Team travels over break

• Men's basketball visits Pomona, Calif. for exhibition game against Division II Broncos

By Anthony Cook
Editor in Chief

The men's basketball team will be receiving a trade-in over Christmas break.

They will be trading almost a week of their break in for a bare campus with nothing to do but hear the blow of practice whistles all day.

However, the trade will be sweetened with a trip to California to play basketball and see the sights the west coast has to offer.

Head men's basketball coach Doug Hall tries to take the team on a trip as much as possible.

He first finds a general place and then focuses on finding a team to play.

Hall said, "We've tried to take extended trips every two or three years. We haven't played in California in my time here. We find a general area at first and find a place to stay. We didn't go into it knowing it's going to be a regular game or an exhibition. It just happens to end up being a Division II school we are playing."

That team will be California State Poly Pomona in Pomona, Calif., at 6 p.m. Dec. 29. The game will be considered an exhibition and not count on the Builders' record.

The trip will keep the varsity team in Winfield for much of their Christmas break.

With this comes missing some of the time that might normally be spent at home with those closest to the players.

Jarrett Tyler, senior guard, said, "Our Christmas break is a lot shorter than the average student, although it's not much different than my other four years as a college basketball player. It is just something that is expected. You are in the middle of the season and can't take too much time off.

"My break will be shorter and I won't have as much time to spend with my friends and family. Although they all realize that basketball is important to me and are supportive."

Missing friends and family is somewhat tempered by the trip itself.

Tim Moore, senior forward, said, "I am excited about it. One, we get to play ball. Two, we get to do some sight-seeing and so forth. It works out well because we get four to five days to go home."

Some of that sight-seeing will be planned, but it will mostly be up to the players to decide what sounds like the most fun when they get there.

Hall said, "We really just wait until we get there and see what kind of attractions there are. A few years ago in Hawaii we had a luau set up, but the weather was bad, and it didn't go over well. I don't like to buy a bunch of advance tickets because things like that might not pan out. I try to accommodate everyone as best as we can, not everyone likes to the same type of things."

The players have a good idea about some of things they want to try while on the trip.

Moore said, "I'll maybe go to some malls and beaches. Just a lot of team-bonding sort of stuff."

The team will be given Dec. 22 through 26 to go home for break before coming back and practicing in Stewart for one day. The following day the team will fly out of Wichita to Denver and on to Los Angeles. Players prefer the flight over a bus.

Tyler said, "We are flying, and I'm really excited about that. I've heard some horror stories about long trips on the bus from a couple of years ago. Flying will be fun and a lot easier."

As a transfer, this trip will be the longest for Tyler as a Moundbuilder, but those horror stories might include one from a current player who got to experience the incident first hand.

"Taking a bus to Cali is not an option. My sophomore year we took a bus to Arizona and got stuck on the way back to Winfield for an entire day," said Moore.

The players will try to stay creative in finding ways to keep busy while on a skeleton campus.

Moore said, "I won't have any homework to keep me occupied. We usually make trips to Wichita or just have some kind of tournament playing on the PS2 or something."

More than anything, the team wants to bring back more than just 40 minutes of basketball and experience.

Tyler said, "I think it's great. We scheduled a good team, and it's exciting to be able to compete against somebody you normally won't see. These types of trips will provide a great memory for everyone on the team."

So is it a fair trade?

That's a question that might not be answered until classes begin for the spring semester.

It might just depend on how jealous people get of a California tan in January.

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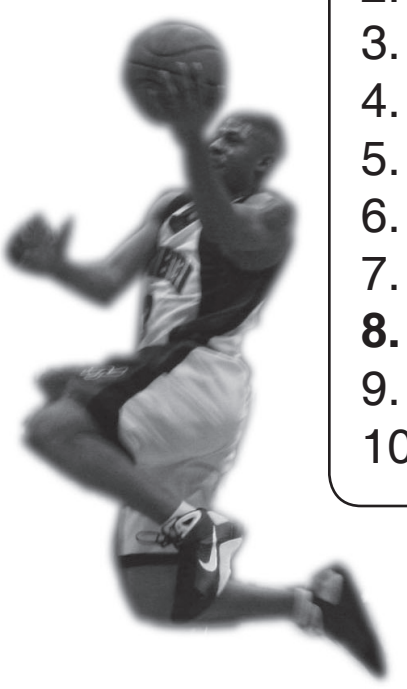
KANSAS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS



1. McPherson	2-0
2. Sterling	2-0
3. Ottawa	2-0
4. Tabor	1-1
5. Kansas Wesleyan	1-1
6. St. Mary's	1-1
7. Bethany	1-1
8. Southwestern	**0-2**
9. Friends	0-2
10. Bethel	0-2

Women

1. Sterling College	2-0
2. Friends	2-0
3. Ottawa	2-0
4. St. Mary's	1-1
5. Kansas Wesleyan	1-1
6. Southwestern	**1-1**
7. Tabor	1-1
8. Bethel	0-2
9. Bethany	0-2
10. McPherson	0-2

Players who ride 'pine' make teams better, without credit

Paige Carswell

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Sports Column

Imagine going to practice every day in preparation for the next big game. Imagine running and lifting weights during the offseason to help make your team stronger. Imagine the day-in day-out undying effort you put forth year after year for the sport that you love.

Now imagine that not being enough.

Bench players are a different kind of athlete.

No, I'm not talking about the sixth man on the basketball team, nor am I referring to the backup quarterback on the football field. I'm talking about the athletes that have ridden the pine for so long they've made their very own imprints in the wood. They don't get put in when the starters aren't quite doing their jobs as well as they could be or on that play where all they need is a three-point shooter. They get to play during blowouts. That's all.

There's a driving force behind being a bench warmer at any level. In high school, it helps your social status.

For those who don't want to be put in the role of "band geek" their entire high school career, it's a small price to pay. In Division I colleges, you get a scholarship and a little bit of fame. For professionals, there are about a million reasons to keep going, a lot of them on green paper.

For Southwestern College athletes, though, it has to come from something different. While being the star of the team grants you fame in some kind of small circle around campus, bench players don't even have that. They aren't motivated by the fame and glory accompanied with making that last-minute play or, really, anything about the game unless it's the splendor of cheering on the sideline.

But they're still there.

The most apparent reason is the love of the game.

I've seen "Rudy" enough times to know that all the lack of playing time in the world won't stop someone with enough heart.

Quitting isn't an option when the sport is your whole life.

Then there's always the team concept: the fact that when you're on a team, you're a part of something bigger.

It's what drives those players to still give their all at practice and to cheer when they're sitting on the end of the bench for what seems like the thousandth game in a row.

There's always the possibility of improvement, especially for the freshmen and sophomores on the team, but for the seniors who are in their fourth year of seeing little to no playing time, they know that probably isn't a realistic option.

If there's a bigger person than the one who refused to give up after four years of that, I'd like to see them.

Regardless of the motivation factor, it's true that at least a portion of the fate of the team rests on the shoulders of these bench warmers. They push their teammates in practice in an attempt to make them better, and they're there at every game supporting the team. The enormous influence that a positive or negative bench can have on a game can't be argued.

They won't have retired jerseys hanging in the trophy cases.

Their names won't be plastered all over the internet or newspaper for their amazing play or how many points they scored. Sometimes they're lucky to get in the books at all.

Still, don't underestimate them.

Look at the end of the bench. See those players who still have the clean, spotless jerseys? They're as much as part of the game as any of those in the spotlights.

Dec. 4
Women
Southwestern College (66)
Borthwick 0-4 1-2 1, Beal 6-9 0-0 16, Jarnagin 3-11 2-2 10, Cossman 4-8 0-0 12, Liable 3-9 0-1 6, Maxwell 1-5 2-2 4, Jackson 2-4 2-3 6, Smith 2-4 3-4 9, Fairbank 0-0 2-2 2, Pruitt 0-1 0-2 0, Haikin 0-0 0-0 0.
Kansas Wesleyan (70)
Luckeroth 7-13 1-2 22, Vopat 2-6 3-3 7, Santee 4-7 4-4 12, Dittmer 5-12 6-9 16, Wilkinson 4-8 1-2 11, Potthoff 0-1 2-2 2, Babcock 0-3 0-0 0, Jensen 0-0 0-0 0.
Halftime- Southwestern 27, Kansas Wesleyan 37. Fouled out- None. Three-point goals- Southwestern 12 (Beal 4, Jarnagin 2, Cossman 4, Smith 2), Kansas Wesleyan 9 (Luckeroth 7, Wilkinson 2). Rebounds- Southwestern 36 (Pruitt 9), Kansas Wesleyan 31 (Vopat 7, Dittmer 7). Assists- Southwestern 9 (Jarnagin 6), Kansas Wesleyan 12 (Luckeroth 5). Total fouls- Southwestern 17, Kansas Wesleyan 17.
Men
Southwestern College (79)
Batiste 1-6 0-0 3, Richardson 8-15 0-0 19, Miser 3-7 1-3 8, Jordan 9-16 6-8 27, King 6-8 4-4 16, Brown 2-3 0-0 4, Tyler 1-2 0-0 2, Irvin 0-0 0-0 0, Ballard 0-0 0-0 0, Moore 0-1 0-0 0.
Kansas Wesleyan (81)
Sims 10-16 4-4 27, Hammond 4-8 4-5 13, Hood 5-7 0-0 10, McCarty 3-5 2-2 8, Milani 2-3 0-0 4, Wespieser 5-6 1-2 12, Brown 1-7 2-2 4, Dickman 1-2 0-0 2, DuBois 0-0 0-0 0, Underwood 0-1 0-0 0, Jordan 0-0 0-0 0.
Halftime- Southwestern 32, Kansas Wesleyan 43. Fouled out- None. Three-point goals- Southwestern 8 (Richardson 3, Jordan 3, Miser 1, Batiste 1), Kansas Wesleyan 5 (Sims 3, Hammond 1, Wespieser 1). Rebounds- 23 (Jordan 7), Kansas Wesleyan 34 (Hood 8). Assists- Southwestern 11 (Miser 3, Brown 3), Kansas Wesleyan 13 (Hammond 7). Total fouls- Southwestern 14, Kansas Wesleyan 15.

Dec. 6
Women
Southwestern College (66)
Borthwick 0-0 0-0 0, Beal 7-13 3-3 20, Jarnagin 0-7 7-9 7, Cossman 3-7 2-4 10, Liable 2-5 5-5 9, Maxwell 3-6 0-0 8, Jackson 1-3 2-4 4, Haikin 1-1 0-0 3, Blattner 1-3 1-1 3, Fairbank 0-0 2-2 2, Pruitt 0-0 0-4 0, Smith 0-2 0-2 0.
Tabor College (58)
Watson 1-5 1-2 3, Robinson 1-4 1-2 4, Silvas 5-7 2-2 16, Roth 2-6 0-2 4, Hullet 4-8 1-1 9, Malone 3-6 2-3 8, Crosson 3-6 2-4 8, Wycoff 1-3 2-2 4, Mount 1-1 0-0 2, Dick 0-0 0-0 0, Payne 0-3 0-0 0.
Halftime- Southwestern 33, Tabor 40. Fouled out- Tabor (Robinson, Watson). Three-point goals- Southwestern 8 (Beal 3, Cossman 2, Maxwell 2, Haikin 1), Tabor 5 (Silvas 4, Robinson 1). Rebounds- Southwestern 29 (Beal 6, Cossman 6), Tabor 34 (Crosson 7). Assists- Southwestern 7 (Beal 2, Jarnagin 2), Tabor 16 (Silvas 6). Total fouls- Southwestern 20, Tabor 26.
Men
Southwestern College (66)
Richardson 3-17 4-8 12, Miser 7-14 1-4 16, Jordan 5-7 0-0 13, Moore 2-5 0-0 4, King 3-6 5-7 11, Batiste 2-6 0-0 5, Brown 2-7 1-4 5, Tyler 0-2 0-0 0, Irvin 0-0 0-0 0, Ballard 0-1 0-0 0.
Tabor College (75)
Whitelaw 7-15 3-5 18, Kroeker 3-8 2-3 9, Rousell 1-7 0-0 2, Dechant 2-6 0-1 4, Vanselow 9-13 0-1 20, Thomas 4-9 0-3 8, De Blonk 3-7 0-0 6, Jared Hett 2-6 1-2 6, Funk 1-1 0-0 2, Jason Hett 0-1 0-0 0, Hardiman 0-0 0-0 0, Baar 0-1 0-0 0.
Halftime- Southwestern 36, Tabor 36. Fouled out- Tabor (Vanselow). Three-point goals- Southwestern 7 (Jordan 3, Richardson 2, Miser 1, Batiste 1), Tabor 5 (Vanselow 2, Whitelaw 1, Kroeker 1, Jared Hett 1). Rebounds- Southwestern 48 (King 10), Tabor 46 (Thomas 8). Assists- Southwestern 9 (Richardson 4), Tabor 16 (Whitelaw 6). Total fouls- Southwestern 18, Tabor 18.

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