

THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

HISTORY MADE

Women's golf earns first national championship berth



K-State women's golfers flash the "Go 'Cats" hand sign after clinching the program's first trip to the NCAA Championships on Wednesday at the Lexington Regional, hosted by Keene Trace Golf Club.

THE COLLEGIAN
staff reports

For the first time in program history, Kansas State women's golf will play in the NCAA Championship as the No. 5-seeded Wildcats tied for second place at the 2025 NCAA Lexington Regional.

"Moments like this are why we do all the work," head coach Stew Burke said to K-State Athletics. "It was a pleasure to be out there today with them. They were composed, confident, and determined. Nobody was going to give it to us, so we just had to go out there and take it."

K-State was led by senior Carla Bernat, who claimed the individual leaderboard title at the par-72, 6,095-yard Keene Trace Golf Club. She led the field by going 9-under par on the par 5s, including the rare feat of an albatross on Wednesday, scoring a two on a par 5.

Bernat's winning tally was fueled by a final-round score of 6-under par 66, which tied for the sixth-lowest round in school history. Ranked No. 22 in the World Amateur Golf Rankings, she earned a two-shot victory over the No. 1 and 2 players in the WAGR, Florida State's Mirabel Ting and Lottie Woad.

"Carla really had a great tournament and built well into the week," Burke said. "Winning a regional against the No. 1 and 2 players not just in the country but the world is no easy feat. It was special to see her albatross at hole 5, and it came right when we needed it as a team. To win once in college golf is an unbelievable achievement, but eight times is truly remarkable. She has

a bright future ahead of her after college, but let's first try and add to that total in California."

Bernat – the 2024-25 Big 12 Player of the Year and Augusta National Women's Amateur Champion – earned her third victory this season and fifth as a Wildcat, ranking second in school history. She has eight in her collegiate career after picking up three wins at Tulane prior to transferring to K-State alongside Burke.

The Wildcats, who entered play on Wednesday in third place and just six shots clear of the cutline, turned in the round of the day at 10-under par 278, which tied for the eighth-lowest round in program history.

K-State finished with a three-round total of 10-under par 854, the

sixth-lowest 54-hole score in school history and 12 shots clear of the cutline.

"The team was excellent with everyone contributing this week," Burke said.

"Moments like this are why we do all the work."

Stew Burke
Head coach



SEE PAGE B3
"NCAA"



Senior Carla Bernat laughs with her teammates after being showered by water bottles in celebration of her individual leaderboard win at the NCAA's Lexington Regional.

Manhattan man released on \$10,000 bond after alleged stabbing



Illustration by Ashly Sites
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

JENNA FISCUS
staff writer

Twenty-one-year-old Manhattan resident Olsen Talalele Jr. was arrested April 28 at 8:08 p.m. following the alleged stabbing of his 17-year-old sister and a 39-year-old woman on the 3000 block of James Avenue, according to a Riley County Police Department news release.

Talalele Jr. reportedly armed himself with a knife and recklessly stabbed his sister in the leg, as well as injuring another woman and damaging a door on the property.

Talalele was held on a \$10,000 bond after being charged with aggravated battery, aggravated endangerment of a child and criminal damage to property. He was released from confinement on April 29.

K-State Hosts Annual "Move Out for Hunger" Drive to Support Students in Need

JAKOB TWIGG
website manager

Cardboard donation boxes line the front desks of residence halls as Kansas State University prepares its annual "Move Out for Hunger" drive from May 12–17.

The initiative encourages students to donate unopened, non-perishable food, unused hygiene items and gently used kitchen supplies rather than discard them during move-out week.

Shelly Williams, Morrison Family Director of Cats' Cupboard, said the drive is not just for reducing food waste, but for meeting student needs year-round.

"This really just is an easy, convenient and all-around helpful opportunity for [students] to donate instead of throwing those items away," Williams said. "Certainly, when students see those types of items available at Cats' Cupboard, they get really excited because we don't always have them available, and the timing is just right as we're going into fall semester."

Donation bins are located in all residence hall lobbies, as well as in the Derby Dining Center classroom and Kramer's Meadowlark Classroom.

SEE PAGE A2
"DRIVE"

| WEEKLY CALENDAR | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|----|---|----|------------------------------|
| 9 | BlackHawk — RC McGraw's Bar and Grill | 9 | Footloose — Wareham Hall | 10 | K.O. In the Park — City Park |
| 10 | Little Apple Kids Fest — Blue Earth Plaza | 10 | Springtime in Paris — The Museum of Art + Light | 11 | Iris Day — K-State Gardens |

A New Frontier | K-State pursues extensive agricultural development



Photo courtesy of Kansas State Construction of the Bilbrey Family Event Center is underway. The building is expected to complete construction in September.

COLE BERTELSEN
editor-in-chief

Kansas State agriculture is in an era of major transitions, spearheaded by the Agricultural Innovation Initiative. A \$220 million project, the plan will add new facilities, renovate current buildings and improve technology and equipment necessary for students and research.

By 2026, K-State will complete the construction of three new buildings: the Bilbrey Family Event Center, Agronomy Research and Innovation Center and Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation.

In just four months, the university secured more than

\$80 million from private and corporate donors. This fundraising effort was complemented by a \$25 million challenge grant from the Kansas legislature, along with an additional \$25 million from an initial legislative appropriation.

Weber Arena was demolished in April 2024, and the Bilbrey event center will replace it as K-State’s rodeo arena. The dean of K-State’s college of agriculture, Ernie Minton, said the replacement of older buildings on campus with those constructed through the innovation initiative is warranted.

“Many of those campuses have buildings that were built in the 1950s and ‘60s,

so they are aging out,” Minton said.

Renovations to Weber Hall are underway, and the Call Hall Dairy Bar will close its doors May 17 to relocate to the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation.

Bilbrey Family Event Center

Rodeo team head coach Casy Winn said the new center will mark a dramatic improvement for the rodeo team’s facilities.

“We’ve worked with some professionals, people that have done it a lot to make sure it’s a really good setup,” he said. “As far as moving stock around, we’ll have lots of pins for that, and not having to go, like all the students camped here and then had to drive to CiCo park, or they camped here and they had to go to Weber. Once that building’s here, they’ll be able to camp here, and the rodeo will be here, so you don’t have to have riding and driving back and forth between two arenas. So that’ll be huge, as far as you know, safer, better for the contestants.”

According to K-State’s website, features of the new building will include:

- 130 feet by 250 feet arena with bleacher seating for 3,000 people

- Stock pens with bucking chutes and roping boxes
 - Enclosed 80 feet by 80 feet staging area
 - Covered wash area for horses and cattle, as well as 10 small livestock wash pens
 - Manager’s office, meeting room, restrooms with showers and a security/first aid room
 - An open lobby that features concessions and beverage sales
 - Second-floor VIP area with windows overlooking the arena and staging area
- Mike Day, K-State department head of Animal Sciences and Industry, said in a promotional video that the event center will round out the “animal science gateway campus.”
- “[People will] really appreciate coming out there and not having to deal with campus parking,” Day said.

Agronomy Research and Innovation Center

Expected to complete construction this year, the agronomy center is located at the north end of K-State’s campus across from Bill Snyder Family Stadium, in an area named the Agronomy North Farm.

K-State agronomy department head Raj Khosla said in a statement for the construction’s groundbreaking that the new

facility will provide critical infrastructure which will lead to success in research, teaching and extension missions.

“In the last 10 years alone, the Department of Agronomy has conducted more than \$50 million of research that is initiated right here at the Agronomy North Farm,” Khosla said. “The new Agronomy Research and Innovation Center will bring research teams together from around campus to create new discoveries and solutions that will address the wicked challenges we are facing in agriculture today, and the ones that will come in the future.”

Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation

With construction expected to conclude in 2026, the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation will connect the Weber Hall and Call Hall buildings, as well as housing the Call Hall Dairy Bar.

The new facility is intended as a hub for research collaboration within the university and beyond. K-State will allocate 30% of its space for on-site collaboration between public resources and private enterprises, planning to foster an “interdisciplinary environment for effective problem-solving.”

"DRIVE"
CONTINUED FROM A1

Assistant coordinator for departmental initiatives Chipo Kambarami said the two dining hall locations were selected to help make pickup coordination easier among resident hall staff and Cats’ Cupboard.

“[It’s] a little bit more accommodating for our staff, and also so that it’s more centralized for Cats’ Cupboard to go pick up the donations that we will have; they’re going to have two centralized locations here on campus,” Kambarami said. “They’re really trying their best with advertising it and making sure that it’s clear that this is an option for stu-

dents. We’re hoping that this just gets a little bit more engagement because we don’t want the kids throwing things away — especially if it can be donated.”

Williams said the event is facilitated by Cats’ Cupboard Ambassadors, a team of student volunteers who lead campus food security initiatives.

“[They are] a group of very engaged, very passionate students that assist with multiple things, all Cats’ Cupboard related,” Williams said.

Hilary Tallman, a senior in life sciences and president of Cats’ Cupboard Ambassadors, said this year’s drive includes a food collection competition among campus Greek organizations to increase donations.

“Essentially, we just partner

with the residence halls during the week of finals when people are finishing up and moving out,” Tallman said. “We also partner with the sororities and fraternities, and we’ve made a competition this year, so we’re hoping that we’ll get a little bit more from them than we did last year, which should be fun.”

Williams, who has a background in food recovery and waste reduction, said this initiative is an item of particular interest to her.

“This project is really actually quite near and dear to my heart because it helps in two different ways,” Williams said. “Not only does it elevate food security on campus for K-Staters, but it also provides that opportunity for them to

donate products that would otherwise potentially be wasted and reduces that impact. I don’t like to see things go to waste that still have plenty of life in them.”

Volunteers are needed to

help collect and sort donations throughout the week. Students interested in volunteering can find more details at the Cats’ Cupboard website or sign up using the QR code on flyers around campus.



Archive photo by Kelsey Chellberg | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP Cats’ Cupboard provides free food and hygiene products for Kansas State students. Cats Cupboard is located on Denison Avenue.

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Spotlight | Sweet Pieces by Natalie

JUSTIN SHOEMAKER
staff writer

Natalie McCosh is not only a senior here at Kansas State but also the proud owner and baker of “Sweet Pieces by Natalie,” a custom buttercream cookie business. She sets up her booth at farmers markets, craft shows and more — even taking custom orders for events like graduation. However, baking has a low barrier to entry, making it a challenging market to stand out in. With so much competition, how does Sweet Pieces find success? According to Natalie, the buttercream is what makes all the difference.

“Traditional bakers these days use royal icing — I’ve always loved the traditional buttercream, and have made all my own recipes,” McCosh, senior in entrepreneurship, said.

She attributes it to her branding, her way to stand apart from the crowd.

“My design looks the same — you can scroll through cookie pictures and pick out which ones are mine, and I take pride in that,” she said.

As an entrepreneurship major, Natalie is no stranger to the inner workings of a business. This venture, however, started long before her time here as a business student.

“I’ve been baking since I could sit up,” McCosh said. “I started pawning off cake pops in my fourth-grade class. Two years later, I graduated into cupcakes and into sugar cookies, so I count 2016 as my starting mark.”

Her brand slogan, “Spoiling Meals Since 2016,” echoes this history, which further helps her stand out in a crowded market.

McCosh’s transition from a rural high school to K-State proved to be beneficial not only for her education but also for her business. She

said Sweet Pieces helped her with her grades and putting her knowledge “into practice in real-time,” using K-State resources to her advantage.

“The K-State accelerator program really helped me,” she said. “They basically pay you to run your business.”

Her time in entrepreneurship has done more than just grow her company. It’s given her opportunities personally and allowed her to thrive.

“I participated in a pitch competition my

freshman year, and I placed in the top five,” McCosh said. “It was an inspiration to me. I can do this, I’m not just some small-town baker who came to K-State.”

Now, McCosh is the president of the Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization at K-State. As for the future, she said she is going to continue her business.

“I think it’s a part of me at this point,” McCosh said. “I have no idea what I’d do with myself. ... Manhattan is a pretty tough market to be in. If I can capture this market, I can capture customers wherever I go.”

While she has a wide-eyed vision for the future, she hasn’t forgotten where she came from.

“Hopefully, I could start an incubator kitchen. A space I could rent out to other small-town bakers, to help them grow as well,” McCosh said.

While some students can

be hesitant to stand out and share their passions, McCosh encourages students to find their own path and celebrate their accomplishments.

“You are your own differentiation factor,” she said. “You’re different. And don’t worry about competition too much, it keeps you sharp.”

McCosh’s advice to students when considering a business is simple:

“Just go for it. You’re in college. You don’t have much to lose.”

Those interested can find and order Sweet Pieces by Natalie at sweetpiecesbynatalie.com, and check out her previous work at [@sweet_pieces_by_natalie](https://www.instagram.com/pieces_by_natalie) on Instagram.



Photo courtesy of Natalie McCosh

Natalie McCosh presents her custom buttercream cookies she makes from scratch. She uses her entrepreneurship knowledge to enhance her business to stand out from the crowded market.

Preparing Financially for Future Emergencies Building Resilience and Readiness

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In an unpredictable world, financial emergencies can arise at any moment, whether due to unexpected medical expenses, job loss, or natural disasters. Building financial resilience is not just about having a safety net; it’s about cultivating habits and strategies that help ensure stability and peace of mind in the face of uncertainty.



Embracing this thought process early on while still in college can better prepare you with managing your funds once you start a career.

Here are some practical tips to help you prepare financially for future emergencies, empowering you to navigate life’s challenges in the future with confidence:

1. Create an Emergency Fund: Start by saving leftover money each month, gradually

building up to cover three to six months’ worth of living expenses. You can set up automatic transfers from your checking to your savings account to ensure consistent contributions without having to think about it. By storing your emergency fund in a high-yield savings account or money market account, it can earn interest yet still remain easily accessible.

2. Budget Wisely: Use budgeting apps or spreadsheets to monitor your expenses and identify areas where you can potentially cut back. Also be sure to prioritize needs over wants by focusing on essential expenses and reduce discretionary spending to help free up more money for savings. Revisit your budget periodically to accommodate changes in income or expenses and ensure you’re on track.

3. Manage Debt Effectively: Focus on paying off high-interest debt, such as credit card balances, and explore options to consolidate or refinance loans at lower interest rates to save money and simplify payments. Be cautious about taking on new debt, especially for non-essential purchases, to maintain financial flexibility.

4. Protect Your Assets: Ensure you have adequate health, home, auto, and life insurance to protect against unexpected expenses and keep important financial documents, such as wills and insurance policies, in a secure location.

5. Plan for the Long Term: Contribute regularly

to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or IRA, to help secure your financial future and consult with a J.P. Morgan advisor to develop a comprehensive financial plan tailored to your needs.

Adjusting to a budget takes time, as it’s about finding the right balance between spending and saving. By implementing these tips, you can help build a solid foundation to withstand future emergencies and enhance your financial security. Regularly reviewing your budget against your actual expenses allows you to refine and optimize your financial strategy. Remember, being financially smart will be beneficial if you start it early on.

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Photo courtesy of JPMorganChase

The Return of Tron | A legacy of CGI masterpieces to return to theaters

COLE BERTELSEN
editor-in-chi

A pioneer in cinematic visuals spanning over four decades, the “Tron” franchise will return to theaters this fall. With such an impactful sci-fi franchise soon back in the sights of popular culture for the first time since 2010, here’s a look back at the first two installments in this soon-to-be trilogy with the release of “Tron: Ares.”

“Tron” (1982)

One of the first films to prominently feature computer-generated imagery, “Tron” depicted an online world in a groundbreaking way. On a mission to uncover wrongdoing by his former employer, computer programmer Kevin Flynn is unintentionally sucked into a digital frontier known as the Grid, where information flows on highways and programs are given physical form. With the help of a security program named

Tron, Flynn worked to defy the authoritarian Master Control Program and return home, preventing destruction of both the Grid and the physical world. While this film shows its age in many of the visuals, its aesthetic perfectly captures early-era computer graphics, which ironically makes the simplified CGI more immersive given the world Flynn is in. CGI was very much in its infancy when “Tron” was made. Knowing the effort and innovation the animators and editors of this film went through to produce this look makes me appreciate “Tron” that much more. For example, the glow of the characters’ suits in the Grid was accomplished by painstakingly painting the light

onto each individual frame manually. With a unique visual style and engaging plot, “Tron” is still an appealing film choice today, and adds to my appreciation of its sequel.

“Tron: Legacy” (2010)

Moviegoers currently find themselves in an era of constant unnecessary sequels, but this film takes advantage of its premise and establishes itself as a more-than-worthy successor to the original.

Computer technology advanced significantly since the release of “Tron,” leading to the question of how its sequel would

portray its new version of the Grid. Gone are the simplistic shapes, vehicles and suits of the first film. Now sweeping scenery of the harsh world of the Grid and sleek costumes dazzle audiences, providing a level of spectacle “Tron” lacked. The gladiatorial combat featured in the first film is elevated into well-choreographed fight scenes — hand-to-hand, aboard lightcycles and fighter jets — that you can’t look away from. The aesthetic of “Tron: Legacy” was especially ingrained in my mind ever since I saw it when I was young. The only visual that doesn’t age particularly well is the de-aging of Jeff Bridges in the role of Flynn. However, the same

uncanny-valley effect feels narratively appropriate when the same look applies to Flynn’s evil computer program duplicate, who Flynn’s son clashes with in the upgraded Grid. While a vaguely generic protagonist, Flynn’s son is easy to project onto, further immersing the viewer in this dazzling and mysterious online world. The soundtrack is equally impactful with a score by the electronic music team of Daft Punk, capturing the epic scale of the film. While the group isn’t returning for “Ares,” that film’s music is composed by Nine Inch Nails, so an equally-memorable experience can hopefully be expected.

Given the stacked cast of “Ares,” the film has a great deal of potential, but I expect that for me nothing will compare to my 2010 self’s experience watching “Tron: Legacy.”

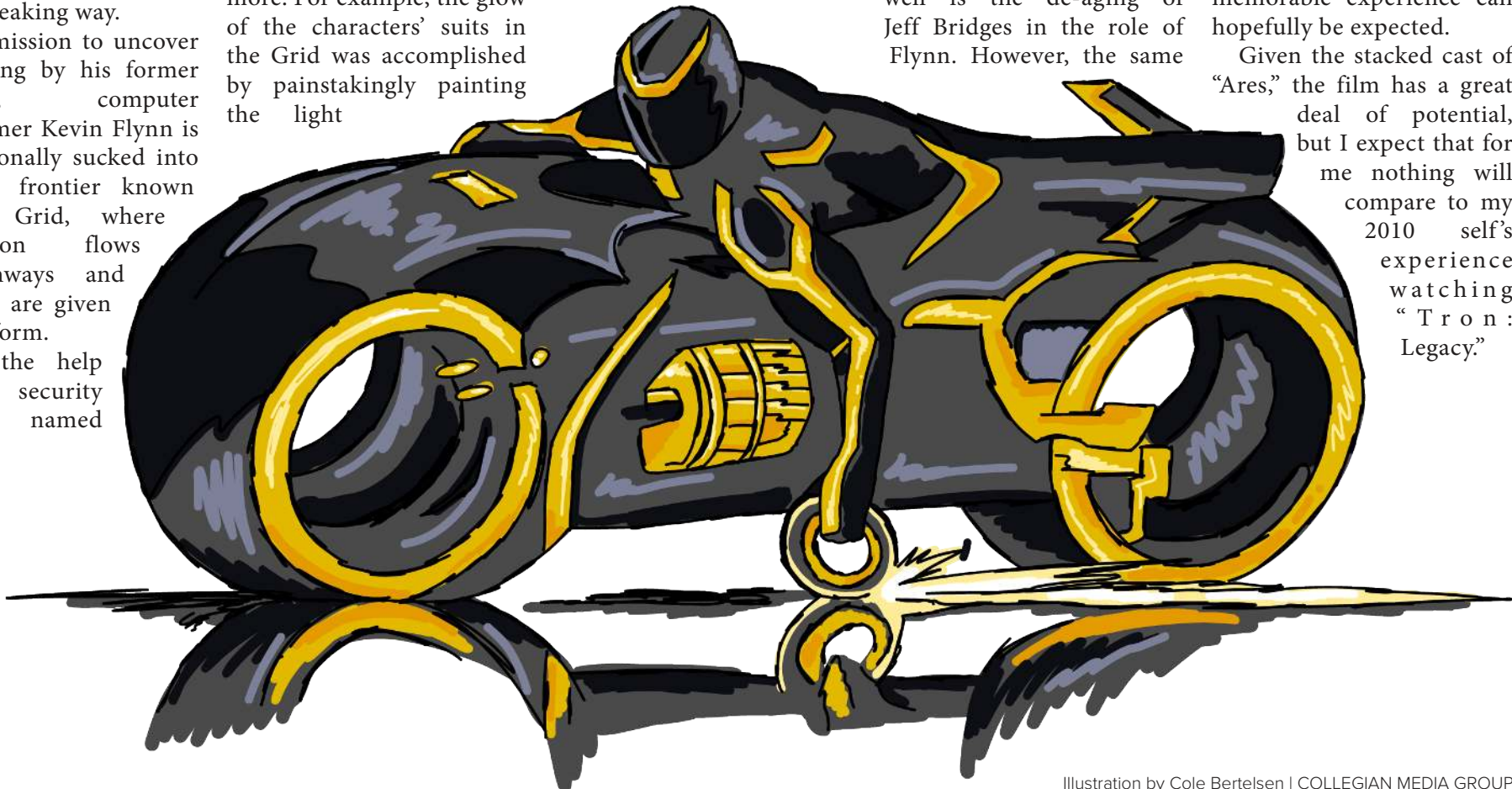


Illustration by Cole Bertelsen | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Editors’ Picks | Songs of Summer

THE COLLEGIAN

“Southern Nights” by Glen Campbell | Grace Parks

I think my song of the summer will be “Southern Nights” by Glen Campbell. Being the last summer before I graduate from college, I want this summer to feel lively and free. It is hard to pick a tone for the summer because you never know what will happen, but I think the upbeat tempo and vibrant spirit of “Southern Nights” is a great starting point to kick off the summer.

“Chicken Fried” by Zac Brown Band | Toby Hammes

One of my songs of summer has to be “Chicken Fried” by Zac Brown Band. It fits perfectly with warm summer days and good company. It brings me back to family lake trips and slow evenings where time doesn’t matter. Other Zac Brown Band tracks like “Toes” and “Knee Deep” pair with it perfectly as staples of a summertime playlist.

“Lose My Mind” by Don Toliver featuring Doja Cat | Libby Zuck

This new song has already been on repeat, so I am sure it’ll carry over to the warm summer days. With the windows rolled down and the speakers blasting, this upbeat

song always gets me in the right mood. Plus, who doesn’t love a Doja Cat feature?

“Vanilla” by Frawley | Haley Smith

I recently discovered Frawley through her song “Vanilla.” I have been listening to this song non-stop since it came out in April, and I will continue listening into the summer. This song is a testament to not being around boring people. Summer is all about having fun and enjoying the freedom of not being in class.

“Forget It” by Blood Orange | Meredith McCalmon

“Forget It” by Blood

Orange has a distinct summery feel, complete with mellow guitar riffs and smooth synth that embodies a warm breeze through an open sunroof. Dev Hynes’ airy vocals float over the groovy instrumentals, perfectly encapsulating a laid-back summer haze. This song is the first one in my summer playlist.

“I’m Every Woman” by Chaka Khan | Lilly Crist

I keep coming back to this song. The bass, the strong vocals and the overall groove are so funky. I can’t wait to drive around with my windows down while blasting this song.

“Heartache On The Dancefloor” by Jon Pardi | Greta Klein

This is a summer must-have on my summer playlist. This song has the vibe, beat

and is perfect for those late-night drives. It’s just a great sing-along song when you need it, especially for the summer time.

“Butterflies” by Fiji Blue | Kyra Case

As with all of the songs I pull from my single playlist to recommend to others, I really enjoy the lighthearted lyrics and the soft beat. This song is like a cool breeze on a sunny day — a soft love song that literally gives you butterflies.

“Green Light” by Lorde | Emma Lazarczyk

My must-play summer song is “Green Light” by Lorde. This song is the perfect embodiment of the feeling of the freedom of summer. The upbeat tempo is perfect for screaming in the car with your friends. Just listen to it — you’ll understand.

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Year in Review | Top 10 K-State sports moments from 2024-25 school year



K-State students bring the magic doom during free throws of the women's game against Baylor in Bramlage Coliseum on Feb. 25. The Wildcats fell, 79-62. The Wildcats later advanced to their first Sweet 16 for the first time since 2002.

TOBY HAMMES sports editor

From buzzer-beaters to bowl victories, the 2024-25 school year delivered no shortage of unforgettable moments for Kansas State athletics.

Across every season, Wildcat fans were treated to rivalry wins, emotional milestones and historic performances that left a lasting mark on the program's history. Here's a look back at the top 10 moments that defined K-State sports this year.

1. WBB Sweet 16 berth

For the first time since 2002, the No. 5-seeded K-State women earned a spot in the Sweet 16 after downing No. 4 seed Kentucky 80-79 in an overtime classic in Lexington, Kentucky. The Wildcats were led by a dominant perimeter shooting performance from senior transfer forward Temira Poindexter, who drilled eight 3-pointers in the contest to score a game-high 24 points. One of the key storylines from the program-changing win, however, flew under the radar as senior Serena

Sundell 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." Sundell scored 19 points with 14 assists, including the game-tying shot to send the Wildcats into overtime. In her second game back from a foot injury, fellow star senior Ayoka Lee scored 16 points on 8-18 shooting with nine rebounds and two blocks. While the Wildcats fell in the ensuing matchup with No. 1 seed USC, the

feat of making the second weekend was the proper send-off for the Wildcats' super core of seniors and highlighted K-State sports this year.

2. Bernat wins at Augusta National

Senior Carla Bernat took home the prestigious Augusta National Women's Amateur title in April. Not only did Bernat hoist a trophy at arguably the most prestigious golf course in the world, but she set a handful of historic marks and program firsts.

SEE PAGE B3 "REVIEW"

Wildcats in the Pros Lockett finds new home



Archive photo by Tommy Theis | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP Wide receiver Tyler Lockett breaks free from the pack up the sideline for a 57 yard run at Boone Pickens Stadium on Nov. 5, 2011 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. No. 14 K-State fell to No. 3 Oklahoma State 52-45.

BRAYDEN MESEKE staff writer

Former Wildcats are leaving their mark across the sports world. Here's a look at how some of them are faring in their latest chapters.

Dean Wade, F, Cleveland Cavaliers

Wade played in 59 games and made 30 starts this season for the Cleveland Cavaliers, the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. Wade averaged 5.4 points per game, but his biggest impact comes on defense, where he can guard every position at a high level. Wade is in his sixth NBA season, all with the Cavaliers. Cleveland faces the Indiana Pacers in the second round of the playoffs as it pursues a Finals run.

Tyler Lockett, WR, Tennessee Titans

Lockett signed a one-year, \$4 million contract with the Tennessee Titans. Lockett spent 10 seasons in Seattle before being released this offseason. Lockett will be a valuable veteran presence for Tennessee's young receiver room and a reliable target for rookie quarterback and No. 1 overall pick Cam Ward. At age 33, Lockett may not post the numbers he once did, but his ability to find open space will benefit the Titans' offense.

Kaelen Culpepper, SS, Minnesota Twins

Culpepper is in his first full season of professional baseball, playing for the Cedar Rapids Kernels, the High-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins. Culpepper is the Twins' No. 4-ranked prospect and has started to turn heads this spring with his play. In 15 games, Culpepper is hitting .345 with two home runs, two doubles and a triple. He has struck out just eight times, showing strong discipline and bat-to-ball skills at the plate. A promotion could be in store soon if he keeps it up.

Tyson Neighbors, RP, San Diego Padres

Neighbors is also in his first full professional season, playing for the Fort Wayne TinCaps, the High-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres. Neighbors is the No. 15-ranked prospect in the Padres' system and has climbed the rankings thanks to his strong pitching since entering pro ball.

SEE PAGE B3 "PROS"

Men's golf prepares for 2025 NCAA Regionals



K-State men's golf celebrates its regional destination selection at the Smarock Zone on April 30. The No. 10-seeded Wildcats will compete against a field of 14 teams in the Bremerton Regional.

TOBY HAMMES sports editor

For the third time in the last four seasons, Kansas State men's golf earned a postseason bid to the NCAA Regionals, the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Selection Committee announced last week. The No. 10-seeded Wildcats will compete against a field of 14 teams in the Bremerton, Washington regional. It is the first time the Wildcats have earned a regional bid at least three times in a four-year stretch since being selected in 2006, 2008 and 2009. "It's definitely a goal of ours to be a team that is consistently in regionals, and we've gotten to

the point now where we have made it three out of four years," head coach Grant Robbins said. "We've been in discussion for six years in a row now, either making a regional or being one of the first two or three teams out. We have gotten to that point consistently, and now it's time to take that next step." The Wildcats have been led this season by a trio of seniors in Nicklaus Mason, Kobe Valociek and Cooper Schultz. Mason's scoring average this season sits at 71.68 to rank eighth in school history, while Valociek is second on the team at 72.32 and Schultz is third at 72.58. The Wildcats are joined by four other Big 12 teams at the

Bremerton Regional in No. 1 seed Arizona State, No. 3 Utah, No. 6 Colorado and No. 8 Kansas. But facing a handful of familiar faces, highlighted by rival Kansas, isn't necessarily the focus, even for the Shawnee, Kansas native, Mason. "I'm good buddies with a lot of guys on [KU's] team," Mason said. "Our main focus is to go out and do what we do, whatever teams are there, we're gonna try to perform." The top five teams at the NCAA Bremerton Regional and the top individual on a non-advancing team will move on to the NCAA Championship. K-State's last appearance in the NCAA Regional was nearly the

first time the Wildcats qualified for the NCAA Championship, finishing in sixth place, just one spot shy of qualifying, in 2023. "We're just excited," Robbins said. "You just can't ever take it for granted. It's really hard to make the NCAA tournament, and there are so many good teams and so much competition out there." Schultz will be playing in his third-straight NCAA Regional after competing for the Wildcats in 2023 and advancing as an individual a year ago. The Andover, Kansas, product tied for 30th place in the 2024 NCAA Austin Regional. "We've got to have four solid guys, four solid scores to have a chance to make the national championship," Schultz said. "That is the only goal. We're all trying to make the national championship, and every team there is too." Mason will compete in his third postseason action as well. He tied for 32nd, and the Wildcats placed ninth in the 2022 NCAA Norman Regional. In 2023, he tied for 43rd place. "[Qualifying as a team] was the No. 1 goal," Mason said. "It's not fun when you're back at home the second week of May and don't do anything." K-State will compete at Gold Mountain Golf Club in Bremerton, Washington, May 12-14, looking to earn the program's first team trip to the national championship.

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

K-State baseball takes on nationally ranked WVU in final home series

| BY THE NUMBERS |
|---|
| K-STATE |
| OBP .384 9th in Big 12 |
| ERA 5.50 11th in Big 12 |
| HOME RECORD 16-2 1st in Big 12 |
| WVU |
| OBP .405 4th in Big 12 |
| ERA 3.77 1st in Big 12 |
| AWAY RECORD 22-3 1st in Big 12 |

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

K-State (28-20, 14-10)

The Wildcats earned a key road series win over BYU, which should help them stay in the mix for the NCAA Tournament. This weekend against West Virginia, K-State has a chance to further strengthen its resume, as WVU is ranked No. 12 according to D1Baseball.

Shortstop Maximus Martin had a strong series against BYU and flashed

some of the power he showed earlier in the season. Martin, with 14 home runs, is just two shy of tying the K-State single-season record of 16.

Left-handed starter Michael Quevedo went six innings and recorded 10 strikeouts in his last outing. Quevedo has served as the Game 2 starter for most of the year and has been steady in that role, posting a 6-1 record and a 5.27 ERA in 12 appearances.

WVU (39-8, 18-4)

West Virginia holds a two-game lead in the Big 12 standings and will look to preserve it this weekend. K-State has been strong at home, but West Virginia has been even better on the road. Something will have to give in this high-stakes series in Manhattan.

Infielder Kyle West has been a standout for West Virginia, hitting .321 with a .480 on-base percentage. The Mountaineers aren't a power-heavy team, but

West leads the way with seven home runs, showing a blend of contact, power and plate discipline.

Left-handed pitcher Griffin Kirn is West Virginia's top starter and presents a tough challenge for K-State's hitters. Kirn holds a 3.59 ERA in 12 starts and has struck out 70 batters in 62 2/3 innings. WVU's rotation has been a key strength, complementing its high-scoring offense with Kirn anchoring the group.



Photo by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

FRI-SUN @ TOINTON
WATCH LIVE ON ESPN+

WHO TO WATCH:
K-STATE: SS Maximus Martin, LHP Michael Quevedo
WVU: INF Kyle West, LHP Griffin Kirn

SERIES PREDICTION:
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"REVIEW"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Her three consecutive days of 4-under par for a final score of 12-under allowed her to become the first player to score in the 60s in all three days of the event. As the winner, she was the first Spaniard to win the Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship and the first Wildcat.

A transfer from Tulane who followed head coach Stew Burke, Bernat has helped redefine the Wildcats' program in just two years. Her win at Augusta will live in K-State and worldwide golf history forever.

3. Sophomores star in Rate Bowl win

K-State football dramatically completed a 17-point comeback to beat Rutgers 44-41 in the 2024 Rate Bowl in December. The fearless fight offered promise for the future of the football program, as a handful of rising juniors starred in Phoenix.

Running back Dylan Edwards, taking the reins of the running game for NFL

draftee DJ Giddens, sprinted for the game-winning touchdown with four minutes remaining. The sophomore collected 196 rushing yards and three total touchdowns, earning offensive MVP honors in his debut as a starter.

The Wildcats' sophomore slinger, Avery Johnson, put the finishing touches on an impressive debut season as the starting quarterback. With three passing touchdowns against Rutgers, he passed Will Howard (2023) and Ell Roberson (2003) for most touchdown passes in a season at K-State, with 25 passing touchdowns.

4. FB wins 16th straight Sunflower Showdown

K-State extended its winning streak over rival Kansas to 16 consecutive games on Oct. 27, winning 29-27 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

With a fourth-quarter lead for the second straight year, Kansas appeared to finally snap its losing streak in the Sunflower Showdown. However, Jayhawk

quarterback Jalon Daniels, who had struggled to protect the football all season, gave the Wildcats the chance they needed with his second turnover of the game.

Sophomore linebacker Austin Romaine forced a fumble on Daniels with 3:44 left on the clock, stopping Kansas from having a chance to put the game away. With 1:47 left on the clock, Chris Tennant stepped up and tied his career-long field goal to give K-State its 29-27 lead and eventually the win.

5. MBB's six-game win streak

While a second-straight season missing the NCAA Tournament won't go down as a fond year for men's basketball, its six-game win streak in February rejuvenated a previously lackluster season.

The Wildcats extended the streak with two ranked wins in four days, starting with head coach Jerome Tang's third win over rival Kansas at Bramlage in as many years at the helm. Then, against No. 13 Arizona, K-State outlasted the opposing Wildcats for a 73-70 win.

Against KU, former K-State star Michael Beasley was back in Manhattan for the Sunflower Showdown as the Wildcats took down rival No. 16 Kansas 81-73.

The six-game winning streak is the second-longest of Tang's tenure and the longest since a nine-game winning streak from Dec. 3, 2022, to Jan. 10, 2023, in his first year.

6. Women's golf secures first NCAA Championship berth

7. Lee becomes all-time leading scorer

8. Sundell leads WBB over TCU

9. Baseball historic season start

10. Giddens bullies Buffs at Boulder

Honorable mention

Sophie Bert wins Big 12 title
New T&F assistant Tara Davis-Woodhall wins Olympic gold
Camden Beebe announces medical retirement
Parrish, Giddens, and Sigle drafted to the NFL
Sundell, Poindexter move to WNBA, Lee retires from basketball
Aliyah Carter starts pro career in France
Colleen Corbin named 2nd soccer coach

"PROS"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Neighbors has appeared in nine games with a 0.77 ERA and two saves. In just 11 2/3 innings, he has struck out 22 batters, showcasing the same strikeout stuff K-State fans remember from last season.

He features a dominant fastball paired

with a sharp curveball and slider, making it tough on hitters. Like Culpepper, a promotion could be on the horizon.

Nick Martini, OF, Colorado Rockies

Martini is in his sixth MLB season and joined a new team this year, signing with the Colorado Rockies after previously playing for the Cincinnati Reds.

Martini has played in 28 games for

the Rockies, hitting .242 with a .324 on-base percentage.

He's built a solid MLB career with decent power and low strikeout numbers, making him a tough out. With the Rockies off to a slow start, Martini should continue seeing playing time as one of their more consistent hitters.

Serena Sundell, PG, Seattle Storm

Sundell played in her first

professional basketball game on Sunday, May 4, in a preseason matchup against the Connecticut Sun. She was drafted in April by the Seattle Storm in the third round and now has a chance to make the roster for the upcoming season.

The WNBA season begins Friday, May 16, but the Storm play their first game the following day, May 17. Catch Sundell in action as she begins her career with Seattle.

"NCAA"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Freshman Nanami Nakashima posted a season-low round of 5-under par 67, one shot better than her previous low of 68 during the second round of the Rainbow Wahine Invitational in October.

The Kani, Japan, native went bogey-free and 5-under par on the front 9, while she had one bogey and one birdie on the back. Nakashima improved 16 spots on the

leaderboard during the final round to tie for 18th place – her third top-20 finish this season – at even-par 216.

Sophomore Alenka Navarro tied with Nakashima as she went even par on the day, including a bogey-free and 1-under par back 9.

Junior Noa van Beek turned in a counting score of 1-over par 73 on Wednesday thanks to an eagle on No. 5 and birdies on four of her first five holes on the back 9. The Oene, Netherlands, native finished in 29th place at 4-over par 220.

Bert, the individual Big 12 Champion,

produced her second-straight round of 3-over par 75 on Wednesday as she finished in 58th place with a three-round total of 14-over par 230.

Along with K-State and regional champion Florida State, the other teams to advance out of the NCAA Lexington Regional were Georgia Southern, USC and Vanderbilt.

The 2025 NCAA Championship begins on Friday, May 16, with the first of three days of stroke play. Following Sunday's third round, the field will be cut to 15 teams and the top nine individuals

on a non-advancing team for the fourth and final round on Monday, May 19, to determine the top eight teams that will advance to match play as well as the 72-hole individual champion.

The team national champion will be determined by a match-play format that will consist of quarterfinals and semifinals on Tuesday, May 20, followed by the finals on Wednesday, May 21.

Monday's final round of stroke play and all three rounds of match play will be shown on GOLF Channel.

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COMIC | Doin’ it Wright



Illustration by Jacob Bush | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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