

**A2 - SPORTS**

Know Your Opponent I
K-State faces USC in first
Sweet 16 since 2002.

B2 - NEWS

K-State to host a Day of Giving I
April 9 is designated as a time to
fund university initiatives through
competitions.

B3 - ARTS & CULTURE

Songs of March I The Collegian
Editorial Board members pick
their favorite songs of the month.

WEATHER

FRIDAY 82/58 SATURDAY 76/39 SUNDAY 51/33



THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

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MARCH 28, 2025

FEELIN' SWEET

K-State women head to first Sweet 16 since 2002



Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

Forwards **Temira Poindexter** (left) and **Kennedy Taylor** (right) celebrate K-State Round of 32 overtime victory over Kentucky. The No. 5-seeded Wildcats defeated No. 4 seed Kentucky 80-79 in overtime in Lexington, Kentucky.

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

The opportunity to keep making memories: it's what March Madness is all about.

And it's exactly what is on the line for No. 5 seed Kansas State women's basketball as it prepares for its first trip to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2002.

The No. 4-seeded Wildcats of Kentucky and Manhattan's own scratched and clawed for 45 minutes last Saturday, serving a see-saw scoreboard to the delight of college basketball enjoyers, but a haphazard heart rate for fans of each team.

"Every time I've left the house, at least one person says, 'You took 15 years off my life, you guys almost gave me a heart attack,'" All-American center Ayoka Lee said with a sly grin

on her fourth day back in Manhattan.

After 21 lead changes and nine ties, the Wildcats sporting purple were favored at Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, Kentucky. Players like Lee, who have felt the heartbreak of

March, wept tears of joy as the final buzz-

er sounded.

"It felt so good," she said. "My identity is in Jesus and not in sports, so [my mindset] was being grateful for the opportunity, but also knowing regardless of the outcome of this game, that it doesn't define my career."

Lee's is a collegiate career that includes a Division I record for points in a single game (61), four All-Big 12 first team selections (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024) and more, including her 2,500th point scored that Satur-

day. Still, it was all about the team at that moment.

"Winning the way we did, man, it just felt like such a sweet gift," Lee said. "Just to be in that position and to be here now."

"You guys almost gave me a heart attack."

Ayoka Lee
Senior center

,

K-State improved to 28-7 and equalled the second-most victories in program history, while redeeming a home-court loss in the Round of 32 last year.

SEE PAGE A3
"PREVIEW"

How it happened | K-State downs Kentucky in OT thriller

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

For the first time since 2002, Kansas State women's basketball will play in the Sweet 16 after downing No. 4 seed Kentucky 80-79 in an overtime classic on Sunday in Lexington, Kentucky.

"I think everybody just witnessed one of the great games in the tournament right now," K-State head coach Jeff Mittie said. "It's hard to even go over all the big shots both teams made ... Really proud of our group. To be down five, dig deep defensively, and make plays... Just a lot of really, really big plays in this game."



Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

Sophomore guards **Zyanna Walker** (1) and **Mikayla Parks** embrace each other with a hug after K-State's 80-79 overtime victory in the NCAA Round of 32 on Sunday in Lexington, Kentucky.

SEE PAGE A3
"RECAP"

Poindexter
'grateful' for sweet senior season



Archive photo by Payton Lee
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Forward **Temira Poindexter** (2) and teammates celebrate a major block against West Virginia at the Big 12 Tournament on March 7.

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Temira Poindexter came to Kansas State to play in the biggest games and deliver in the biggest moments. That she did, knocking down eight 3-pointers in the Wildcats' one-point overtime win over Kentucky to advance to the Sweet 16.

"It was a good feeling that I was able to help my team, with the threes being so open, all I wanted to do was hit them, so it felt good," Poindexter said.

Poindexter, a native of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, committed to play basketball at Tulsa out of high school, where she played three seasons and started in 87 of 93 games.

SEE PAGE A3
"POINDEXTER"

USC superstar JuJu Watkins tears ACL, out for Sweet 16



Photo courtesy of Henry Kofman I Daily Trojan
USC guard **JuJu Watkins** is helped off the court after suffering an ACL tear in the Round of 32. Watkins will miss Saturday's Sweet 16 matchup.

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

If anyone can empathize with the loss of an All-American to a devastating injury, it's Kansas State women's basketball.

When the No.5-seed Wildcats meet top-seeded UCS in the Sweet 16 on Saturday, the Trojans will be without the arguable face of women's college basketball: star sophomore JuJu Watkins.

SEE PAGE A3
"WATKINS"

WEEKLY CALENDAR

28	BASEBALL @ TINTON — vs. Texas Tech @ 6 p.m. — ESPN+	29	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SWEET 16 — vs. USC @ 7 p.m. — ESPN	29	BASEBALL @ TINTON — vs. Texas Tech @ 4 p.m. — ESPN+
30	BASEBALL @ TINTON — vs. Texas Tech @ 1 p.m. — ESPN+	2	BASEBALL — @ Wichita St. @ 6 p.m. — ESPN+	4	BASEBALL — @ Oklahoma St. @ 6 p.m. — ESPN+

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

K-State WBB heads to Spokane to face top-seeded USC in Sweet 16

BY THE NUMBERS

K-STATE

3-POINT %

38.8%

2nd in nation

OPP. 3PT %

28.3%

46th in nation

BLKS \ G

5.7 blocks

8th in nation

USC

3-POINT %

32.2%

132nd in nation

OPP. 3PT %

28.6%

54th in nation

BLKS \ G

7 blocks

2nd in nation

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

No. 5 K-State (28-7)

After its Round of 32 victory against Kentucky, Kansas State advanced to the second weekend for the first time since 2002. Similar performances from the Wildcats' star players are needed to continue their March Madness run.

Forward Temira Poindexter hit eight threes in the Kentucky win, hitting multiple big shots down the stretch of the fourth and in overtime. Poindexter became the first

player to record six blocks and six threes in an NCAA tournament game. Her shot-making ability helps spread the floor for All-American seniors Ayoka Lee and Serena Sundell to score inside.

Sundell had an outstanding performance in the win over Kentucky as well. She played in all 45 minutes of game action, scoring 19 points and dishing out 14 assists, propelling her way to the top spot in program history for career assists.

No. 1 USC (30-3)

Top-seeded USC was dominant in its Round of 32 matchup over No. 9 seed Mississippi State. However, in the win it lost All-American guard JuJu Watkins to an ACL tear. Watkins is one of the best women's basketball players in the nation, so others on USC will need to step up big to fill her shoes.

Forward Kiki Iriafen scored 36 points in the win over Mississippi State. Iriafen is a great player in her own right, as she averages nearly

19 points per game. Iriafen will be the Wildcats' biggest threat and slowing down her scoring will be important for the K-State forwards.

Guard Avery Howell stepped up massively after the loss of Watkins, making her a possible addition to the starting lineup on Saturday. Howell is just a freshman, but averages a solid seven points per contest. In the win against Mississippi State, Howell tied her season high in points with 18, including making four 3-point attempts.

TEMIRA POINDEXTER



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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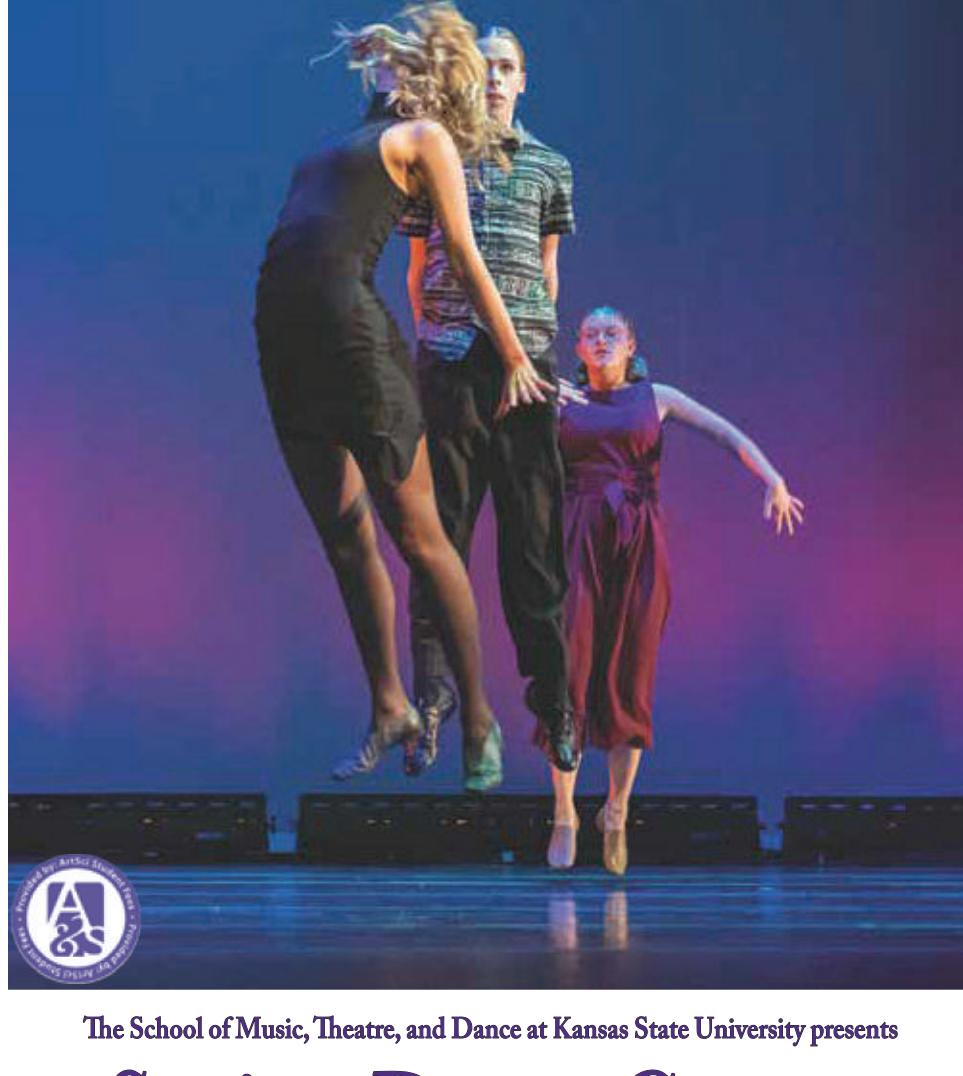
WHO TO WATCH:

K-STATE: F Temira Poindexter, G Serena Sundell

USC: F Kiki Iriafen, G Avery Howell

PREDICTION:

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"PREVIEW"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"Winning the way we did, man, like it just felt like such a sweet gift," Lee said. "Just to be in that position and to be here now."

K-State improved to 28-7 and equalled the second-most victories in program history, while redeeming a home-court loss in the Round of 32 last year.

"That game had so many back and forth moments," head coach Jeff Mittie said. "I had to keep checking the score because it was like, 'We're up three, are we down one now?' [That led to] the emotion and the

happiness that we saw in the locker room, on the floor, and on the plane ride home. Those are the moments they'll remember."

When the Wildcats wheels set down in Manhattan that night, hundreds of buzzing basketball fans huddled at the Little Apple's airport to celebrate the team.

"I expected 25 or 30 [fans]," Mittie said. "I don't know how many the tally was, but that was pretty cool. The plane ride was energetic early, super quiet through the middle. I think everybody crashed at that point. Ten minutes before we landed, it started picking up again, the excitement, and then just walking into that welcome home is pretty special."

Now, the page flips to a new chapter for this monumental K-State women's basket-

ball team, which heads to Spokane, Washington, to face No. 1 seed USC at 7 p.m. Saturday, broadcasted on ESPN.

"The opportunity to keep [making] those moments they'll remember, we've got a great opportunity in front of us," Mittie said. "We're not going to spend much time in the rear view mirror. Now it's now on to that next one, and now that next opportunity."

While the roster is composed of individuals who weren't yet born, or just learning to crawl the last time the Wildcats made the Sweet 16, there's no doubt they're prepared for the moment.

"We have a lot of experience in this group," senior guard Serena Sundell said. "I think we're playing with that underdog

mentality. Nothing to lose, but also knowing that we're very capable and confident in having a group with so much experience who could play with poise."

When wheels are back down toward the Sweet 16 at Spokane Regional 4, that slightly uneasy feeling the Wildcats have won't be nerves, just excitement, senior Jaelyn Glenn said.

"I'm really more so excited and not necessarily nervous," she said. "I'm just happy to be here at this point, still playing with this group of girls."

Should the Wildcats earn one more game together, it will mark the second Elite Eight appearance in program history — first reached in 1982 — and tie the 2003 program record with 29 wins.

"RECAP"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"We're glad to come out on the right side. It obviously could have gone either way, but these games are like that, especially when you have two really good basketball teams."

No. 5 seeded K-State (28-7) was led by a dominant shooting performance from transfer forward Temira Poindexter, who drilled eight 3-pointers in the contest to score a game-high 24 points.

"It's my teammates that tell me and give me the confidence because in those moments," Poindexter said. "I do get down on myself, so my teammates come in and have my back and tell me to keep shooting. [That] is really what lifts me

up and gives me the confidence."

Star senior Serena Sundell scored 19 points with 14 assists, including the game-tying shot to send the Wildcats into overtime. The All-American guard also became the program's all-time assists leader, passing Shalee Lehning's mark of 800.

"It doesn't compare," Sundell said of breaking the record. "I would choose the Sweet 16 every single day over getting that record. A really cool record, and once again, credit to my teammates for being able to make shots. To be honest, at the beginning of this year, I didn't really see that record being something that I would reach, but I've been able to play with a bunch of really good shooters."

K-State entered Kentucky's home arena with the motivation of last year's Round of 32 loss as the No. 4 seed against No. 5 seed

Colorado, and delivered the same feeling to Kentucky to clinch the fourth Sweet 16 appearance in program history.

"I think it really motivated us, we remember what we felt when we walked off the court that day, and we felt like we just let our fanbase down on our home court," sophomore guard Zyanna Walker said before the game. "So we really wanted to make sure that this year it was a different turnaround."

Mittie reaches the Sweet 16 for the first time in his head coaching career. Mittie was previously winless in the Round of 32 across nine tries with K-State and TCU since 1999.

"We've been knocking on the door and we just haven't gotten it done, and I haven't gotten it done," Mittie said. "This group has been a special group ... I'm

really happy for our fans. I know they wanted this. I know it's been a long time. I'm just really happy for our fans."

Star center Ayoka Lee will reach the second weekend for the first time in her illustrious K-State career. In her second game back from a foot injury, Lee scored 16 points on 8-18 shooting with nine rebounds and two blocks.

"You got to witness, when we have Lee, how good this team can be," Mittie said. "She's a factor at both ends of the floor. She offensively makes people pay attention. You don't replace All-Americans... We know that, but she gave us everything she could give us today... Kennedy Taylor gave us a big lift, I could go on and on, but just a great basketball game and just a great win for our program."

"POINDEXTER"

CONTINUED FROM A1

At Tulsa, Poindexter quickly became a standout star, with 16.8 points per game over the span of her career.

Temira scored 1,560 career points at Tulsa, which ranks third in school history. After her last season as a Golden Hurricane, Poindexter entered the transfer portal, hoping to achieve her goal of playing in the NCAA tournament.

"I'm grateful to be a part of something that is bigger than myself," she said. "That was a goal of coming here to K-State, to reach the NCAA tournament. I know this team has been through a lot the past

couple of years, so I was glad we could win that game and keep dancing."

Not only did Temira knock down eight 3's, but she also recorded six blocks in the win against Kentucky, becoming the first player in NCAA women's tournament history to record six blocks and six threes in the same game.

With the 'Cats, Poindexter was an All-Big 12 third team selection. Poindexter shot a career-high 41% from beyond the arc, which is one of the reasons head coach Jeff Mittie and staff recruited her.

"We needed shooting, a high-volume shooter that could knock them down," Mittie said.

Switching from a mid-major in Tulsa to an established Top 25 program with

seniors aplenty, Poindexter noted that the change of mindset was the biggest difference in making the jump.

"At Tulsa, it was very different," she said. "I kind of did whatever I wanted to do. Coming in here, I wanted to provide in the areas that the team needs me for that game or do whatever I can to help the team and get to where we are at now."

Poindexter has a quick release that allows her to get her shot off, coming off screens easily. She also stands at 6-foot-2, which gives her the ability to shoot over smaller defenders.

Against Kentucky, Poindexter missed her first six shots of the game before going on a tear, finding in a

zone that Kentucky couldn't stop.

"It was honestly tough for me, after missing the first couple, I wanted to stop shooting," she said. "My teammates really had my back in that game. They told me to let it fly, so that's what I did, and it was a good feeling to help the team in that way."

One of those teammates, point guard Serena Sundell, who just recently became the all time assist leader in K-State history, has a great deal of faith in Poindexter and others on the team.

"I have the most confidence in them, and I want to share that with them," Sundell said. "I think Temira gets to a point where we need her not to think, we just need her to shoot the ball if she's open."

"WATKINS"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"Just an unfortunate situation for everybody involved, for our game, for the tournament as a whole," All-Big 12 guard Serena Sundell said. "She's such a cool player. We would love to play against her as competitors. That's what you want — to play against the best."

The 6-foot-2 guard suffered an ACL tear in the early minutes of USC's Round of 32 rout over Mississippi State, sending shockwaves of sympathy across the nation and feelings of empathy within the K-State program and community.

"It's just devastating," All-American

center Ayoka Lee, who has suffered two season-ending injuries, said. "I would never wish that upon anyone. It's just really hard to watch because you see it happen, and you just know. It sucks. I really wish her the best in her recovery."

With Watkins' absence, bookmakers have K-State as just a single-point underdog. Still, the Wildcats are preparing for the task of a top-seeded team.

"We know they are still a really good opponent," All-Big 12 forward Temira Poindexter said. "We know we're going to have to go out there and stay focused and not let any of that [injury noise] affect us."

Sundell added that from the Wildcats' experience, it can change

the perspective and passion in the locker room to another level.

"We can empathize with injuries and knowing how it feels to lose a really good player and wanting [to win] even more for your team," Sundell said. "So we know they're a good team, and they're obviously smart and well-coached, and they're going to have a good game plan coming in."

One of the player's K-State will key in on as a scorer for USC is 6-foot-3 forward Kiki Iriafen, who averaged 18 points and 8 rebounds, and took it to a new level in the Trojans' 96-59 win over Mississippi State.

"She had 36 [points] the other night," K-State head coach Jeff Mittie said. "That wasn't hard to find. Played extremely well,

aggressive in every area ... I would expect her usage rate to go up here. She's going to be one of them, but they have other options as well, so they'll spread that out."

K-State is hopeful that Watkins will be back and better than ever through her recovery process.

"All of these players work so much to play this time of the year ... it stinks every time you have to go through it," Mittie said. "The good news is that we've seen players come back, as we've seen Ayoka Lee come back. That wasn't necessarily the case 20 years ago."

The 'Cats and Trojans will tip-off in Spokane on Saturday at 7 p.m., broadcasted on ESPN.

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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.

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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, call editor-in-chief Cole Bertelsen at 785-822-1482 or email collegian@kstate-collegian.com

Correction: In Issue 22 of The Collegian, the attribution for Asa Anderson and Emerson Tarr's quotes were swapped in error.

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K-State baseball outlasts Nebraska 12-8 to stay perfect at home

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Kansas State baseball scored 11 runs in the first three innings against Nebraska on Tuesday, as the Wildcats won their seventh consecutive home game 12-8 at Tointon Family Stadium.

"Obviously great start for our team tonight," head coach Pete Hughes said to K-State Athletics. "Things went our way early on; it was our night. We were fortunate to extend a pretty good lead."

On the mound for the 'Cats was freshman Donte Lewis, who, in the first inning, allowed the first two Nebraska runners to reach on a single followed by a double. However, Lewis retired the next three batters without a run coming across, thanks to some good infield defense.

In the bottom of the first, K-State had its chance to score and they capitalized on three Nebraska errors. The Wildcats scored five runs in the inning on just two hits — one of which was a two-RBI double by Seth Dardar.

The 'Huskers answered with two runs in the top of the second but

K-State saw Nebraska starter Carson Jasa well and pounced on him again in the bottom of the second for four more runs to give K-State a 9-2 lead.

Lewis, in his third inning of work, shut down Nebraska quickly and gave the Wildcats offense another chance to add more runs to the scoreboard, starting with a two-run home run by junior shortstop Maximus Martin as he blasted his 10th homer of the season. K-State led 11-2.

Over the next three innings of action, Nebraska attempted its best at a comeback as the Cornhuskers scored four runs in three innings.

It appeared as if the momentum was swinging in their favor, but with the score at 11-6, catcher Bear Madliak crushed a solo home run in the seventh to stop the momentum and extend the Wildcats' lead with his fourth home run in the last eight games.

To finish, the combination of sophomores Blake Dean and James Guyette out of the bullpen shut down the Cornhuskers' offense and allowed K-State to escape with the 12-8 victory.

"Good team effort and really good



Photos by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
K-State two-way freshman **Donte Lewis** hurls a pitch toward the plate in K-State's victory over Nebraska on March 25 at Tointon Family Stadium.

job out of the bullpen with [Blake Dean] and [James Guyette]. So, another good series win," Hughes said.

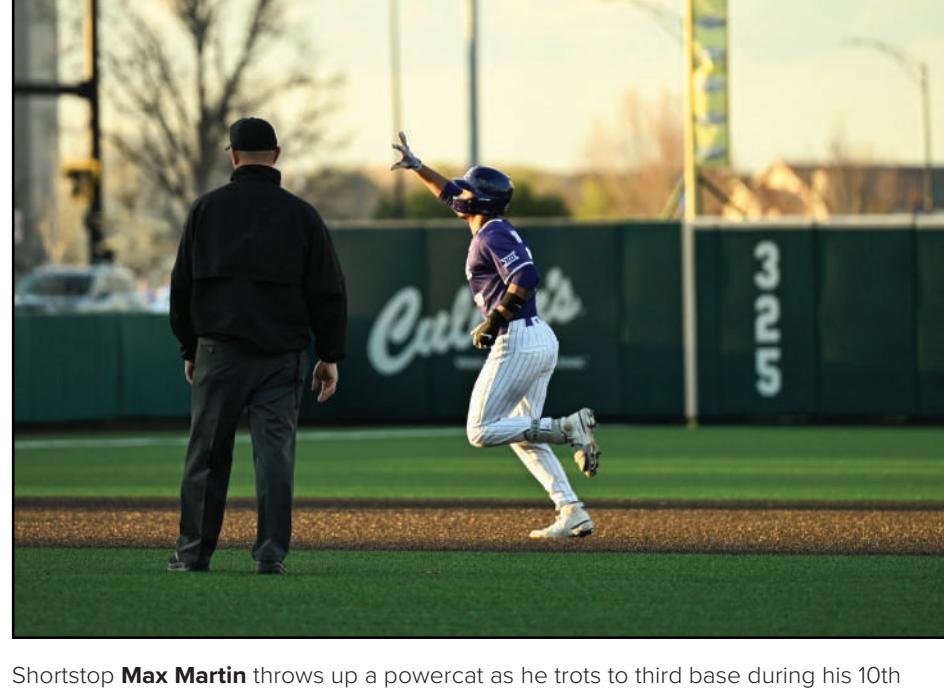
The winning pitcher for the Wildcats was Ty Ruhl, while the losing pitcher

for Nebraska was Carson Jasa.

The Wildcats return to Big 12 action this weekend as they stay at home to face the Texas Tech Red Raiders for a three game series starting Friday.



Grad transfer **Keegan O'Connor** slides into home, beating the tag. The Wildcats held on for a 12-8 victory against the Huskers in Tuesday night's game at Tointon Family Stadium.



Shortstop **Max Martin** throws up a powercat as he trots to third base during his 10th home run walk of the season, putting K-State on top 11-2 early against Nebraska.

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— March 30 — A&H Farms

Friday, March 28, 2025

Commission moves forward with proposed open container ordinance

KYRA CASE

news editor



The city commission determined in a 4-1 vote to proceed with a proposed Common Consumption Area in downtown Manhattan during a special commission meeting on Tuesday.

This plan was in the works for five years, with assistant city manager Jaren Wasinger proposing it to the commission during the meeting. He said the plan was developed in conjunction with the Riley County Police Department, the Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Downtown Manhattan executive directors. After holding a meeting, the district recommended imposing an ongoing CCA, and the proposed time frame for the CCA was Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

"This coincides with the timelines where the outdoor dining platforms are also available, so we didn't want any inconsistencies between those two areas," Wasinger said in the meeting. "This is an ongoing CCA where traffic would remain open to the public, unlike a special event when you're closing down an entire street."

Wasinger said while



Archive photo by Madeline Emerson | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
The city commission voted by majority approval to proceed with the proposed Common Consumption Area in downtown Manhattan.

Aggierville won't be included in the proposed CCA area, it would be included on an "event-by-event basis." Once construction around the area is complete, Aggierville will likely "reapproach the governing body."

According to the Kansas Department of Revenue, a CCA is "... a defined indoor or outdoor area not otherwise licensed where the possession and consumption of alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverage is allowed pursuant to a common consumption area permit. The boundaries of any

common consumption area must be clearly marked using a physical barrier or other apparent line of demarcation."

Gina Snyder, executive director of Downtown Manhattan, said she sees this ordinance being "mostly used on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays."

"This is a natural progression into allowing the public into being on the public right of way without having barricades, without having an event, an established event, it's just something that will be an opportunity," Snyder said. "That's really the intent, to create the ability to be with your people and

walk place-to-place. This is by no means a type of ordinance that really promotes or allows, in downtown Manhattan anyway, excessive drinking."

After a brief discussion, the commission agreed to move forward with the ordinance, with only Mayor Karen McCulloh dissenting.

Snyder said residents could "in theory" request that their beverage be put in a plastic cup and be allowed to go anywhere within the designated boundary.

SEE PAGE B2
"OPEN"

Illustrations by Haley Smith
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

REVIEW | 'Novocaine'

With a simple story, painful premise and gruesome graphics, this film is the perfect mindless blockbuster

JUSTIN SHOEMAKER

staff writer

Nathan Caine, portrayed by Jack Quaid, can't feel anything in "Novocaine." More specifically, he was born with congenital insensitivity to pain, or CIP. This real but scarce condition fundamentally changes how he lives his life. CIP doesn't make him invincible — Nathan is still human, with a human body; the only difference is that he can't feel what's happening to him. He could hurt himself without even knowing it, so he covers up anything that could cause injury in his home. He could bite his tongue off while eating, so he doesn't eat — only drinking the nutrients he needs during the day.

This leads Nathan to live a very mundane life. He drives a safe car, works a safe job at a credit union and plays video games alone rather than going out into the uncertainty of the world.

The first act plays out as a fun romantic comedy. Nathan meets

Sherry, played by Amber Midthunder. It's obvious from the start these characters have chemistry. Their interactions are awkward, but the pair fit well together. The audience is an omnipotent third wheel as Sherry pulls Nathan out of his comfort zone — and he's loving the ride. All this changes, however, about 30 minutes into the film.

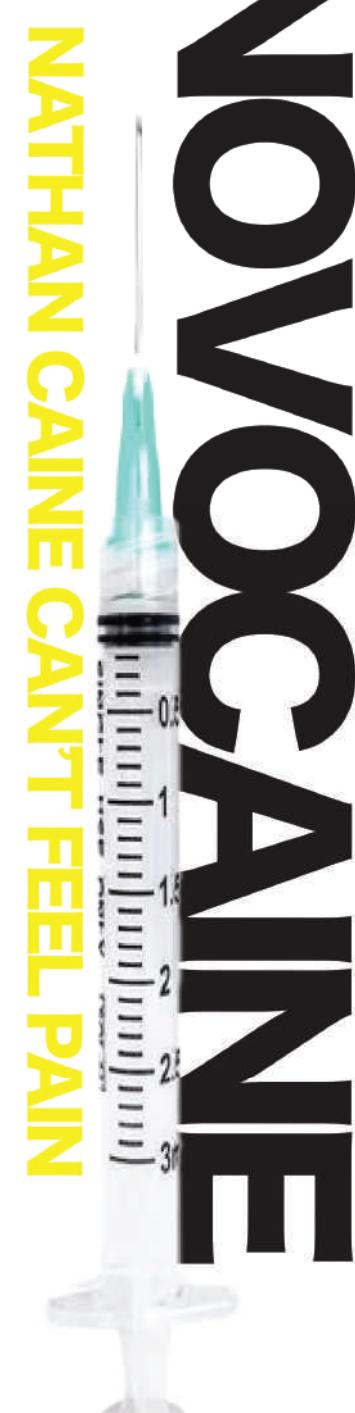
This movie quickly takes a hard swing from rom-com to grotesque action thriller. In a single scene, the credit union is robbed, his boss is killed and Sherry is kidnapped. Taken hostage in the robbery, it's up to Nathan to save her. From here, the rest of the movie follows him as he uncovers clues and learns more about himself and Sherry through a heaping sum of action sequences. This is where the movie's writing starts to become hit-or-miss. Some scenes are written very well, with fantastic attention to detail around Nathan's CIP and great character moments. However, an

equal or greater amount of scenes feel rushed with out-of-place lines, character motivation that isn't realistic and a general disregard for the accuracy of what people with CIP face. Furthermore, acting in this stretch of the film ranges from decent to blatantly bad, with the exception of our main characters. Side characters have weird line deliveries, consistency issues between scenes and sub-par performances.

So, what are the positives to "Novocaine"? To start, this is Jack Quaid's first real opportunity at a leading role on the big screen, and he delivers. He is perfectly genuine and charming, with a hint of heroism that only grows with him throughout the film. His chemistry with Amber Midthunder is fantastically awkward, and both character depictions feel real.

SEE PAGE B3
"NOVOCAIN"

Illustration by Haley Smith
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP



North Campus Corridor project concludes on Friday

THE COLLEGIAN

Crews began construction Monday on the final phase of the North Campus Corridor project, closing the intersection of Denison Avenue and Kimball Avenue for a week to install and test new traffic signals.

Road closures may impact traffic commuting to the National Bio-Agro Defense Facility, Rec Center or the Edge District.

According to an X post by the City of Manhattan, drivers should use College Avenue, Marlatt Avenue and Tuttle Creek Boulevard to avoid encountering construction.

"This final closure of the intersection will last until Friday, March 28," the City announced via X.

This phase is the final part of a larger plan to improve the roads near Kansas State's campus.

According to the project overview, it "will expand the major roadways near K-State University and the National Bio-Agro Defense Facility" and includes "increased lane widths and dedicated turn lanes, improved storm sewer infrastructure, protected medians, traffic signal and crosswalk innovations, pedestrian walkways, ... bicycle improvements, bus stops, [and] streetscape and landscape enhancements."

University hosts 48-hour filmmakers' competition

THE COLLEGIAN

Kansas State will soon kick off its 2025 48-Hour Film Challenge, a yearly competition where multiple small groups of students are given the aforementioned amount of time to independently produce original stories through filmmaking.

According to the event's page on the university's website, the films produced may fall under any genre and must be between two and six minutes long. They also must include three elements — an object, location and line of dialogue — that will not be announced until the kickoff of the event.

Team captains can reserve their team's spot and name for the festival, and all participants can register online on the day of competition. The event also offers help connecting individuals interested in participating with teams open to additional members. A recommended team size is four to six members, and a maximum number of ten is allowed per group.

After students complete their films, they will be assessed by judges and then screened during a film festival exhibition. Cash prizes will be awarded under several different categories.

The challenge begins at 5 p.m. on Friday in the Dr. Susan K. Peterson Room in Hale Library, and the awards ceremony and film screenings will begin the following week at 5 p.m. on April 4 in the Wildcat Chamber of the Student Union.

K-State to host a Day of Giving

April 9 is designated as a time to fund university initiatives through competitions

THE COLLEGIAN

Kansas State has announced it plans to hold a 24-hour Day of Giving on April 9, featuring hourly challenges including the

"Purple Power Hour: Most Donors Challenge," photo challenges and more.

The event is a day of fundraising, during which students, alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, friends and

fans can interact with their favorite programs across K-State via social media, competing for bonus dollars, earning support and claiming spots on a leaderboard.

Those who wish to can donate to the cause of their choice or donate to their favorite program's excellence fund, going to the greatest area of need, helping the university fulfill its land-

grant promise.

Donations can be made at <https://www.k-state.edu/day-of-giving/> or by calling 785-775-2400.

"OPEN"

CONTINUED FROM B1

However, Snyder said there will need to be two more commission meetings before the ordinance can be implemented.

"This is a work session, where we've had a couple of these in the past," Snyder said. "There will need to be two more city meetings, which are legislative, and we will have to go over the absolute details: What is the boundaries, do we include the alleys, do we not, are we including that parking lot, do we not—all of that stuff needs to be fleshed out."



Photos by Kyra Case | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Mayor Karen McCulloh and Commissioner Susan E. Adamchak discuss the CCA ordinance during a special commission meeting on Tuesday. McCulloh was the only dissenting vote.

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MEDIA GROUP

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SPRING 2025

Editors' Picks | Songs of March

THE COLLEGIAN

"Don't Let Our Love Start Slippin' Away" by Vince Gill | Grace Parks

With spring rolling in, it's time to break out the classic country! One of my favorite songs this month is "Don't Let Our Love Start Slippin' Away" by Vince Gill. Since it is significantly warmer and more enjoyable to be outside this month, I've been listening to a lot more country music, spending a lot more time sitting on the porch and wishing for it to be summer again!

"Here is Someone" by Japanese Breakfast | Lilly Crist

As we move into a new season, what better way than to celebrate with new music? The band Japanese Breakfast released its new album "For Melancholy Brunettes (& sad women)" and kicks it off with "Here is Someone." The twinkling instrumentals and powerful orchestral elements remind me of the start of spring where everything is bright and blooming.

"Greenlight" by Tate McRae | Libby Zuck

With the recent release of her latest album "So Close to What," Tate McRae just scratches that part of my brain; between her lyricism and musical flow, this album has no skips for me. "Greenlight" is on



Graphic by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

repeat as I drive around Manhattan — the beat and use of background vocals are perfection.

"Je te Laisserai Des Mots" by Patrick Watson | Jakob Twigg

Canadian singer and songwriter Patrick Watson's "Je te Laisserai Des Mots" is a song about having the courage to leave a part of yourself behind. Sung with beautiful french lyrics, Watson leaves a part of himself in handwritten notes and then puts them "under the door." In essence, he has garnered the courage to leave the past behind and allow himself to look into the present and future. The song is a fitting choice as winter begets spring and beautiful

flowers begin to blossom.

"Beautiful" by Akon | Haley Smith

As summer approaches, this is my late night song always on blast. I love the beat, and the lyrics of this song scream summer, just like much of Akon's music. It's the kind of song that makes you want to jump up and dance. Featured artists also included on this track are Colby O'Donis and Kardinal Offishall.

"It's a Great Day to Be Alive" by Travis Tritt | Toby Hammes

The upbeat vibe, the heartfelt lyrics and that infectious sense of gratitude from Travis Tritt play on

a loop in my head. It's a reminder to appreciate the little things, embrace the ups and downs, and celebrate the joy of life. As Pitbull also puts it, "every day above ground is a great day."

"Make me Wanna" by Thomas Rhett | Emma Lazarczyk

With country music going hand-in-hand with summer, now is the perfect time to add this song to your summer playlist. "Make me Wanna" by Thomas Rhett is a classic feel-good country song with its upbeat rhythm.

"Play Dead" by Björk | Meredith McCalmon

"Play Dead" perfectly encapsulates the haunting

feeling just between winter and spring, when the warm air rushes in but the trees remain bare. Released in 1993 as a part of the "Young Americans" soundtrack, the tune blends electronic and instrumental sounds for a powerful display of suffering and yearning. I wouldn't consider the track upbeat, but the powerful orchestrals combined with Björk's iconically unique vocals stay in my head even after each listen.

"Bossa No Sé" by Cuco feat. Jean Carter | Kyra Case

"Bossa No Sé" is a song with a catchy chorus and a fun beat. I always turn on this song when the weather starts to warm up. It is perfect to put on in the car, especially if you're going on a road trip with friends. I feel like this song is perfect to set up a chill, fun atmosphere.

"Animals" by Nickelback | Cole Bertelsen

This song pairs perfectly with driving late at night without a decided destination, simply with the goal of having a good time. As the weather becomes more pleasant with the arrival of spring, I struggle to think of much that's better than rolling down the windows and blasting this song. Its catchy chorus and energetic music feels like it's shaking off the remnants of winter and barreling toward summer.

OPINION | Encouraging cross-party connection mends societal wounds

Avoiding opposing ideas strips us of important human interaction

RADIAN BAXTER

staff writer

A large part of the college experience is meeting new people and pursuing personal growth. If students are afraid to form connections with peers because they have different backgrounds and identities that some see as negative or untrue, students risk stunting social development and failing to connect with others on campus.

In this past election cycle, some politicians directed the public's feelings of anxiety and unrest toward certain marginalized groups, especially those of ethnic, racial and gender minorities. According to an article from CBS News, "Trump's anti-immigrant, domestic

'enemy' rhetoric in focus in final stretch to Election Day," President Donald Trump stated on several occasions "Our threat is from within" in regard to illegal immigrants in the U.S.

According to the same article, Trump has referred to such migrants as "animals" who have come to America to "prey upon innocent American citizens," in attempt to paint immigrants in a negative light. Speaking of migrants in this way frames them as a threat to others and opens them up to discrimination.

In recent years, Kansas State has seen more of this specific brand of political activism. The Young Americans for Freedom organization has welcomed

several conservative speakers to campus, most recently hosting Seth Gruber on Feb. 11.

Gruber spoke out against abortion, the transgender movement, BLM, anti-white sentiments and critical race theory. Even when the spotlight is not on race and gender, they are frequently used as fuel to fight for other causes.

While addressing the issue of abortion, Gruber used evocative language to convey that opposition cannot be reasoned with. Anyone that denies life beginning at conception is "stupid, a cynic or a very, very evil person."

If the opposition is stupid, they are unable to comprehend the seemingly correct argument. If they

are a cynic, their ideas are unlikely to change, as they're rooted within an intrinsic worldview. If they're a very, very evil person, engaging with them should be avoided entirely.

This approach is hostile toward different perspectives. It will not win anyone over if they're teetering on the border of two different arguments, nor will it persuade someone who outright disagrees.

What it will do is instill fear into those who already share that perspective. If they seek to broaden others' mindsets, they run the risk of being labeled as an enemy, the same sort they'd been encouraged to rally against.

Charlie Kirk, a conservative speaker, visited

K-State last semester as a part of Turning Point USA's "You're Being Brainwashed" tour.

Just looking at the name, there's an aggressive assertion that the target audience has been masterfully manipulated into their beliefs. Again, this does little to change anyone's mind. Rather, it affirms the people who already agree and pushes away those who do not. Instead of running from other perspectives, we should try our best to embrace them. Even if no common ground can be found, and no connection sustained, we'll be better informed about what it is we're disagreeing with and why. In the face of fear, employ curiosity.

"NOVOCAINE"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Along with the main villain of the film, Simon, portrayed by Ray Nicholson, these actors have the standout performances that make this movie tick.

Beyond the acting, the visuals in this film are fantastic. From the uncommon yet fitting camera angles between Sherry and Nathan to the gut-wrenching, hard-hitting fight scenes to come, it is a pleasure to watch — as long as you can handle gore. Nathan gets bloody, broken and bruised, strikingly and realistically.

As a sum of its parts, this film isn't anything Hollywood hasn't seen before. But if you're looking for something simple, you can handle the gore and want



an action movie with a fresh idea, "Novocaine" is well worth your time. Due to the awkward one-liners and flimsy story, I would rate this movie 3 / 5 stars.

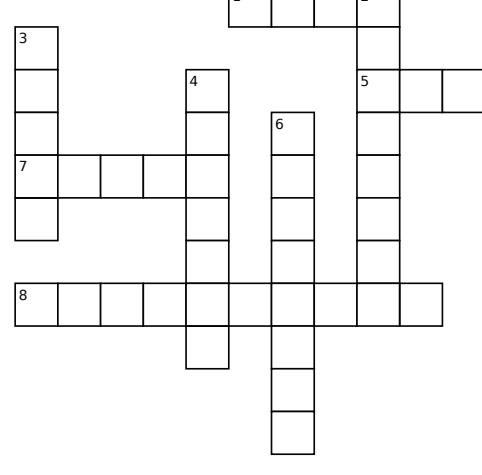


COMIC | Doin' it Wright



Illustration by Jacob Bush | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

CROSSWORD



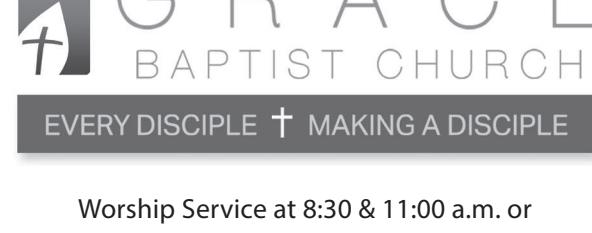
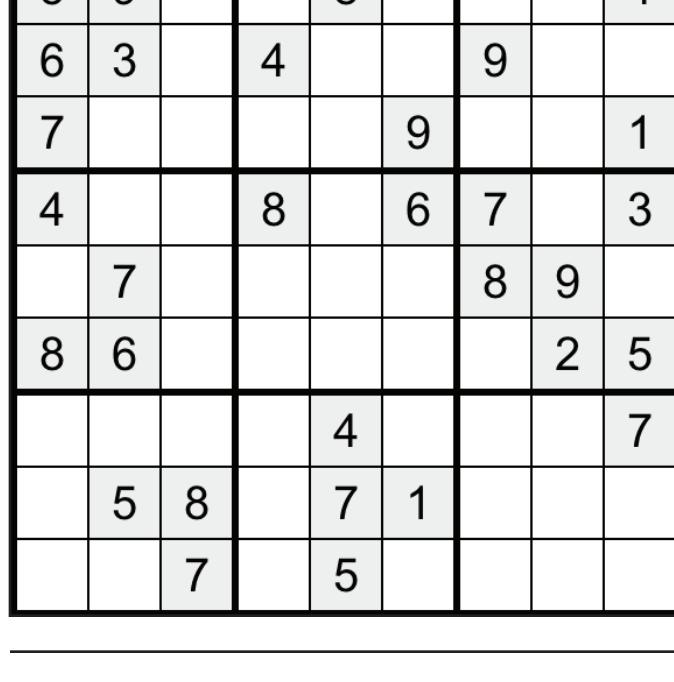
ACROSS

1. K-State's 48-Hour ____ Challenge begins on Friday.
5. Jack Quaid plays a character with ___ in "Novocaine."
7. Forward Temira Poindexter hit ____ threes in K-State's win over Kentucky.
8. Arts & Culture Editor Libby Zuck's favorite song for March is "_____ " by Tate McRae.

DOWN

2. Mayor Karen _____ was the sole vote of dissent regarding the CCA ordinance.
3. K-State women's basketball is headed to the ____ 16 for the first time since 2002.
4. USC sophomore JuJu _____ tore her ACL in the Round of 32.
6. The North Campus _____ project completes Friday.

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Student Union | Forum Hall**Midwest Princess: Drag Show**Saturday, April 12 6:15 - 10:00 PM
McCain Auditorium**Paws for Consent**Thursday, April 17 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Bosco Plaza**S(he) Speaks Cinema - Promising Young Woman**Friday, April 25 6:00 - 10:00 PM
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