

A3 - ARTS & CULTURE

Editors' Picks | The Collegian editors pick their favorite Thanksgiving traditions.

**B2 - SPORTS**

Know Your Opponent | Both K-State and Cincinnati look to snap losing streaks in fight of feline foes.

B3 - SPORTS

Big 12 Power Rankings | BYU is no longer perfect, making the race for the top spot tight.

WEATHER

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THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

VOL. 130 | ISSUE 14

WWW.KSTATECOLLEGIAN.COM

NOV. 22, 2024

Former K-State golfer's journey to providing mental health care

KYRA CASE
news editor

Health care was never part of former Kansas State golfer Curtis Yonke's original life plan.

Yonke has a long family history at K-State, with relatives who attended the college dating back to the 1960s. Inspired by his grandfather, pro golfer Jim Colbert, Yonke's life revolved around golf.

"It took me a while to find my passion outside of golf, because golf was my one and only for so long," Yonke said. "It taught me everything from respect and confidence and everything like that to just communication levels."

After graduating from K-State, Yonke said he found himself on "the road less traveled."

"I didn't know what my passion was outside of golf, so I tried a few things," Yonke said. "I've done everything from financial planning to insurance world to behavioral health. ... It's been really cool to find my passion in the behavioral health avenue."

Yonke was working in insurance when the opportunity to lead Freedom Behavioral Health Solutions at Manhattan Medical Center appeared.

"... [I] was asked to transition to help take on that role, plus run from the side of a company, and so I leaped at it, thinking, 'Okay, bringing me back to Manhattan would be a great opportunity for



Photo courtesy of Curtis Yonke

Freedom Behavioral Health Solutions staff prepare to walk in the K-State homecoming parade. The mental health clinic opened Jan. 29.

me and my family," Yonke said.

Freedom Behavioral Health Solutions opened Jan. 29, and Yonke said his goal is to provide the best care possible at all of its locations.

"I hope to look back in five to 10 years and say I opened a successful business, and that it's thriving, and that we're doing really, really well, and that we are helping people every single day," he said.

Yonke said Freedom Behavioral Health Solutions' mental health treatments go beyond medical management or therapy.

"Those things are wonderful [and] they've been around forever," Yonke said. "We do a couple other treatments, one called transcranial magnetic stimulation, and it uses

high-powered magnets to treat areas of depression. And so it's a way for people that have had side effects to medication; don't like medication, to get better without meds; or have the opportunity to get better and lessen their meds."

Yonke said it's okay if students about to graduate are unsure what they want to do.

"The unknown can be scary," Yonke said. "It can, but that can also be one of the beautiful things about life. It's cliché. It really is. But life is so much more about what you know, and so I would encourage anybody that doesn't know what they want to do ... [to] meet people. Because when you go out and meet people, that's where opportunity can present itself."

'A chance to live and be healthy': Zoe Schumacher finds donor for kidney transplant

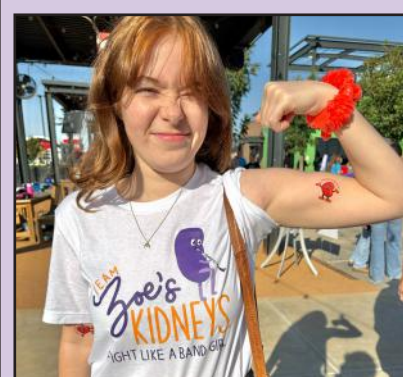


Photo courtesy of Zoe Schumacher
During her search for a kidney donor, **Zoe Schumacher** participated in the Wichita Kidney Walk. She represented Team Zoe's Kidneys and was the #5 top individual fundraiser.

MEREDITH MCCALMON
managing editor

When Kansas State student Zoe Schumacher was diagnosed with ANCA vasculitis in March, her life turned upside down.

"I had to change how I functioned as a 21-year-old going to school because immediately when I was diagnosed, I had to move back home with my parents, which was very difficult for me because I was used to being so independent," Schumacher, senior in marketing visual communication design, said. "... More recently and currently, it impacts my life every day because, from the moment I wake up to the moment I go to sleep, I am reminded of my disease due to my daily dialysis."

However, Schumacher received some good news when she got a call from her transplant donor nurse saying they found a donor for her kidney transplant.

"I found out a couple days ago," Schumacher said. "... I had a feeling when I picked up the phone call but I didn't want to assume and get my hopes up. Then, [my nurse] just let me know and I just started crying. It was a short phone call, but I immediately called my mom, who was at work, and she started crying, and I called my dad, and he was just so happy for me, and then I called my grandparents, and boyfriend and friends, and everybody was just over-the-moon. It's really an amazing feeling, and I didn't think it would happen to me this soon."

Schumacher said though she experienced many setbacks while waiting for a donor, she never lost hope.

"Sometimes it was just an insurance thing, or a logistical thing or a financial thing that held me back from getting to this recovery sooner," Schumacher said.

SEE PAGE A2
"WATER"SEE PAGE A2
"ZOE"

Manhattan reports no lead found in water lines

JAKOB TWIGG
staff writer

The City of Manhattan announced no instances of lead were found in private or public utility service lines on Nov. 13.

The results are part of a multiyear effort using predictive analytics to survey 9,100 water service lines and build a water utility material map in accordance with the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

Kevin Niles, director of public utilities, said the city reached this conclusion using a combination of historical data, visual inspections and statistical analysis completed by a third party.

"The key takeaway is to know that there's no lead in our service lines, as well as in the city life side of the system," Niles said. "Strong statistical analysis can determine that there is no lead in Manhattan and that there's no concerns at this time with any kind of lead within the drinking water."

According to the CDC, lead is a toxic metal that can accumulate in the body over time and is harmful to



Archive photo by Rodney Dimick | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Manhattan water is pumped to be treated at the Manhattan Water Treatment Plant located at North 3rd Street and Tuttle Creek Boulevard.

human health even at low exposure levels. The Environmental Protection Agency set a maximum contaminant level for lead in drinking water at zero.

Andrew Lawson, communications director for the City of Manhattan, said his team conducted a survey

in 2022 for the public to self-report visual inspections of their service lines, which the city intends to continue.

"What we're trying to do now is fill in the blanks, so to speak," Lawson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Nov. 22-23 — **Meadowlark Market** — 120 N. Scenic DrNov. 23-24 — **Wine, Cheese & Honey Sampler** — A&H FarmNov. 26 — **Horrible Movie Night** — Auntie Mae's ParlorNov. 23 — **The Fabulous Whiskey Hammers** — Bottle Caps Sports BarNov. 24 — **Puzzles & Prints** — Liquid Art Winery and EstateNov. 28 — **Thanksgiving** — National Holiday

"ZOE"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"I've had a couple setbacks that really made me think that I wasn't going to get the success of finding a donor, where I'm at now. If I could tell anybody who may be going through this or who knows someone who might go through this one day [anything], it's just to keep your head up when the setbacks keep coming, and you have to control the things that are within your reach and let go of the setbacks. There were several times where I could've put my head down and given up, but I used those moments to fuel myself even more."

Schumacher said while waiting to receive a kidney donor, she had to stay on top of not only her physical health but her mental health, too.

"I have the best support system in the world," she said. "My roommates, my

boyfriend and family and friends — they were the best support in the world, but also I needed to work on my mindfulness and ways to control my anxiety surrounding all of the medical things that I was facing and still have to come in the future ... A person my age is not equipped with the knowledge or the life experience to know how to handle something like this. No one really is, but especially someone who's young, so I've just done a bunch of things to get myself in a better place mentally."

Schumacher said though she will receive a kidney transplant, her journey with kidney disease is far from over.

"They will prescribe me a medication that I will be on for the rest of my life that is an immunosuppressant ... so that my body doesn't reject someone else's organ," Schumacher said. "Besides that medication, which will do its job, I want to be in the best mindset that I can

be so that there's an energy flow from my mind to my body that's very accepting of this process. I think that'll help a lot with the anxiety of the surgery because, to be honest, I am nervous about having a surgery this serious. I am just accepting and welcoming this surgery, and looking at it as an opportunity to keep living a joyous life."

Schumacher plans to receive her kidney transplant surgery in December.

"This journey has taught me so much about the world and myself," Schumacher said. "In respect to the world, it's taught me about how fragile things are, and how grateful I should be for a chance to live and be healthy. ... I've done a lot of self-reflection, from the hours that I spent sitting in the dialysis center receiving treatment, to where I'm at now being in my room thinking about my dialysis equipment. ... I think I truly understand what resilience means now compared to



Photo courtesy of Zoe Schumacher

Zoe Schumacher was diagnosed with ANCA Vasculitis in March. She underwent dialysis as a treatment for the disease and spent almost three weeks in the hospital when she was first diagnosed.

earlier in my life. It's always been a part of me, but I've had to expand on it this year

and I know that I'm going to continue resilience and determination in the future."

"WATER"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"The modeling is reliable and gives more confidence results, but it never hurts to confirm that with observation."

The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions replaced the 1991 Lead and Copper Rule, which was the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation created by the EPA.

Niles said the new rules changed Manhattan's

reporting requirements and took effect in October.

"The [EPA] basically has required that all municipalities or public drinking water systems do a test based on lead and copper," Niles said. "And depending on the results from those initial tests, they would then tell you if you needed to do it either annually or every three years. The revised rules ... required all public drinking systems to do a lead and copper inventory of their

entire system, meaning you needed to inventory both the public side and the private side to see if there were any lead or copper connections."

Nicholas Dvorske, senior in music education, said the results are part of the government's "essential service to making sure our Nicholas Dvorske, senior in music education, said the results are part of the government's "essential service to making sure our water is safe."

"It is part of the government's

job to look out for public health, and this is an important and effective way to do that," Dvorske said. "I think it's a good thing that we keep these essential services going, and keeping our water drinkable, so that our citizens are safe, but also keeping the water free of contaminants, so that the ecosystem as a whole stays healthy."

Niles said he was proud of the job his team has done in Manhattan.

"My team worked very

hard and diligently over the last couple years to put this whole program in place, and to make sure that we were providing accurate and reliable information to the community," Niles said. "I'm confident in saying that the City of Manhattan is lead-free."

The complete summary of the statistical results and the water utility material inventory map are available on the Manhattan water quality customer information page.

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The Kansas State Collegian, a student newspaper at Kansas State University, is published by Collegian Media Group. It is published Fridays during the school year. Periodical postage is paid at Manhattan, KS. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 828 Mid-Campus Drive South, Kedzie 103, Manhattan, KS 66506-7167. First copy free, additional copies 25 cents.

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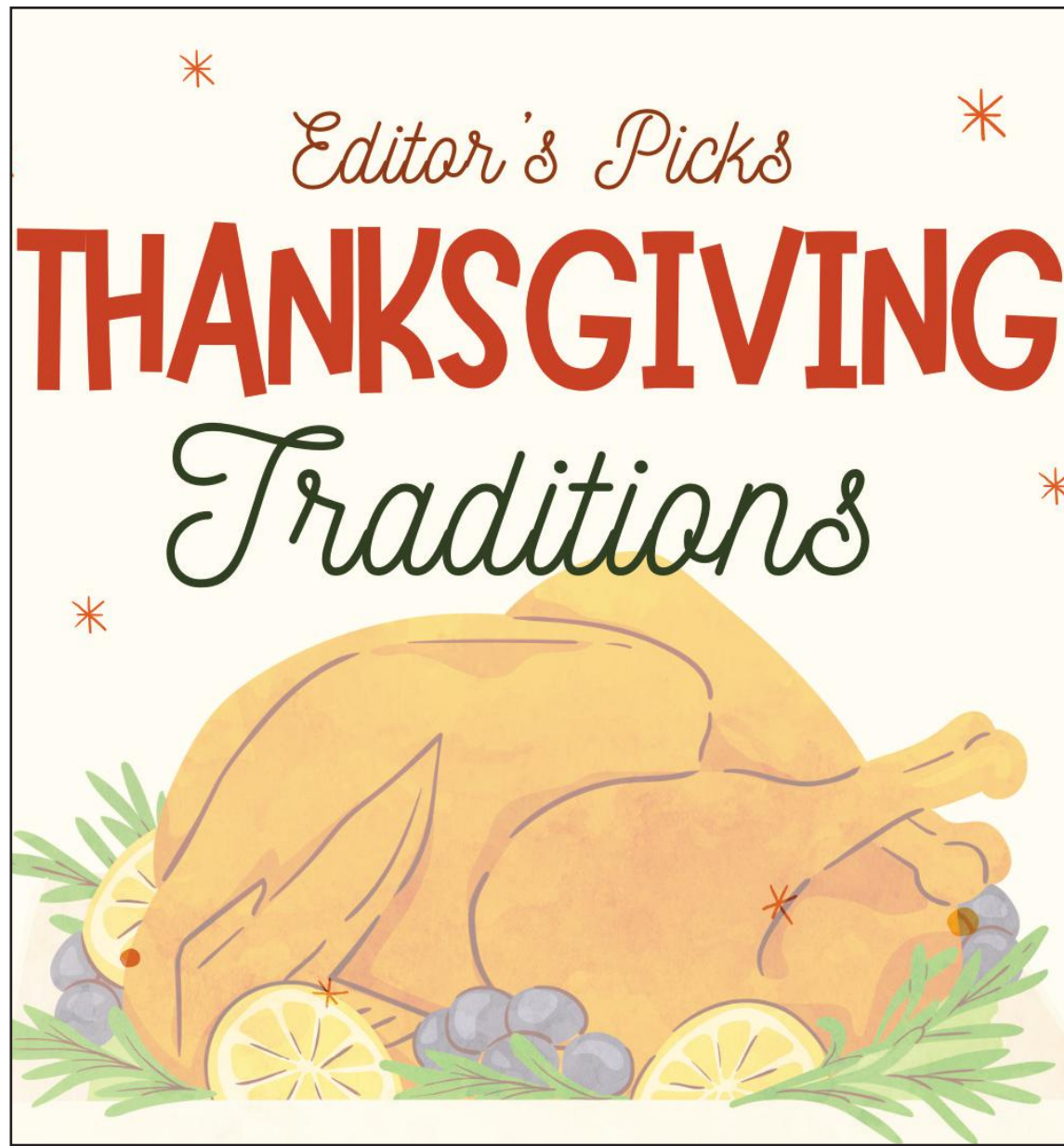
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Editors' Picks | Thanksgiving Traditions

The Collegian Editorial Board picks its favorite Thanksgiving traditions



Graphic by Kaitlynn Faber | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

THE COLLEGIAN

Movie Nights | Kaitlynn Faber

When I was little, but old enough to be left alone, all the adults would go out on Thanksgiving night while my cousins and I would stay home and watch “The Wizard of Oz.” We were really good kids, so ice

cream for Thanksgiving dinner was as crazy as we would get, but I still hold those memories close to my heart. My mom manages a small movie theater in my hometown, and now that we are all older, we’ll have a private midnight showing of whatever movie we want Thanksgiving night, so the tradition is still alive, except

we’re adults that get to go out now.

National Dog Show | Meredith McCalmon

Every Thanksgiving Day, my mom and I force my family to gather around the television and watch the National Dog Show. We each pick what dog we are cheering for early on in the competition, and root for

them the whole time like we’re watching the Super Bowl. As an avid animal lover, this tradition beats any Thanksgiving food or activity to me.

NFL Football | Toby Hammes

Even though the Dallas Cowboys — outside of two former Wildcats — are an eyesore this season, they are still synonymous with Thanksgiving football. Following fantasy football with family across the NFL’s Thanksgiving slate has become a fun tradition. At least the Lions are finally worth watching for the first time since Calvin Johnson retired.

Pre-Thanksgiving dinner snacks | Grace Parks

Thanksgiving is all about the snacks in my family. My favorite thing to do Thanksgiving morning is make all sorts of delicious things to munch on while we wait for the turkey and watch football. There’s nothing like making dozens of deviled eggs — my family’s top-secret recipe of course — along with a crock-pot of little smokies and lots of chips and dips to pregame a Thanksgiving dinner!

Scattergories and Leftovers | Libby Zuck

Since we have our Thanksgiving meal around lunch time, often we have to revisit the bowl of mashed potatoes later on in the day. Every year my family and I play several heated rounds of Scattergories and snack as we please, often ending with the game being extended well into the night.

“A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” | Lilly Crist

“A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” is the perfect movie to watch on Thanksgiving evening with the family while eating leftovers from Thanksgiving lunch. Snoopy also happens to be one of my all-time favorite characters.

Cornhole Competitions | Kyra Case

If there’s one thing people know about my family, it’s that we’re absurdly competitive. Every year, we gather at my grandparents’ house, and my grandpa hauls out the sacred cornhole set. We all then compete to get the best person on our team and rotate based on who wants to play. I’m proud to hold the title of reigning cornhole champion — though I’d recommend not asking my family about it.

Traveling | Cole Bertelsen

The biggest draw of Thanksgiving is the opportunity to meet with extended family who have spread out across the country. My favorite part of the season is traveling up to our family’s farm in Illinois, which has become the de facto family reunion location. Every year for either Thanksgiving or Christmas, I make the long drive northeast to see loved ones before we stuff our faces with turkey and ham.



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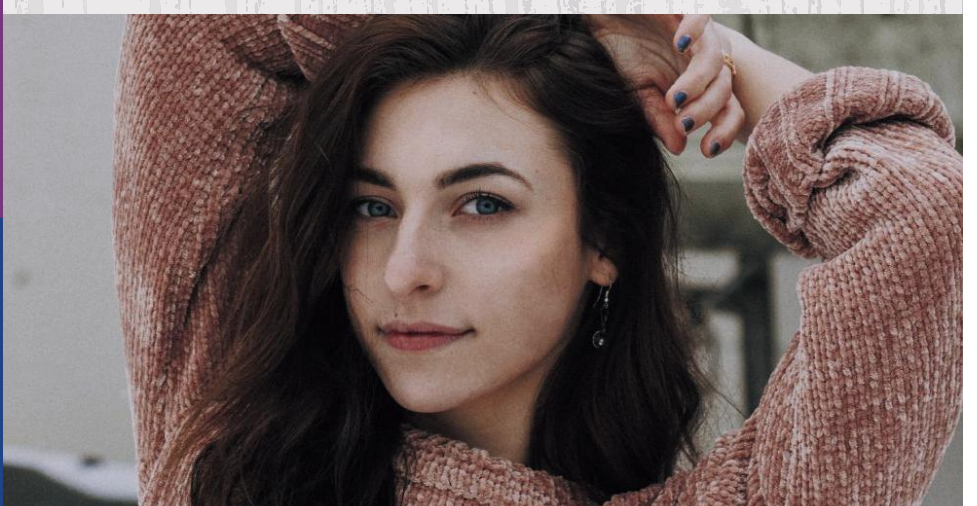
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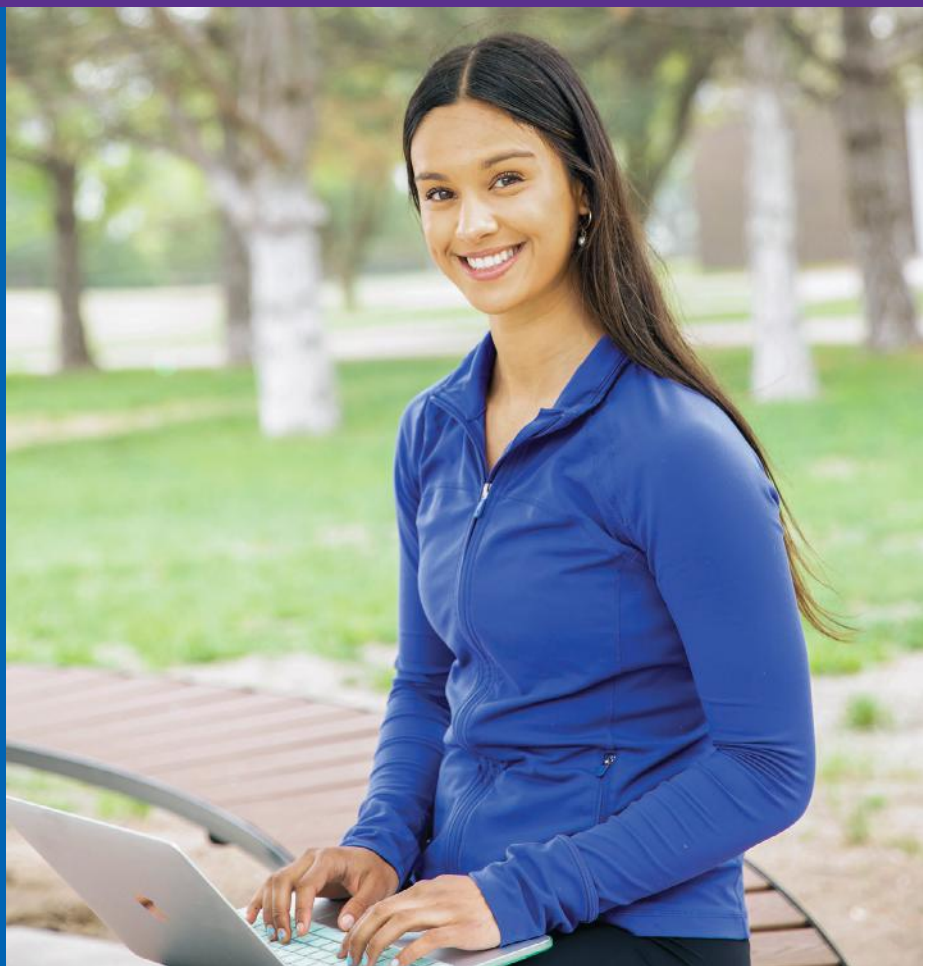
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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Nov. 27 — 2 p.m.
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MBB @ Paradise Jam — Nov.
22-25 — ESPN +

WBB @ Ball Dawgs Classic —
Nov. 25-27 — FloCollege

FOOTBALL

vs. Cincinnati — Nov. 23 — 7
p.m. — ESPN2

@ Iowa St. — Nov. 30 — TBD

Sports

Friday, Nov. 22, 2024

B1

'The epitome of perseverance' | Poitier's up-and-down K-State football journey

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

Chapter 785 has been an up-and-down roller coaster ride for Kansas State offensive lineman Taylor Poitier, but he's grateful for it all as his career winds to an end.

On campus since the start of the Chris Klieman era, battling through COVID, injuries and redshirting as a freshman, the sixth-year senior's time at Bill Snyder Family Stadium will conclude on Saturday.

"Oh gosh," Poitier said, fighting tears while reflecting on his last home game. "It's really sad."

"I've been here since the coach has been here," he said. "I've seen a lot of people come and go, I've seen a lot of things. It's developed me into a good, better player. I've experienced a lot when it comes to injuries, and been through ups and downs. Just grateful for being here at this place."

Poitier, a graduate of Bishop Miege High School in Kansas City, Kansas, said he'll miss the people who built him into the person he is today, especially offensive line coach — and now offensive coordinator — Conor Riley.

Without Riley, Poitier



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Offensive lineman **Taylor Poitier** walks off the field after a loss to Arizona State at Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Nov. 16. Poitier, a sixth-year senior, has been on campus for the entirety of the Chris Klieman era.

never would have called Manhattan home.

"Coach Riley took a chance on me, my senior year in 2019, you know, forever ago," Poitier said, cracking a smile. "I could never repay him back for that. He didn't have to pick me up and bring me here. I would have gone to Wyoming, and I wouldn't have been here."

The previous coaching staff under the legendary Bill Snyder hadn't recruited Poitier out of high school, despite being an in-state prospect.

According to 247sports,

Poitier was the No. 12 in-state recruit in the class of 2019, which included No. 1 Breece Hall, No. 4 Keenan Garber and No. 11 Cooper Beebe. Hall, a former Iowa State star, is in his third year as the New York Jets running back. Garber, who was recruited as a wide receiver to Manhattan, is a sixth-year athlete who switched to cornerback after 2022.

Luckily for Poitier, when Snyder officially called his career, the new staff hailing from North Dakota State was in contact.

"[Riley] called me one night, he's like, 'I don't know if I'm going to get this job at K-State, [but] I'll let you know, and if I do, we'll talk.'" Poitier said. "I didn't think anything of it. Just thought at that time in recruiting, coaches just want to call and just talk."

Riley got the job, sticking with Klieman after their years of success with the Bison. The rest is history for Poitier, but it wasn't an easy journey.

SEE PAGE B3
"POITIER"

Wildcats in the Pros Beebe earns captain status in Week 11



Archive photo by Elizabeth Sandstrom | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Linemen **Cooper Beebe** (left) and **KT Leveston** (right) lift the Pop-Tarts Bowl Trophy, K-State 28-19 on Dec. 28, 2023 against NC State.

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Cooper Beebe, C, Dallas Cowboys

Beebe made a quick and easy transition to the NFL, doing so while playing a new position. To little surprise of fans who've seen Beebe, he has excelled during his rookie season, ranking among the top of rookie linemen this season.

In a down year for Dallas, Beebe is a leader for the Cowboys, trying to keep the team poised. He was rewarded by being named a captain ahead of the Cowboys' Monday night match-up against the Texans.

Deuce Vaughn, RB, Dallas Cowboys

Joining Beebe in Dallas is the shifty back Vaughn, who saw his first carry in a month on Monday.

The second-year pro earned four carries for 13 yards, including a long run of seven while adding a catch for four yards in Dallas' loss.

Felix Anudike-Uzomah, DE, Kansas City Chiefs

Anudike-Uzomah continued his role as a rotational pass-rusher this week, recording a tackle against the Bills. His play against the run this year also helped him get more minutes on the field.

The Chiefs lost to the Bills on Sunday, suffering their first loss of the season.

D.J. Reed, CB, New York Jets

Reed had another good week for the Jets, recording four tackles. The seventh-year pro is a free agent in 2025. Entering the back half of his career, he should still have a lot of teams after him because of his solid play and versatility in the defensive backfield.

Tyler Lockett, WR, Seattle Seahawks

Lockett had two catches for 19 yards this week. Second-year receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba hauled in a big week for the Seahawks this week but Lockett will remain a consistent option in the weeks to come for quarterback Geno Smith. The Seahawks took down the 49ers with a late touchdown.

Dean Wade, PF, Cleveland Cavaliers

Wade continues carving out a nice role as the sixth man for the Cavaliers this season. In a game this week against the Bulls, Wade had five points, three rebounds and three steals, filling out the stat sheet. Wade also recorded the highest plus-minus for the Cavaliers that game.

The Cavs had a historic start to the season, winning their first 15 games before dropping their first one to the Celtics.

Paradise Jam Preview | K-State men look to outmatch overseas opponents in Virgin Islands

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

Kansas State men's basketball voyages to the Virgin Islands for the Paradise Jam in this year's rendition of its holiday non-conference invitational.

With arguably the most talented team in the field after diving head-first into the transfer portal during the offseason, K-State will look to outmatch the six-team field of George Washington University, Illinois State, Liberty, McNeese State and UAB.

Headlined by wing Coleman Hawkins, K-State signed 11 newcomers and returned just three players from last year. Villanova transfer Brendan Hausen shined early, averaging over 15 points a game as a sharpshooting guard.

Fifth-year center David N'Guessan is the only returner with substantial experience playing under head coach Jerome Tang. N'Guessan averaged 16.3 points and 7.7 rebounds through three games.

The roster turnover hasn't been without its bumps and bruises through the early parts of the season.

In K-State's first power conference matchup, LSU walked into Manhattan and left with a 76-65 win. LSU's leading scorer was one of Tang's former players, Cam Carter, who transferred to the Tigers during the offseason. It was a wake-up call for K-State ahead of the Paradise Jam.

"We didn't prepare them for that level of competition and the emotional attachment they would have [with Carter]," Tang said. "That was fully the staff's fault."



Photo by Emily Lenk | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Head coach **Jerome Tang** rallies his team against LSU on Nov. 14. Tang, a former U.S. Virgin Islands resident, embarks on a homecoming in the Paradise Jam tournament.

In the days after the loss, K-State responded and prepared for the island invitational.

"I wasn't embarrassed with our guys," Tang said. "I was embarrassed with myself that I didn't have our guys ready. We've done a better job the last few days."

Another reason K-State should see success at Saint Thomas is an anticipated home-court advantage — at least as large of a turnout as a team can have over 2,500 miles away from campus.

Tang and his assistant coach, Jareem Dowling, both spent time in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands before moving to the continental United States. The duo also spent time coaching for the U.S. Virgin Islands National Teams.

Tang said he expects to have lots of Virgin Islands families, players and staff there to support his squad.

"It's going to be a really cool time," he said. "And I'm excited that [Dowling and I] get to go back and that our guys get to experience some of what we grew up with — and then play some good basketball."

Along with local support, K-State fans are known to take advantage of a holiday trip to paradise, helping the Wildcats in their tournament success.

During Tang's first season at the helm in 2022, when the Wildcats made the Elite Eight and he earned Naismith Coach of the Year honors, K-State won the Cayman Islands Invitational.

K-State tips off tournament play against George Washington at 7 p.m. Friday.

Big 12 Power Rankings | Top teams fall with struggling offenses

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

No. 1 | Colorado 8-2 (6-1)

Colorado continued its dominant display of football with a large win over Utah last week. The star-studded Buffaloes looked like the best team over the entire course of Big 12 play, landing them the No. 1 spot. Colorado is at red-hot Kansas this week, trying to avoid the upset and keep its spot in the Big 12 title game.

No. 2 | BYU 9-1 (6-1)

BYU suffered its first loss of the season at home this week against Kansas. BYU couldn't find anything offensively and a late special teams mistake helped Kansas complete the upset. BYU faces a surging Sun Devils squad this week with huge Big 12 title implications for both teams.

No. 3 | Arizona St. 8-2 (5-2)

Arizona State notched a big win at Kansas State, dominating from the start. Arizona State is a balanced team, posing problems to all opponents. Arizona State looks to keep spoiling the season as it hosts BYU this week, which could decide who goes to Arlington.

No. 4 | Iowa State 8-2 (5-2)

Iowa State bounced back to its pre-skid form with a win at home against Cincinnati. Quarterback Rocco Becht continued his great season with an efficient day as well. The Cyclones travel to Utah in what was projected to be a huge game at the beginning of the season but instead is one the Cyclones should win.

No. 5 | K-State 7-3 (4-3)

K-State had an ugly loss at

home against Arizona State, which shut down the spiraling 'Cats on offense. The Wildcats have now lost two consecutive games as their Big 12 championship hopes seem to have slipped away. K-State has a chance to get back in the win column this week as it faces Cincinnati at home.

No. 6 | Baylor 6-4 (4-3)

Baylor continued its dominant offensive show, putting up 49 points at West Virginia. While the Bears' defense allowed 35 points, it tightened up in the second half, allowing one Mountaineer touchdown after a first-half shootout. Baylor has continued to rise up the rankings as headman Dave Aranda secured his job despite being on the hot seat early.

No. 7 | TCU 6-4 (4-3)

TCU was on bye this week but

has been playing well lately, winning three of its last four. Quarterback Josh Hoover is one of the nation's most prolific passers and the defense has complemented the offense recently. Hosting Arizona this week could allow the Horned Frogs to pick up where they left off.

No. 8 | Texas Tech 6-4 (4-3)

Texas Tech was also on bye this week, but unlike TCU, the Red Raiders have lost three of their last four after a promising Big 12 start. Tech has struggled on defense all year, putting a lot of pressure on its offense. Texas Tech will be at Oklahoma State this week, hoping to get a win.

No. 9 | Kansas 4-6 (3-4)

Kansas, which had a disappointing start to the year, was able to spoil BYU's perfect season with an upset on the road. Kansas

has arguably been the best team in the Big 12 the past two weeks, with wins against Iowa State and now BYU. The Jayhawks have another chance to play spoiler this week as they face conference-leader Colorado.

No. 10 | Cincinnati 5-5 (3-4)

Cincinnati had a tough matchup against Iowa State this past weekend but held close for around three quarters. Sophomore quarterback Brendan Sorsby has been a threat with the pass all year, but used his legs this week to rack up 141 yards on the ground. His dual-threat ability will be a difficult task for defenses in the future.

No. 11 | WVU 5-5 (4-3)

No. 12 | UCF 4-6 (2-5)
No. 13 | Houston 4-6 (3-4)
No. 14 | Arizona 4-6 (2-5)
No. 15 | Utah 4-6 (1-6)
No. 16 | Oklahoma St. 3-7 (0-7)

"POITIER"

CONTINUED FROM B1

After redshirting his freshman year in 2019, he made his Wildcat debut and played in four games during the COVID season in 2020.

Entering his junior year, Poitier suffered his first medical setback with a season-ending knee during fall camp. Then, once again the following season, he would miss the year with an ACL tear during the 2022 season opener.

"TP is the epitome of perseverance," Klieman said. "Having adversity strike two years in a row ... To get back on that field, having the season that he's having, it's a testament to the amount of work he's put in. And he's a tremendous leader."

Despite the setbacks, Poitier has made the most of the journey, earning a Big 12 Championship ring alongside countless memories.

He recalled one of his best memories — also one of his first in Manhattan. As a freshman, Poitier's roommates accidentally left him behind en route to his first early morning workout.

"I walked from Jardine to the facilities at 5 a.m., but it was really cool, because your first time working out, you just see everything, you get a grasp of everything," Poitier said. "It just opens your eyes. I can remember it to this day, just how grateful, how thankful I was, being able to come to this place."

On the field, one of his favorite games was his first start in 2020 alongside former guard Noah Johnson.

"That was one of the few times I really got to play with him because I was hurt that next year," he said. "I cherish that memory, because that was one of my best friends here, the person who's helped me a lot throughout my journey."

Klieman emphasized finishing the season on a high note, overcoming the recent two-game skid, and writing a positive ending to the seniors' journeys.

"These seniors, especially these six-year guys that came in with me when I started, and the fifth-year guys that have been around us for a long time, I want to make sure that those guys have an opportunity to go out well and go out successfully," Klieman said.



Archive photo by Avery Johnson | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Offensive coordinator and offensive line coach **Conor Riley** prepares linemen before the Pop-Tarts Bowl. Riley recruited Poitier at North Dakota State before joining K-State's staff and keeping the in-state prospect home.

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+/- 0

SACKS
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YDS / KICK RETURN
19.3 YDS

QB PASS YDS
2,150 YDS

CINCINNATI

TURNOVER RATIO
-1

SACKS
21

YDS / KICK RETURN
20.1 YDS

QB PASS YDS
2,453 YDS

GAME 11: *Battle to bounce back*

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

K-State (7-3, 4-3)

K-State lost its second straight game and struggled dramatically against Arizona State. In the Wildcats' final home game, they have the chance to return to form.

Quarterback Avery Johnson had trouble in the last two games, throwing two interceptions in each. Johnson hasn't used his fleet feet recently, but could cut it loose Saturday.

Defensive back Jacob Parrish is the 'Cats' top cover corner this season. In the

second half last Saturday, Parrish did his best guarding star receiver Jordyn Tyson, who torched the 'Cats. Look for Parrish to match up with Cincinnati's best receiver if needed this week.

K-State's special teams took a massive step back lately. A rotation of long snappers hasn't been on the same page with holder Simon McClannan, failing to get him clean snaps. The return game has not been up to the usual K-State standard, looking for improvement this week.

Cincinnati (5-5, 3-4)

Cincinnati is led by sophomore quarterback Brendan Sorsby — one of the best passers in the nation. For much of the season Sorsby aired it out, but lately has used his legs more. Last week Sorsby ran for a season-high 141 yards.

Sorsby has a plethora of targets, but his favorite is 6-foot-3 senior Xzavier Henderson, logging 52 receptions for 632

yards and four touchdowns.

Linebacker Jared Bartlett is one of the Big 12's best pass rushers with 7.5 sacks this season. His team-high 55 total tackles suggests he is very capable against the run as well.

Cincinnati can beat teams with the run or the pass with dynamic playmakers across the field. K-State struggles against the pass, so look for the Bearcats to aggressively throw the ball.

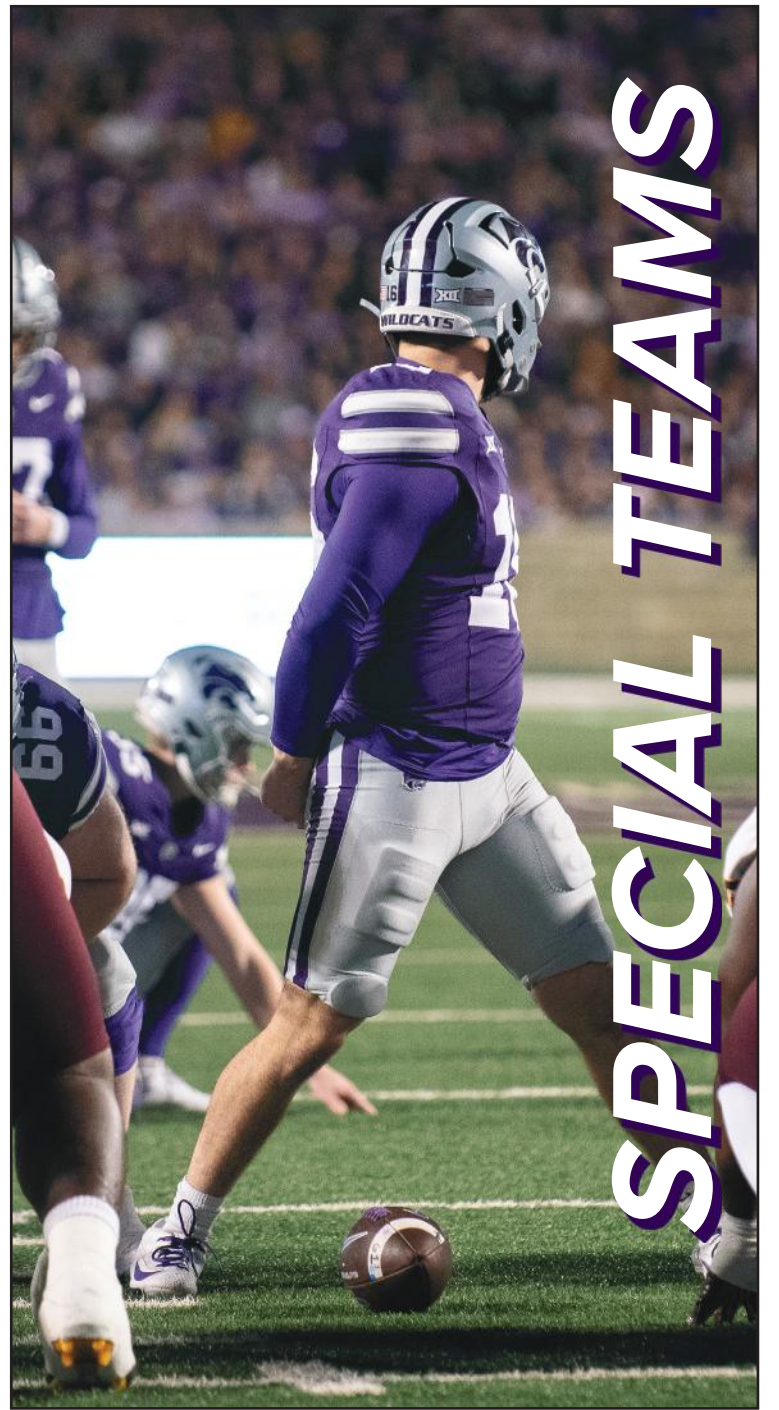
WHO TO WATCH:

K-State: QB Avery Johnson, CB Jacob Parrish, Special Teams

Cincinnati: QB Brendan Sorsby, WR Xzavier Henderson, LB Jared Bartlett

PREDICTION:

21-17 K-STATE



SPECIAL TEAMS

Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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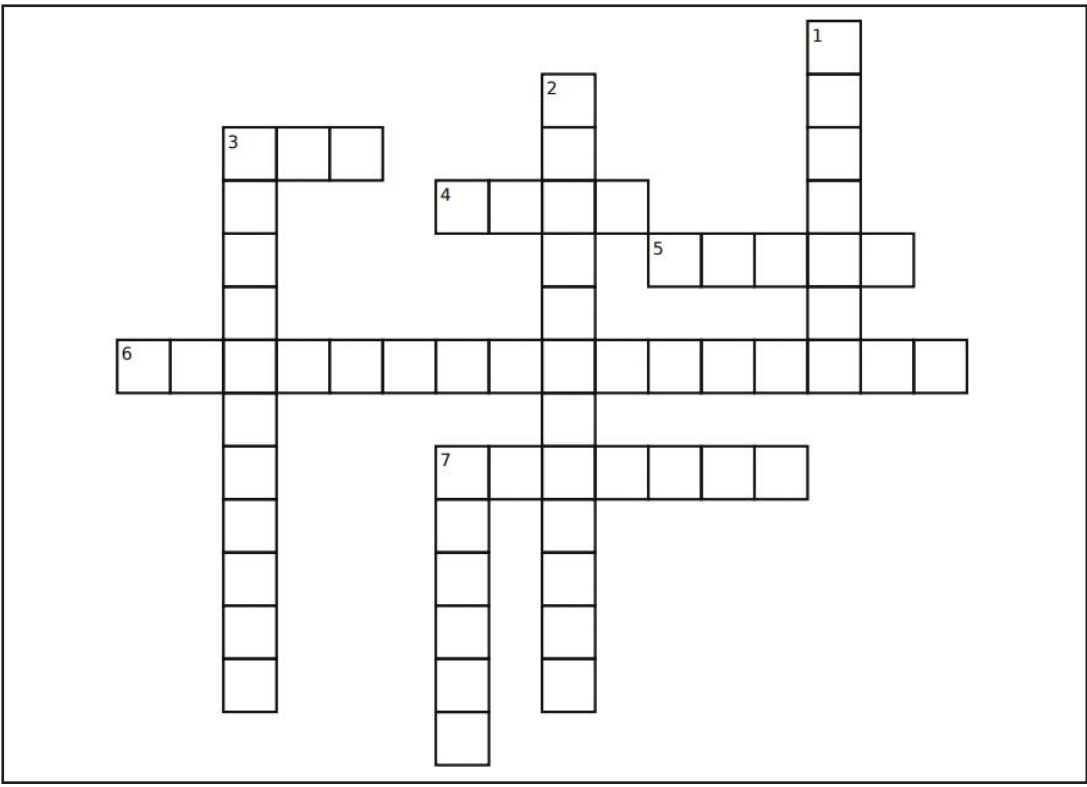
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Illustration by Jacob Bush | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

CROSSWORD



Across

- 3. This Big 12 title favorite lost its perfect season against Kansas.
- 4. The City of Manhattan said no _____ was found in city water lines.
- 5. The Wine, Cheese and _____ Sampler will take place at A&H Farm.
- 6. K-State will play this university first in the Paradise Jam.
- 7. Offensive coordinator Conor Riley previously coached at North Dakota State with Chris _____.

Down

- 1. Curtis Yonke was inspired by his grandfather, pro golfer Jim _____.
- 2. This week editors choose their favorite _____ tradition.
- 3. Offensive lineman Taylor Poitier is a graduate of this high school, along with former K-State collegian sports editor Luke Lazarczyk.
- 7. Zoe Schumacher found a donor for her _____ transplant.

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