kept up with the Wildcats and made it a close game during the second half, it wasn't enough to overtake this purple lineup.

Despite the game clock not being on K-State's side, the team pushed down the field, making an 81-yard drive under the two-minute mark. With 42 seconds left on the game clock, quarterback Avery Johnson found running back Joe Jackson for a 6-yard touchdown pass, putting the Wildcats up 38-35 and leaving North Dakota with no time for another touchdown or possible play. Jackson had a solid night

in the stat book, producing 11 carries for 55 yards.

"You gotta have a short memory at this position," Johnson said. "I had all the confidence in the world in my teammates, so we go out there and finish the game, and we were lucky to do that tonight."

While Johnson took the lead and was calm during this tough quarter, the first half was chaotic.

The Wildcats started adequately when kicker Louis Rodriguez cleared a 30-yard field goal.

The Fighting Hawks responded not much later with a 1-yard touchdown rush from Jerry Kaminski and an extra point added by C.J. Elrichs to put North Dakota up 7-3.

At the end of the first quarter, Johnson made a 44-yard pass up the middle to wide receiver Jayce Brown for a touchdown. Jayce Brown was a stat standout tonight with a career-high 12 catches for 109 yards and a touchdown.

"Jayce Brown keeps getting better and better," K-State head



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Junior wide receiver Jayce Brown looks out to the field during the game against North Dakota on Aug. 30. The 'Cats defeated the Fighting Hawks with a final score of 38-35.

coach Chris Klieman said. "[He] keeps having a chip on his shoulder of wanting to have the ball thrown to him."

Throughout the night, it was a back-and-forth game. After the Wildcats' touchdown, North Dakota also scored, putting them up 14-10. "[If we] don't fix the issues we have, they're going to keep coming back," Klieman said. "I'll be up late tonight, watching the film and writing a lot of notes on where we broke down, where we need

to improve, where we have to address." Coming back after halftime, the 'Cats were determined to put more points up on the board. Back-to-back touchdowns late in the third quarter were scored by running back DeVon Rice, along with both extra points cleared by Rodriguez. "DeVon has been getting better and better and just needs an opportunity," Klieman said.

SEE PAGE B4

"BACK"

K-State soccer continues red-hot start to season



Photo courtesy of Ashton Todd
Sophomore forward for K-State Hannah Palmer celebrates after scoring a goal against Portland State on Aug. 17. Palmer has two career goals and first of the season.

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Kansas State has started a new era of soccer with the recent head coach hire, Colleen Corbin, and is turning heads early on this season.

The Wildcats have held every opponent scoreless so far, which makes them just one of two Division 1 programs to do so this season.

"The team's competitive mindset and relentless work rate to keep the ball out of the back of our own goal has been a work in progress since the beginning of the spring," Corbin said. "It's been really fun to watch the team continue to take great pride in earning shutouts."

The goalkeeper this season is Maddie Sibbing, a sophomore who transferred in from the Kansas City Roos, and has put the Wildcats' goal on lock.

While Sibbing has 14 saves in five games this year as the goalie, a lot of credit is deserved by the K-State backline for not allowing scoring opportunities for the other team. The group working together as a whole is clicking well to start the season.

"Maddie [Sibbing] is an incredibly talented goalkeeper," Corbin said. "Having a goalkeeper of her caliber in [the] net gives the rest of our backline a lot of confidence in the decisions they are making. The shutouts that are being earned have definitely been a group effort. Having her in goal is a huge bonus for us."

To win games, however, the team needs to put the ball in the back of the net, and K-State has done a great job of that this season.

In the first four games this season, the Wildcats scored at least two goals in each game, including a season high of four goals against UMass Lowell. The leading scorer on the year is Hannah Palmer, who has notched three goals on the season.

Hannah continues to train and play with an incredibly high work rate and a relentless mindset to get forward and score goals, and it shows," Corbin said. "She has the ability to create something out of nothing and to score all different types of goals. She is absolutely a threat that teams will need to continue to account for, and we're very happy she's a Wildcat."

The Wildcats have had seven different players score a goal this year, which makes them a difficult matchup for any team due to their versatility on offense and stinginess on defense.

This season, K-State won over Oral Roberts, Portland State, South Dakota and UMass Lowell. The most recent game was against Harvard, which ended in a 0-0 tie, pushing their record to 4-0-1.

The Wildcats will look to keep their momentum going as they finish up their long four-game road trip on Sunday, Sept. 7, against Nebraska. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Kansas State 1-1

Kansas State snuck by North Dakota last week thanks to late heroics by quarterback Avery Johnson. The Wildcats know that they will need to perform better in the upcoming weeks to avoid being upset. These players will be key to helping K-State turn the corner this week.

Linebacker Austin Romaine will have the biggest challenge this week, stopping the triple option of Army. Romaine is a physical linebacker with great speed and ability to stop the run, but he will need to trust his eyes

this week against the tricky Army offense. His leadership will also be key to helping the K-State lineup and being in a position to stop Army.

Center Sam Hecht is in his second year with K-State and the 'Cats may look for him to be a leader up front for the offensive line. K-State has a few new faces on the blocking unit and the continuity hasn't been as good as it needs to be. Hecht can use his experience to correct that and get the 'Cats going.

Army 0-1

Last week, Army was upset by Tarleton State 30-27 in overtime. Last year, Army won 12 games and will look to bounce back to get on track. Army is a better team than what they showed in Week 1 and will challenge K-State in some areas where the 'Cats have been vulnerable so far.

Quarterback Dewayne Coleman was the leading rusher for Army, carrying the ball 24 times for 100 yards and a touchdown. Coleman also threw two interceptions in just 12 attempts and also fumbled once. While a pass

play can come as a surprise against Army, the Wildcats' defense will need to stay disciplined, and they should have the opportunities to make plays on the ball.

Linebacker Andon Thomas for Army had 14 tackles in Week 1, including a tackle for loss. K-State would like to run the ball better this week and will have to start by getting hands on Thomas. If not, Thomas has the ability to shut down the Wildcats' run game by himself this week.



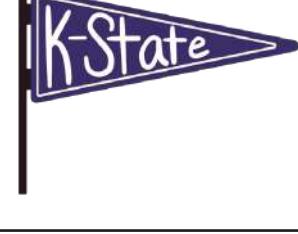
**6 P.M. on Sept. 6
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WHO TO WATCH

K-STATE

LB Austin Romaine

C Sam Hecht



ARMY

QB Dewayne Coleman

LB Andon Thomas



Archive photo by Parker Robb, graphics by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

BY THE NUMBERS	K-STATE		ARMY	
	TFL 16.0	RUSH YDS/G 126.5 yards	TFL 31.0	RUSH YDS/G 280 yards
PASS YDS/G 295.5	TURNOVER 3	PASS YDS/G 131.0	TURNOVERS 2	

K-State men's basketball releases roster for 2025-2026 season

Brayden Meseke
staff writer

Kansas State announced its roster for the upcoming basketball season, which features plenty of new faces for the Wildcats.

Head coach Jerome Tang has been aggressive every year in the transfer portal, and this year was no different, bringing in lots of talent.

The headliner of the class is guard P.J. Haggerty, who was third last year in the NCAA in scoring and is the highest returning scorer in the nation. Haggerty is an attacking guard capable of scoring at all levels and will be a main factor in determining how far the Wildcats will go.

Other transfer guards K-State brought in are Abdi Bashir Jr. and Nate Johnson. Bashir Jr. is a

sharp-shooting guard who made the most 3-pointers per game in college basketball last year. He has good size and ability to stretch the floor and will be a key piece for the 'Cats.

As for Nate Johnson, he was the MAC player of the year and defensive player of the year. He will be a major role player that will do it all for K-State this season offensively and defensively.

Transfer bigs include Marcus Johnson, Khamari McGriff and Stephen Osei. Osei will redshirt this season to develop and become a potential key piece of the future. Johnson and McGriff, however, will both play this season and make big impacts for the 'Cats down low.

McGriff is a traditional power forward who can be physical in the post and has good athleticism

to contest shots and rebound well against bigger competition. As for Johnson, he is a stretch player who will be mostly outside the arc, but is dangerous from three and will force the defense to stretch out.

This year, different from past offseasons, K-State didn't look just to the transfer portal to improve but also looked overseas and grabbed three players: Elias Rapieque, Dorin Buca and Andrej Kostic.

Kostic is a great three-point shooter and is also seen as an NBA draft prospect. When he was young, he showed great poise and potential overseas. If he maximizes his abilities, teams will have a difficult time dealing with Haggerty and Kostic in the back court.

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Graphic courtesy of K-State Athletics

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Wildcats in the NFL | Former Wildcats gearing up for NFL opening weekend



DJ Giddens runs the ball down the field during the 2024 Sunflower Showdown on Oct. 26. The Wildcats defeated Kansas 29-27.

TREY THOMAS

staff writer

It's the time of year football fans all around the country have been anticipating. The start of a brand new NFL season is upon us, which means it's time for the first edition of Wildcats in the NFL for the 2025 season.

Dalton Risner, LG, Cincinnati Bengals

Injuries have put the Cincinnati Bengals in a pickle at the guard position. With the signing of former Viking Dalton Risner, the Bengals add much-needed depth to their offensive line. Risner began last season on injured reserve but started in the final eight games of the year.

In those eight games, Risner did not allow a sack or commit any penalties. The offensive line has been a lingering problem for the Bengals for several years, so this allows Risner an opportunity to showcase his strengths on a team with deep playoff aspirations.

Lucas Cornelius, LT, Cleveland Browns

Entering his 12th season and now on his seventh NFL team, it's safe to say Cornelius Lucas is a seasoned veteran. The former

Commander signed a two-year, \$10 million contract with the Cleveland Browns in March.

Cornelius started seven games with the Commanders. Of the 464 snaps he played, 318 were at left tackle and 139 at right tackle. His role in Washington was to be a rotational piece on the offensive line, and he allowed one sack while committing to that role. Cleveland looks to utilize him in the same way, as he is listed as both the backup left and right tackle.

Tyler Lockett, WR, Tennessee Titans

For the first time in his career, Tyler Lockett will not be donning the neon green and dark blue Seattle Seahawks uniform. After a successful 10-year tenure with Seattle, the veteran receiver is taking his talents to the Tennessee Titans.

Signing a one-year, \$4 million contract, Lockett will be a reliable option for the first overall pick and rookie quarterback Cam Ward.

JuJu Brents, CB, Miami Dolphins

Following his release from the Indianapolis Colts on Aug. 26, JuJu Brents is looking for a fresh start with the Miami Dolphins.

During his time in Indianapolis, the former second-round pick has played 11 games in two injury-riddled seasons.

Brents, in his two years, has shown flashes of potential, as the young cornerback has 50 total career tackles and one interception. He is the third cornerback on the depth chart.

Cooper Beebe, C, Dallas Cowboys

Going into year two, Cooper Beebe could take a bigger leap on the Cowboys' offensive line. Beebe finished with three penalties last year, which totaled 24 yards. Pro Football Focus (PFF) gave him a pass-blocking grade of 60.3, which ranked 43rd among 60 other centers.

With one year under his belt, that pass-blocking grade may see improvement. The average age of the Cowboys' offensive line is 24.2, meaning growing pains are possible, but the potential is undeniable.

Skylar Thompson, QB, Pittsburgh Steelers

Appearing in three games for the Miami Dolphins last season, Thompson now resides in Steel City after signing a one-year, \$1.1 million contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Thompson played in three preseason games for the Steelers. His standout performance came in week one against the Jacksonville Jaguars, as Thompson threw for 233 yards and three touchdowns. Although he's not the starter in Pittsburgh, Thompson is a serviceable backup if injuries affect the quarterback room.

D.J. Reed, CB, Detroit Lions

Last season, the New York Jets D.J. Reed was one of the league's most consistent cornerbacks. In 14 games, Reed put up 52 solo tackles, 12 assists and one sack. Reed signed with the Detroit Lions, a notable contender in the NFC conference. Reed will attempt to bring the consistency shown in New York to a solid Lions secondary that's hungry for a Super Bowl. Reed signed a three-year, \$48 million contract.

Josh Hayes, CB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Josh Hayes is back in Tampa

Bay after recording 35 combined tackles and one fumble recovery last season. Hayes has been known for his plays on special teams. In 2023, the former Wildcat led the NFL in special

teams tackles.

Hayes is the third cornerback on the depth chart, behind fellow former Wildcat Jacob Parrish. This will be Hayes' third year with the Buccaneers.

Jacob Parrish, CB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Staying in Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers drafted another K-State cornerback in this year's draft, selecting Jacob Parrish in the third round. In the preseason, Parrish recorded 4 solo tackles and 3 pass deflections.

The rookie is listed as the second-string cornerback on the Buccaneers depth chart, which means he will be involved in this Buccaneers secondary.

Ben Sinnott, TE, Washington Commanders

Going into year two, Ben Sinnott still finds himself as the tight end backup behind Zac Ertz. Sinnott is a part of an up-and-coming Commanders team that was a game away from the Super Bowl last season.

Sinnott's contributions last season were five receptions, 28 yards and a touchdown. Luckily for Sinnott, he gets to learn behind a seasoned tight end like Ertz for a second year.

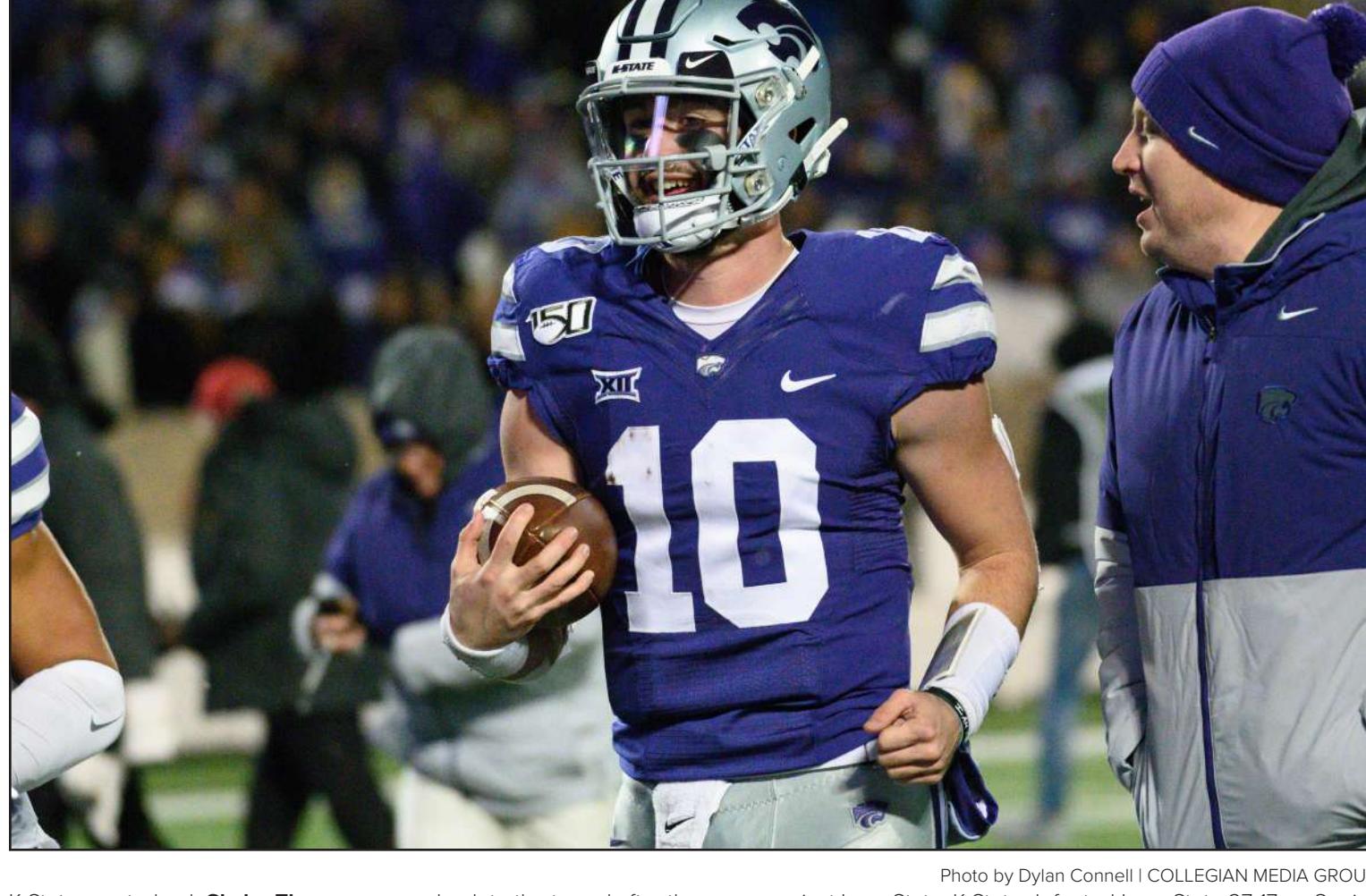
As a result, this season may see Sinnott in a more significant role in the Commanders' offense.

DJ Giddens, RB, Indianapolis Colts

Drafted in the fifth round, DJ Giddens is joining a team with its starting running back already set in stone. Giddens is the third-string running back on the depth chart. In the three preseason games he played in, Giddens had 18 carries, 67 yards, averaging 3.7 yards per carry. It's uncertain if Giddens will get much playing time, but still a notable Wildcat to watch out for this season.

Felix Anudike-Uzomah, DE, Kansas City Chiefs

In a preseason game against the Seattle Seahawks, Anudike-Uzomah suffered a hamstring injury that ended his 2025 season before it could begin. Anudike-Uzomah was going into his third year, following a 2024 season that saw him total 27 combined tackles, six tackles for loss and a forced fumble.



K-State quarterback Skylar Thompson runs back to the tunnel after the game against Iowa State. K-State defeated Iowa State 27-17 on Senior Night in Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Nov. 30, 2019. Thompson is currently slotted as the third-string quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Photo by Dylan Connell | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Wildcats Sweep NC State with nine-set winning streak

GRETA KLEIN
sports editor

The Kansas State Wildcats have a simple three-set match, 25-19, 25-18, 25-21, against NC State. This match was only the fourth meeting between the 'Cats and Wolfpack, with K-State leading the series 3-1 since the series started in 1996.

During the first set, K-State recorded 16 kills with four errors on 37 swings, hitting at a .324 clip. These swings limited NC State to a .094 hitting percentage behind three blocks and 18 digs. With a pair of blocks by senior Brenna Schmit, the Wildcats went on a 5-0 scoring run and led as much as 10 points at 16-6.

K-State took a little step back in set two, only hitting .150 with 14 kills and eight errors. On the defensive side, the team found an edge in blocks and digs. The Wildcats beat the Wolfpack 25-18, going 3.0-2.0 in total team blocks and led 16-15 in digs. Redshirt sophomore Reagan Fox found her fire in set two with seven kills, one

error on nine swings and a .667 hitting percentage.

NC State attempted to rally in the third set, but it was insufficient as K-State ended the match 25-21. Both sides of the Wildcats' offense and defense were solid. The team hit .273 percent with 14 kills and five errors, while the defense had a combined 16 digs and three blocks.

Redshirt junior Aniya Clinton found her rhythm, hitting .400 with seven kills and one error on 15 attempts.

So far this season, State's 21 points scored in set 3 were the most allowed by K-State. The Wildcats close out the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Classic on Friday, Sept. 5, when they take on Nevada (1-2) at Morgan Family Arena.



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Outside hitter **Shaylee Myers** and middle blocker **Jordyn Williams** go up for the block against North Carolina State on Sept. 3.



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
The K-State volleyball team cheers from the sideline after a successful defensive play against North Carolina State. The 'Cats won 25-21 in the third set to sweep the match.



"BACK"

CONTINUED FROM B1

"With Dylan Edwards down, he was able to get that opportunity. He runs really hard."

The first touchdown Rice produced was a 9-yard rush and the second run was a 13-yard rush. Throughout the night, Rice had two touchdowns and seven carries for 40 yards.

"I challenged them pretty good at halftime," Klieman said. "We came out and we had real good urgency and energy about us, and got the two-score lead again."

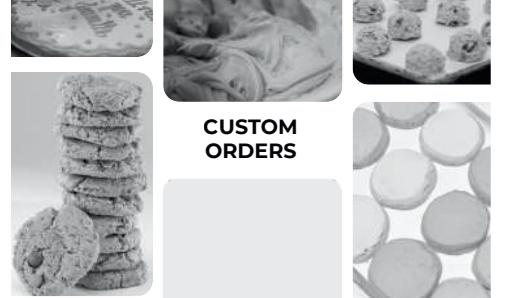
North Dakota would

try and make a comeback, completing two touchdowns themselves. One was a 22-yard touchdown pass, along with a 20-yard touchdown rush. Even though the Wildcats would lose the lead 35-31, they would soon regain it and enjoy the satisfying victory.

"We've got to get a lot better," Klieman said. "We've got to improve in all areas, not just one area, in all phases we've got to improve. But I've been in this business too long. You'd better enjoy every opportunity you have to get a victory. So we're happy about the victory."



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Quarterback **Avery Johnson** (2) rifles a pass toward the sideline against North Dakota on Aug. 30, 2025.



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Week 1 in Big 12 doesn't go as expected

GRETA KLEIN
sports editor

As we saw in the Bill, Kansas State slid by North Dakota in a 38-35 win. While the game was sloppy and not what fans were expecting, the Wildcats were able to pull this one off — but that wasn't

the case for all Big 12 teams during Week 1.

Baylor had the opportunity to make an upset in the SEC against Auburn but was deeply disappointed with a 38-24 loss against the Tigers. Fans were looking for the Bears to take charge and shine some light on the competitiveness of the

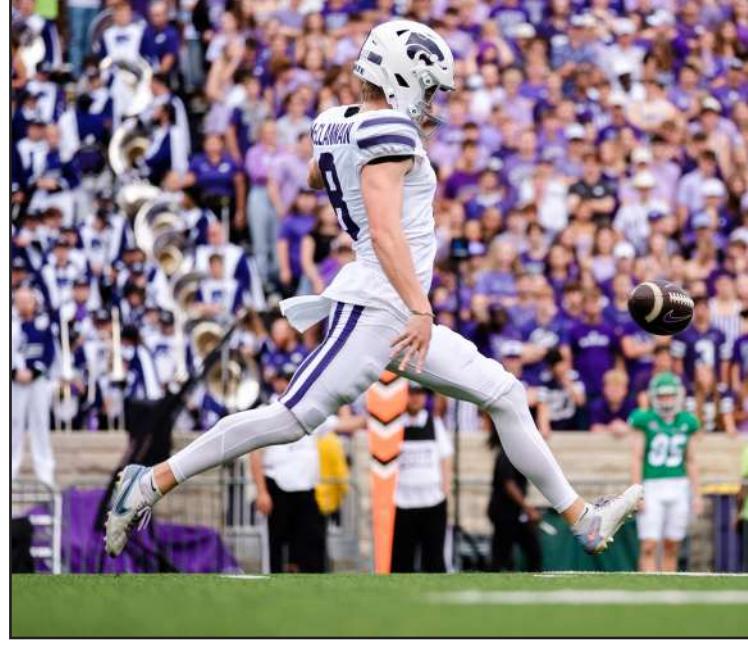
Big 12, but were disheartened with their performance. The Bears allowed 307 yards on 52 rushing attempts, allowing 5.9 yards per carry. Baylor's fourth-down conversions were 3 for 6. Although they managed to score twice on fourth down, Auburn scored 10 points as a result of two

failed conversions.

One satisfactory win the Big 12 had was Utah vs UCLA. The Utes came out hot, leading the first quarter 13-0 and halftime 20-7. The blowout ended at 42-10 when the game clock ran out. Utah had 286 rushing yards to the Bruins' 84 yards, along with

30 first downs compared to 14 for UCLA.

Throughout the Big 12, it was a rough week. It seemed to be blowout wins, horrific losses or barely squeak-by wins, with many fans hoping Week 1 was more of a fluke and improvements would be made for Week 2.



Photos by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP



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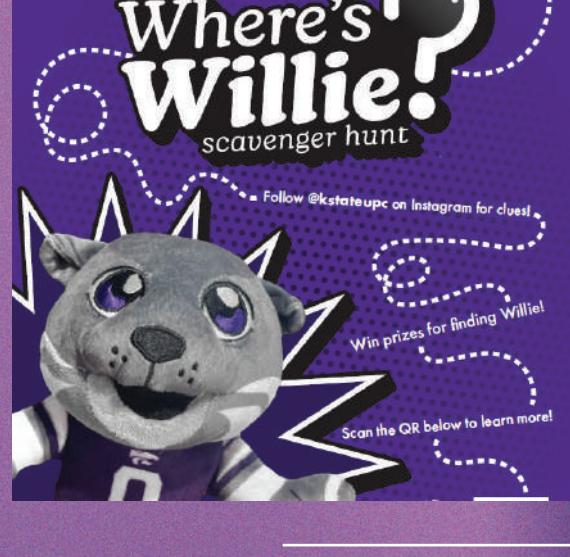
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