

Baseball Head Coach Hill speaks

Big 12 Coach of the Year visited with 44 Catbackers in Maple Hill

By Mike DeVader

K-State fans are accustomed to supporting winning teams throughout the years, especially that of the football and basketball programs, but these circumstances are something new to Wildcat faithful.

Coach Brad Hill and the Kansas State baseball team are quietly sneaking their way into the same conversation.

The Wildcats are coming off a record-setting 2009 campaign with a mark of 43-18-1, and for the first time in 109 years, K-State made an appearance in an NCAA Regional. Success doesn't come without a price, however, and the start of the 2010 slate hasn't been so smooth. Third baseman Jason King blew out his elbow and will miss significant time to start the year, and junior college transfer David Allday, a first baseman, will miss the entire season because of a knee injury he suffered in the second week of February.

Adversity doesn't come as a surprise to the team and it isn't anything new to the Kansas State baseball program. The rocky start to the year has already proved 2010 will be no different, so the reigning Big 12 Conference coach of the year believes the terrific

support from the Kaw Valley Catbackers could play a huge role in the success of his squad in the upcoming season.

"It's a group that is very excited about Kansas State, very supportive," Hill said. "You can't say enough about how they come out, and whenever we travel as coaches, they are out in big numbers."

Traveling to see these big numbers at the Catbacker functions are more difficult for the baseball staff and players as most of the events take place during times where baseball activities are starting to get into full swing, but Hill said he jumps at any opportunity he can find to come speak to the Wildcat fans from around the Sunflower State.

"I don't get to go to very many because they are during the summer at that's our head recruiting time, camps and tournaments," Hill said. "Anytime I'm asked throughout the year, I've always wanted to take advantage of those and talk about our kids, talk about our program and try to educate people about baseball."

With season tickets still available starting at \$75, Hill asks any Catbackers who haven't been to Tointon Family Stadium, to come to the ballpark and take in an experience unlike anything in the Big 12.

"I'm not saying it's the biggest, because Texas has 7,000 people and Texas A&M has 6,000 people, so their stadiums are kind of big," Hill said. "The one thing I think is really neat about Tointon, with the way they designed it, you are right in the action; right on top of it."

There are no nose-bleed sections and things like that, and it is really, truly a great atmosphere," he said.



Kaw Valley Catbacker Mark Phelon gets a Brad Hill signed baseball.

KVCB Event set for Texas game

We have scheduled a Kaw Valley Catbackers (KVCB) event for May 8th at Tointon Family Stadium in Manhattan to watch the KSU-Texas baseball game. The first pitch will be at 2 p.m. At 12:30 p.m. we will have a tailgate party in Cat Town just north of the stadium.

For \$15 you will receive a ticket to the game and a tailgate lunch that will include: two meats (hot dog, hamburger, or bratwurst), drink, chips or peanuts. During the tailgate we will be drawing for an autographed baseball signed by all team members as well as other prizes. Coach Hill will meet with us after the game. Currently we have 38 signed up to attend. We hope you will join us and support our team. After the first 8 games of the season, the Cats are 6-2.

Please contact Craig Selley at 286-1502 or craig.message@gmail.com to let him know if you plan to attend and how many reservations you want. The money will be due no later than April 5th. Make checks payable to KVCB and mail them to Craig Selley at 3520 NW 44th Ter, Topeka, KS 66618-2635.

Join Coach Frank Martin and Coach Patterson in support of the Rivals for a Cure Kansas Arthritis Foundation Walk. See www.arthritis.org keyword "rivals" for details.

St. Patrick's Day Parade invite

Join the Kaw Valley Catbackers

The annual Topeka St. Patrick's Day parade is scheduled for March 17, 2010. As a member of the Kaw Valley Catbackers we would like to encourage our local Wildcats to get involved this year.

You can team up with other Wildcats and create a KSU float or simply decorate your vehicle in Wildcat colors and proudly showcase your KSU pride. This is an excellent opportunity to display our local Kaw Valley Catbackers organization, our great University and our rich academic and athletic traditions to local citizens.

Getting involved is easy since there are no registration fees of any kind or advanced registration required. The festivities will begin at noon on March 17, 2010. The staging area will be on Kansas Ave. from 1st St. to 4th St. All we ask is that Wildcat participants arrive early so we can line up together so people can see purple power in action.

The parade route will start at 4th St. and Kansas Ave. and proceed south down Kansas Ave. to 12th St, turn west to Jackson St., then back north on Jackson St. to 6th St, the dispersion area. If you are interested and need additional information, please go to www.topekastpats.com.

Basketball Watch Party held in Holton

By Mike DeVader

This was the most talked about Sunflower Showdown in more than 50 years. For the first time on the hardwood since 1958, the Kansas State Wildcats would face the Kansas Jayhawks with both teams being nationally ranked in the top-5.

No. 5 K-State at No. 2 KU.

All eyes were glued to television sets just after 7 p.m. central time on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 as the state of Kansas and the rest of the country wanted to witness the encore to the magnificent matchup back on January 30. One specific group of interested fans were gathered together for a Kaw Valley Catbackers watch party in Holton, Kan. hosted by Boomers Grill. About 60 Wildcat faithful filled the tables at Boomers to take in the action, and yes, even a few Jayhawk followers found a way to sneak into the building.

Amidst a few yells back and forth between K-State and KU followers the first half came to an end with Kansas holding a lead of 45-38. The 15 minute intermission was much

needed for the Wildcats so they could collect thoughts for a game plan for the second half, and just enough time for a raffle drawing for great prizes.

Halftime doors prizes were provided by a variety of Holton Square merchants. There was a gift basket from All Around Sweets, a one half-hour massage from Head 2 Toe Salon, a gift basket from Stella's on the Square, five free chicken dinners by Holton House B & B and a gift certificate from Boomers Grill. Mary Ann Riederer, a KSU Grad from 1987 and Holton resident,

obtained the door prizes for the Catbacker event.

Special guests in attendance were Brooks and Tonya Barta. Brooks is the Holton High School head football coach and played football for Kansas State from 1989-92. Brooks was honored as All-Big Eight Conference line-backer in 1991.

Even with K-State falling to the Jayhawks 82-65, Boomers Grill and all the people of Holton helped make this watch party a thriving success.





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P.O. Box 750107, Topeka, Kansas 66675
phone: 785.354.4309 • fax: 785.354.1549



Kevin W. Beck, P.E.

2930 SW Woodside Drive
Topeka, KS 66614

Phone (785) 272-4706
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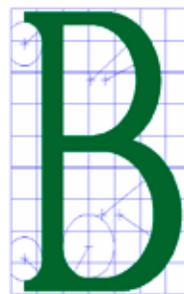
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CONSTRUCTION

STEVE MOHAN
President

125 S. Kansas Avenue • Topeka, Kansas 66603-3614
Tel 785.233.1615 • Fax 785.233.8731 • Cell 785.925.1694
E-mail smohan@mohanconstruction.com
www.mohanconstruction.com



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5967 SW 29th St. Suite 260
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dick@cruisexcel.com



www.cruisexcel.com

Kaw Valley Catbackers Club Events

Wednesday, March 17th at Noon - St. Patrick Day Parade in Downtown Topeka. Come out and cheer on the KVCB parade entry. Details inside on page 2.

Saturday, May 8th - KVCB Day at the K-State vs Texas baseball game in Manhattan. Game starts at 2:00 p.m. with a tailgate event prior to the game. Details inside on page 2.

Friday, May 21st - KVCB Golf Tournament. Get this date on your calendar and start putting your team together. Watch your mail for the registration form. Check-in starts at 10:30 a.m. See insert inside.

Monday June 28th - 28th Annual Family Barbecue at the Exhibition Hall of the Kansas Expo Center. More details to follow in a direct mailing on featured speakers and activities of our biggest annual event.

Kaw Valley Catbackers
P.O. Box 4767
Topeka, KS 66604

