

Topeka Jayhawk Club

Volume 15 Issue 04

April 2015

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DEAN SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship fund has been established for Topeka High students in memory of Dean Smith. Former Sen Nancy Kassebaum Baker started the fund. They've raised 35,000 of the \$50,000 target and welcome donations from all KU supporters and friends of Coach Smith. Checks should be payable to Coach Dean Smith Scholarship and sent to Topeka Community Foundation at 5431 SW 29th St, Ste 300, Topeka, KS 66614.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY THANK YOU

Thanks to all who took the time out of their busy schedules to join us on Saturday, March 14th, for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Dave Heinemann, the club photographer, took another great group of pictures of the parade. You can view on our website at www.topekajayhawkclub.com.

TJC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Topeka Jayhawk Club will be hosting their 16th Otto Schnellbacher Classic on June 8th at the Great Life Shawnee Golf Club. Entry fees are \$100 for TJC members and \$110 for non-members. Includes range balls, green fee, cart, coaches speaking at lunch. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100.



Proceeds from the tournament will go to the Topeka Jayhawk Club to support local KU student scholarships & University of Kansas programs. Download entry forms from our website at www.topekajayhawkclub.com or contact Rob Exon at 266-0931.

SPRING FOOTBALL GAME

Kansas Athletics has planned a fun day of events and activities surrounding the annual Kansasfootball Spring Game. Kickoff is slated for Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m., on Kivisto Field at Memorial Stadium and admission is free.

Kansas football, who will be celebrating 125 years as a program this fall, is welcoming back all former players for an alumni game. The alumni game is scheduled for a noon kickoff in Memorial Stadium and will be a flag football game. All KU football alumni interested in participating should contact director of traditions, [Candace Dunback](mailto:Candace.Dunback@ku.edu), via email at kclub@ku.edu.

If you are not currently receiving KU Football press releases in your mail-

TJC Friendly Merchants

Member Discounts!

- Quiznos Sub
- Baskin Robbins
- Jocks Nitch
- Performance Tire and Wheel
- Carmona Comfort Air
- Cobler Plumbing
- Sweet! Baking Supply
- Topeka Art Guild
- Bodine's Pest Control
- Gardner's Flooring

Don't forget to check out the Friendly Merchants page on our website. Receive discounts when you present your Topeka Jayhawk Club membership card.



TopekaJayhawkClub.com

If you own a business and would like to be a part of this program, please contact any board member listed above.

box, but you would like to, simply click the link at the bottom of this email which says "Update subscription preferences" and select Football.

JUST KIND OF FORGETTABLE

By Jim Williamson

The news that Kelly Oubre, Jr., was declaring his intention to enter the 2015 NBA draft broke on a Tuesday night. The media jumped onboard after the Wednesday release of a pre-recorded video statement issued by Oubre and KU Athletics.

On Thursday, there was virtually no conversation around the water, even among hardcore Hawkheads.

Bottom line: it seemed like no one cared. I saw more weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth when Xavier Henry left. Seriously.

Yes, another member of the KU Basketball family was leaving early. This time, however, it felt like a third cousin (twice removed) was leaving. This wasn't a brother or even a funny nephew. Kelly Oubre is that relative you only see once a year at Christmas or Thanksgiving or in church at Easter.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not picking on the kid. Everything points to the fact that Kelly Oubre is a wonderful young man with a ton of basketball potential whose parents put him on a good path early in life. He's made a lot of good decisions in his life.

Thing is, I wrote in this very publication several weeks back that I thought this would be a fun team to watch grow and mature and develop chemistry and be a team you didn't want to play in March. Well, that didn't happen. It was another early round exit for the Jayhawks – but I don't think many of us were surprised.

This was a team that was kind of fun to watch...sometimes. Most of the time, they drove us nuts. There was nothing consistent about this team. The trademark Bill Self/Eddie Sutton/Mr. Iba defense was on again, off again. In the last six weeks of the season, KU's outside shooters couldn't buy a basket. Then Cliff Alexander's mom decided she couldn't wait for him to start making NBA bank and ended his career a year (and, in my opinion, maybe two years) early. I saw Thomas Robinson, Part II. Now we'll never know.

The team suffered tremendously from a lack of on-court leadership. Perry Ellis is a great player, but he's not a leader. This is clearly Frank Mason's team, and no one has a better motor. Sometimes, though, you can say hello to him and he's stuck for an answer. He's not a holler guy. Maybe he'll develop into one to meet that need. He, like all of us, is a work in progress.

The lack of reaction to Oubre's announcement is a microcosm of the season just past. Despite an 11th straight Big 12 Conference title, this was a pretty unforgettable year. How forgettable? The big early entry into the NBA draft averaged nine points and five rebounds a game on the way to a second-round tournament loss.

Want to know who had better numbers at KU than Kelly Oubre? Such luminaries are Brad Sanders, Sean Alvarado and Lance Hill. Don't feel bad if you don't remember them. Not many do. They were all nice players, but not great. Just kind of forgettable -- a lot like this season.