

Topeka Jayhawk Club

March 2017

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18th TJC Golf Tournament

The 18th Topeka Jayhawk Club Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Monday June 5. It will be played at GreatLife @ Shawnee Country Club. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss out. Special guests include Coaches Bill Self, David Beaty, Branden Schneider and AD Sheahon Zenger. It's not often you are going to find all of these coaches and the AD together.

You can download a team and/or hole sponsor form at :
http://www.topekajayhawkclub.com/2017_Golf_Flyer.pdf

It's hard not to be optimistic this weekend

By Jim Williamson

This year's NCAA tournament hasn't been the most exciting when it comes to buzzer beaters and upsets that make you say, "Oh, really???" But for Kansas fans, it has been wildly entertaining.

Some KU fans are finding tremendous entertainment in the fact that three former Kansas State head coaches – two of whom were run off – are still in the big dance.

Frank Martin's South Carolina Gamecocks did the nation a great service by sending the most unlikeable Duke team in the last 20 years home early. Dana Altman's third-seeded Oregon Ducks are still in it after dodging a bullet against Rhode Island (Remember them?). Finally, you know firsthand about Bob Huggins and his Mountaineers. Their physical play and toughness will be a very tough out for Gonzaga.

Maybe the most entertaining aspect of this year's tournament for Kansas fans has been how boring it's been: a rout of UC-Davis and a 20-point win over perennial tournament power Michigan State.

The win over UC-Davis shouldn't surprise anyone, but it was refreshing to see this Kansas group hit the gas and not let up.

The 20-point difference in the KU-Michigan State game was deceiving. It may have been the closest 20-point game you've ever seen. After all, it was a five-point game with seven minutes left. And no one in their right mind wants anything to do with a Tom Izzo team in March.

What was entertaining was that Kansas may have put together their best seven minutes of defense all season. They turned it up to 11. Rather than administering the kind of clutch shooting and late game heroics to which fans have become accustomed, the Jayhawks held Sparty to just six points the final seven minutes. Meanwhile, KU connected on shot after shot and chalked up a really good 90-70 win.

And although a wise man – William Shakespeare? Teddy Roosevelt? Lou Carnesecca?

TJC Friendly Merchants

- 2017 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 Floor Covering
 - GreatLife golf//fitness
 - Numerous Others...

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.

– said, “At this point in the season, you are what you are,” it was refreshing to see Kansas put two teams away, albeit in vastly different ways, last weekend. Most of us have become used to keeping a defibrillator handy while we watch KU games.

There’s a lot to be excited about this weekend when KU takes the floor at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. It was clear last weekend that a first-round Big 12 tournament loss to TCU did nothing except give the Jayhawks an extra day or two to rest and re-focus. There was no rust at all. They looked like a one-seed all weekend.

It also has to rattle a few cages for Purdue, Oregon and Michigan. Last weekend plants seeds of doubt about the Jayhawk scouting report that says, “Kansas allows good teams to hang around. Make it an eight-minute game.” The eight-minute mark may be (a) too late, or (b) the perfect time for the Jayhawks to find the turbo boost button.

Kansas guard play – the girl that brung the Jayhawks to this dance – has never been better. Landen Lucas is doing all the little thankless things he does. A resurgent Dwight Coleby, rested legs and all, may have found his stride in nine crucial, very productive minutes against Michigan State. Josh Jackson continues to focus on winning now rather than NBA money. He also seems to have found yet another gear most humans don’t have. Finally and most notably, Frank Mason III continues the journey toward National Player of the Year hardware like Sherman marching toward Atlanta.

There are no givens in the NCAA tournament. No one is entitled to a trip to the Final Four, regardless of what Kentucky fans will tell you. The Kansas Jayhawks, however, look primed to make a 15th Final Four run. The team we saw glimpses of all season is now playing at an elite level in sustained stretches. If they play this weekend like they did last weekend, it’s going to take a superhuman effort from an opponent to keep them from Phoenix.

But regardless of what happens, this has been Bill Self’s toughest, most resilient team, led by a bulldog of a point guard who we’ve all been privileged as fans to watch. He’s a living example of what can happen when hard work and belief in one’s self come together.

And regardless of whether the Jayhawks cut down the nets and hoist the hardware, the spirit, determination and courage we saw from this team all season long should resonate with Kansas Basketball fans for generations to come.

Rock Chalk!