



Message from the Club President

By Neal Spencer

2009 has been an exciting year in the world of K-State sports. It seems that the "Waters have been Calmed" in our football program and our Men's Basketball program is competing at a national level unlike any that we have seen in many years. As usual the other sports programs at KSU continue to compete at an extremely high level and do so with purple pride. Many times we only talk about the big two sports and forget about the quality of competition and athletes that our school continually fields. Baseball, women's basketball, golf and other sports provide an excellent sporting environment. I encourage you to get out and support these sports as well.

KVCB 2009 Year in Review

2009 was tough but successful. As for many organizations in our country 2009 was tough. Monetary giving is down and membership numbers are not at the levels we would like to see them at. However, we are standing strong and the club has continued its efforts to recruit new members and retain current membership. Through our special events, direct mailings and radio ads we truly want to grow in both membership numbers and level of donation the club sends annually.

The size of our club truly matters and this is how. It is nice when coaches and players recognize our community as a large group of K-State fans and donors. With this recognition brings special considerations when it comes time for coaches and player to schedule visits. Many of you enjoy our golf tournament, family BBQ at the ExpoCenter and other special events. All of these events are possible because of the attention that we receive from K-State. Every new member recruited helps solidify our group as the largest and best Catbackers club!

Thank you for the continued support. It is an absolute blessing to be involved with the Catbackers club. I find it very rewarding to help further Kansas State University and

promote a positive image for Kansas State University in the greater Topeka community. Without the support that we receive from our members and sponsors this would not be possible. I know that I speak on behalf of the entire Catbackers board when I say, Thank You!

KVCB 2010 The Year Ahead

In 2010 you will see many changes and new events introduced. Here are just a few of the new items and changes.

1) **New Website!** This new site will bring a fresh look and bring more content than ever. It is our intent to push all information and club activities through this site. Visit www.kvcb.org

2) **Facebook Fan page.** A new Facebook fan page has been created specific to the Kaw Valley Catbackers. This will give us another tool to keep members up to date on club events. Visit our website and click on the Facebook link to become a fan of the Kaw Valley Catbackers.

3) **Golf Tournament Make over.** We have assembled a full committee with the sole purpose of rejuvenating the golf tournament. Changes may include a new play format, course location, better food and many other benefits. I truly want to make this tournament a unique event.

4) **Many new club events.** Our events committee chair is putting together a prescheduled list of events. His plan is to have at least 8 events a year and have some in the smaller communities that we represent such as Maple Hill, Silver Lake and other towns. See the calendar of events for more information.

5) **The usual.** As usual we will continue with our annual Family BBQ at the Kansas ExpoCenter. We are working on an exciting line up of speakers. We are also working with K-State to bring new items to the live auction.

A call for help! As I am sure you are fully aware the Kaw Valley Catbackers are operated by volunteers with the com-

Continued on page 2

Message from the Club President

continued from page 1

mon goal of promoting and supporting Kansas State University. Without these volunteers much of what we do would not happen. Therefore, I would like to send a formal invitation to all members that may want to get more involved. At the beginning of 2009, I broke our club down into three sub-committees and each committee leader sits on the Executive Board. These committee leaders need volunteers to help share the work load.

Communications Committee

- Website – Design, upload new club news and manage changes as necessary.
- Newsletter – Layout, photography at events, write articles, prepare for mailing.
- Advertising – Help with radio ads, flyers for club events

and merchandise.

Membership Committee

- Work at club events to recruit new members.
- Attend committee meetings and brainstorm ways to recruit new members.
- Help to retain current members with follow up visits when they do not renew.

Events Committee

- Golf Committee – Help organize and plan
- BBQ – Help organize and plan family BBQ
- Other Events- Brainstorm, plan & schedule other events throughout the year.

Please contact me personally at nspencer@esmetals.com or call me at 785-554-6205. I will be glad to place you on a committee of your liking. Thank you!

Kaw Valley Catbacker Board Officers

President - Neal Spencer

Vice President - Ron Jurgensmeier

Treasurer - Mike Jones

Secretary - Jon McKenzie

Currie speaks about Catbacker clubs



By Mike DeVader

Kansas State Athletics Director John Currie hadn't seen anything quite like this in his career. He was always accustomed to making appearances at fan functions and special events, but, here at K-State, something was noticeable different. The former Executive Associate Athletics Director at the University of Tennessee could truly see a storybook love-affair

for the Wildcats. Undeniable passion.

Currie first realized what K-State athletics meant to its fans on June 25th, when he attended his first Catbacker event, the KVCB Family Barbecue. The initial impression of the Catbackers left a lasting image on the first-year AD, which almost had him speechless because he couldn't believe his eyes.

"I was blown away by my first event," Currie said. "1200 or so people and everyone fired up about the Cats!"

Over the next couple of months, Currie continued to experience the uncontrollable obsession the fans held for K-State sports, and on Thursday, November 5th, he was able to give back to the Wildcat faithful as he spoke at a Kaw Valley Catbackers luncheon in Topeka, Kan. About 90 K-Staters packed the Ramada Inn in the capitol city to take in words of wisdom from the 15th Director of Athletics in school history. Topics that afternoon ranged from supporting the Ahearn Fund,

to ticket sales, and of course, the future of K-State athletics.

Gatherings like these bring out the best in both the administration and the fans, but what do the Kaw Valley Catbackers really mean to the growth of K-State?

"The ultimate strength of our university is the grass-roots and broad based nature of support shown to Wildcat student-athletes and coaches," Currie said. "The open welcome from our existing fans to those fans who maybe aren't as connected as we need them to be is very important and a crucial way each Catbacker member can personally impact the University."

Impacting Kansas State University in a positive manner may seem like a tall task for some, but Currie is urging fans to realize that any and all contributions help immensely; small donations are the key to success. Helping student-athletes is one of the most crucial aspects of any collegiate organization, and contrary to popular belief, fans can support the Ahearn fund for as little as \$50.

Currie has been on the job at K-State for just more than eight months now, and has already made his stamp on the Wildcat program. To him, though, nothing he has done in Manhattan compares to what Wildcat fans show him on a daily basis. He firmly believes his experiences with the followers of Kansas State could be second to none.

"The overall breadth of support of the active 35 Catbacker Clubs must be among the strongest of any University in the country," Currie said. "I've enjoyed meeting all the local leaders and fans."

FERRELL

CONSTRUCTION
OF TOPEKA, INC.

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

CFS

Cook, Flatt & Strobel
ENGINEERS, P.A.

Kevin W. Beck, P.E.

2930 SW Woodside Drive
Topeka, KS 66614

Phone (785) 272-4706
Fax (785) 272-4736
kbeck@cfse.com

ESI
ERNEST SPENCER INCORPORATED

ESM
ERNEST SPENCER METALS

ESCC
ERNEST SPENCER CUSTOM CONTRACTORS

THE ERNEST-SPENCER COMPANIES

3323 East 82nd Street Post Office Box 550 Meriden, KS 66512
Office: 785/484-3165 Fax: 785/484-3208
Human Resources Fax: 785/484-2032 Shipping Fax: 785/484-2059
General Email: sales@esmetals.com www.ernestspencer.com

1510 North Davis Road, Ottawa, KS 66067
ESCC Office: 785/242-8538 ESCC Fax: 785/242-8628

Telephone: (785) 272-4583

Michael Deutscher, O.D., PA

Doctor of Optometry

3601 SW 29th, Suite 205
Topeka, KS 66614



Member
American Optometric Association

Jurgensmeier

FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Ronald L. Jurgensmeier

2813 SW Westport Plaza Dr. • Topeka, Kansas 66614
(785) 272-3775 • Fax (785) 272-1245

A proud Supporter of
Kansas State University

Horst, Terrill & Karst Architects, P.A.

2900 SW MacVicar
Topeka, Kansas 66611
785-266-5373
Fax-266-5270

www.htkarchitects.net

MOHAN

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

BRACK & ASSOCIATES

CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.A.

Engineering
Design For The
Future

3501 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66614-3824

Phone: (785) 271-6644
Fax: (785) 271-5666
E-Mail: ba@brackengin.com



Proud Supporters of Kaw
Valley Catbackers

TO PLACE AN AD IN THE KVCB NEWSLETTER

THE COST OF AN AD IS \$100 AND WILL BE
PUT INTO THE NEWSLETTER FOUR TIMES IN A CALENDAR YEAR. TO PLACE AN AD CALL (785)
267-3465.

Kaw Valley Catbacker Club Events

Friday, Feb. 12th - KSU steak night at Puffy's Steakhouse in Maple Hill. Arrive by 6:00 p.m. and place orders. Brad Hill, KSU Baseball coach will speak at 6:30. All KVCB members who attend will be in a drawing for a chance to throw out the first pitch at the Saturday, May 8th KSU/Texas baseball game. Call Les Streit at 785-228-1212 or e-mail streit1@sbcglobal.net to place reservations.

Wednesday, March 3rd - "Hang out in Holton" with K-State fans to watch the KSU-KU basketball game at Boomer's Grill one block off Highway 75 going into downtown Holton. - 401 Colorado Ave. Game starts at 7:00 p.m. Door prizes at half-time. Come out and meet our K-State friends in Holton.

Wednesday, March 17th - St. Patrick Day Parade in Downtown Topeka. Come out and cheer on the KVCB parade entry.

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 to follow in the Spring newsletter.

Friday, May 21st - KVCB Golf tournament. Get this date on your calendar and start putting your team together.

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

