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

Topeka Jayhawk Club

December 2017

2018 Topeka Jayhawk Club Officers

Thanks and a tip of the hat to outgoing President Diane Bean and the VP's Rob Exon, Joseph Bullock and Art Alcala. Welcome to the new officers and thanks to those who have agreed to continue with the positions they have held in the past. And many thanks to the group that helps keep things moving for the membership in general, the 2018 Board Members. If you would like to become a part of this hard-working team, please contact one of the Board Members listed. We are always in search of new volunteers.

Upcoming Watch Parties

We have several scheduled through-out the remaining conference schedule and will be adding more as we get into the post-season. Make certain we have your current email address so you will receive the reminders and any changes that may occur. You can also check the club calendar on our website or follow us on Facebook.

Changing the info you receive

Should you feel you are receiving too much Jayhawk information, at the bottom of each email you receive are a couple of links you can use to either change which emails you do receive or cancel out from all of them, in which case you will not receive anything further via email from the club.

Another tip of the hat

When I volunteered to add the newsletter to my list of things to do for the club, I had no idea that it would involve writing. 🕙 That has never been my cup of tea, and because I pass on many "press releases" from KU, I didn't want to just send something out with repeated information. So I approached a friend, super Javhawk fan and someone with a great sense of humor and the ability to tie all of those things together and put it on paper. Jim Williamson is the man behind the curtain and I am ever so grateful for his help in getting a letter together for your reading enjoyment.

"Big" issues surround KU heading into Big 12, NCAA tourney By Jim Williamson

The 2017-2018 edition of the Kansas Jayhawks has experienced a great deal of success... and some punch-vou-in-the-face losses, including two at Allen Field House. In case you forgot, that's typically two years' worth of home losses.

There's no question that this Kansas team has a ton of talent. National player of the year candidate Devonte Graham leads a squad that includes the freakishly athletic LaGerald Vick, monster-in-the-making Udoka Azubuike and dead-eye shooter Svi Mykhailiuk. Hall of Fame Bill Self pushes the buttons.

This is a team that could do some serious damage well into March. It's

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also, unfortunately, a Kansas team that could be done in the NCAA tournament's first weekend.

This team has a big issue, and that's an issue with their bigs. On those nights when KU's opponents go to a zone defense, or when the sports gods put a lid on the basket, Kansas has to have a Plan B.

Right now, the Jayhawks don't seem to have one. As longtime college hoops fan Darth Vader put it, "I find KU's lack of an inside game disturbing."

Udoka Azubuike is an otherworldly physical specimen. Big, athletic, strong, surprisingly quick, good feet. But he's still learning the game. He's also still learning to demand the ball and how to dominate a game. In his last three games, though – Nebraska, Omaha, and Stanford – the big man has averaged 20.3 points and nearly 10 rebounds. Perhaps the big man has turned a corner.

There's also the possibility of mid-season additions in Billy Preston (6-10, 240) and Silvio DeSousa (6-9, 220). Either would be a game changer for Kansas. Both would put KU squarely in the national championship discussion. Worst case scenario, it gives coach Bill Self two more long, athletic bodies with five fouls each to take the floor if Azubuike picks up two quick first-half fouls.

The problem is, Preston and DeSousa's fates are in the hands of the NCAA. If there's an organization that can turn making a simple decision into planning the Normandy Invasion, it's the NCAA. It's probably wise not to count on either player this season. Then we'll all be pleasantly surprised if one – or both of them – see the floor.

The blueprint for beating Kansas is out there: Go all in on slowing down Kansas' three-point shooters and you have a chance to beat the Jayhawks.

Here's hoping that 2018 brings continued improvement to Azubuike and an additional big, talented body (or two) to the bench.

Rock Chalk Jayhawk.

Pass this form on to a friend or family member!

ditional Names for Family Membership: dress: y, State, Zip: me Phone #: Work Phone #:	Topeka Jayhawk Club P.O. Box 67694 Topeka, KS 66667	Membership Year is from January 1st through December 31st.
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