

Football has fresh look with 43 new players

By Clinton Dick
Staff reporter

Ken Crandall has never had a Southwestern football team as large in numbers as this year's since he took over the head coaching position in 2007. The football coach says that this is one of the largest teams Southwestern has had in approximately 20 years.

"We have 43 new guys on the roster," said Crandall. "Our total out for football this year is 90."

The football coaching staff worked hard during the school year and during the summer on recruiting players for the team.

"We did a good job recruiting," said Crandall. "The players we targeted were guys who can not only make plays on the field, but be great student-athletes as well."

Not only did the Builders get a good number of recruits, but the team has had a chance to bond over the few weeks they have been practicing. Chris Cole, junior inside linebacker, said that the team has gelled together more than it has been in the past.

"We have upperclassmen guys who help out the freshman," said Cole. "The fact that we have the leadership and the experience on our side this year is exciting."

Crandall agrees that the thing that excites him most about the

upcoming season is how the team has come together.

"We have great team unity," said Crandall. "We have really bonded together the past few weeks and we have playmakers on both sides of the ball."

Last year, the Builders went 3-7 overall and 3-6 in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. Their record was only good enough to land them eighth in the KCAC out of 10 schools, but it was an improvement from the '08-'09 season when Southwestern won just one game and finished last in the KCAC. The preseason polls, which were released Aug. 9, have the Builders ranked seventh in the KCAC in the Media Poll and eighth in the Coaches Poll.

"Over the past few years we haven't done anything to have us ranked any higher," said Jordan Barrett, sophomore quarterback. "Hopefully we will surprise some people and we plan to do better this year."

Builder football fans got a first glimpse of this year's team Saturday afternoon as the football team held its annual Purple and White Scrimmage on the brand new Richard L. Jantz Stadium. The first, second and third string players all saw action.

"I think from what we saw we still have to smooth things out,"

said Crandall. "Our secondary played pretty good, but we had some long ball breakdowns."

The Builders will have until Sept. 4 to work any kinks out as they open up their season at

home against the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Aggies at 7 p.m. Last year, the Builders suffered a 35-14 loss to OPSU in Guymon, Okla.

Cole says that it will be

interesting to see how things play out considering OPSU is not a conference opponent.

"We know they are going to be a smash-mouth football team," said Cole. "It will be a

good test for us when we open up on the new stadium."

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Clinton Dick/Collegian photographer

Cory Holbert, junior running back, stiff arms Josh Plummer, junior linebacker, as he runs with the ball during the Purple and White football scrimmage Saturday. The Builder coaching staff had three strings of players play throughout the scrimmage.

Grass is part of past for Builder soccer, football



By Alejandra Rojas
Staff reporter

The 125th year anniversary of Southwestern College brings a festive mood to the campus. One thing to celebrate is the opening of the new Richard L. Jantz, turf stadium, which did away from the grassy surface.

So what exactly is the difference between playing on turf versus the green pasture?

Adjusting to speed of play and considering the smooth field, with no holes and bumps, are only a couple key components the teams will have to endure in order to have a successful

Carly Budd
Collegian Photographer
Nichole Resa, freshman midfielder, and Kaylee Jackson, freshman defender, practice on the grass field.

season.

Weston Mills, chemistry junior, plays defensive lineman on the football team. He said everyone is excited and that anyone you ask will prefer playing on turf.

"I definitely prefer playing on turf because it's not as hard on your body when you go in on a tackle and hit the ground. It also isn't as bad on the ankles," he said.

The turf may give a home field advantage to the Moundbuilders this season because as few as four conference teams still have natural grass fields and will have to adjust to playing at a higher speed.

"Panhandle still has grass," said Mills. "We might have an advantage, at least for the first game."

Jason Bond, history senior, plays defense on the soccer team. He said he has been

playing on turf fields since high school and also prefers turf.

"I like the turf, no question about it," he said. "It's a lot better, the ball moves faster and it makes for a faster paced game."

Bond also said he likes the turf because it gets rid of the holes and any injury a hidden bump in the grass might have caused.

While those might be the advantages to the new playing ground, new injuries accompany.

Amanda Beadle, head athletic trainer, said one of the injuries, which has increased is, turf burn. "This is kind of like the grass stain, but if turf burn isn't taken care of it can cause an infection," she said.

Beadle said if the turf burn isn't cleaned properly, the black pellets within the turf, may stick to the skin causing the wound not to heal fully. This is where the infection happens.

Something else Beadle said has become more common is dead leg.

"Since the turf is still new, it's still pretty soft. So for a player, it might feel they are running in sand," Beadle said.

One of the challenges the teams will also face while playing on the turf is the heat.

"The turf can be about 20 degrees hotter, so there will be a heat problem," she said.

Mills said the only concern the football team has faced is the heat.

Overall, Beadle said, some of the more common injuries shouldn't happen anymore, such as concussions from hitting the ground and cleats getting stuck in the mud during raining days, causing sprained ankles.

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Student support is needed in more than just one sport

By Clinton Dick
Staff reporter

You suit up in your pads and put on your helmet as you are walking out of the locker rooms and on to the artificial field turf. The first thing you notice when you look up at the stands is the great deal of people decked out in purple, black and white who came to watch Builder football. It makes you feel good to know that you have those people here watching you and to know they have your back as you prepare for what you have been practicing for all week.

Now, switch the scene to where you do not have any large pads to weigh you down or a helmet on your head. You are out on the

soccer fields towards the Far East side of campus. Though you are playing hard, when you look around and you do not see very many of your friends or fellow Builders in the stands or on the sidelines to cheer the team on. It is tough, but you keep on fighting anyway.

Athletics are a major part of every college. They keep the student athletes fit and committed, while contributing to the social life for those not out for sports. We make a lot of memories at sporting events, but the problem is that there is a great deal of memories made at one sport in particular during the fall and not so much for the rest.

Football one of the biggest college sports in the nation fan wise. At Southwestern, it is no different. People from the school,

community and surrounding communities come to enjoy Saturday night and afternoon football games. It is a great sight to see the stands filled up with dedicated people wearing purple, black and white. The brand new Richard L. Jantz Stadium, that of which the football team will be playing five games at this year, will only help to bring more people to the games.

I am not, under any circumstances, wanting people to stop going to the football games. It is more that I wish to raise awareness about the other sports that share seasons with football and are sometimes left out of the picture.

For example, Southwestern has a prestigious cross country program. The men are going for their 31st consecutive Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference

title this year, a streak that has not come easy. The last time I checked, though, there are not a lot of people who paint up and go out to get rowdy for our runners. I know it probably isn't the most entertaining sport to watch, but I for one do not want to see the men's cross country streak to end and it never hurts to have people to cheer you on.

What about volleyball? I've gotten the chance to play volleyball for fun before and I found it to be much more challenging than it looks. Sadly, I have never taken advantage of the opportunity to go to a Builder volleyball game before, which is something I hope to change this year. If you are not busy, make the short walk to Stewart Field House and support our Lady Builders.

Last, but not least are the

men's and women's soccer teams. For me, soccer games were fun last year. I remember standing on the sidelines with friends and shouting not so nice things at the other team. I also enjoyed how emotions run very high in soccer and how much players, coaches and fans get into the game. This year, the soccer teams will get a chance to play some of their games on the new field, which I hope brings more people to watch.

My message is that there is a variety of sports that are just now getting started for the fall season. Every one of these sports has student athletes who work hard both in the classroom and on getting their bodies prepped to take a beating throughout the season. I believe that all of those who partake in such sports at least deserve

those of us who do not have the time or athleticism for sports to come out and encourage them to give 110 percent. I know that if I was big enough, fast enough or strong enough to rock a Southwestern jersey, I would want the people I see every day to have my back up in the stands and on the sidelines. The more people that come out to cheer, hopefully the more motivated Southwestern sports will be to bring home the KCAC title, which I think would be something that we could all be proud of as Builders.

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Cross country builds on past success combined with new talent

By Kyle Killgore
Staff reporter

The Cross Country teams look to be dominant again going into their first meet Sept. 3. It is common knowledge for most that the men's team has a long-standing conference record to preserve, going for their 31st straight Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference title. They

are ranked first in the KCAC preseason polls.

The women's team is ranked third in the conference preseason poll.

With only four returning runners, the men's team will have to rely heavily on the freshmen this season.

"The freshmen have fallen into line well," said Jim Helmer, head coach. "They understand

their responsibilities from watching the older guys on the team."

There is a solid group of four returners, Andrew Topham, Carrington Crum, Frank Adelman, and Connor Drendel, and the freshman will round out the varsity.

The team seems to be even stronger than it was at this point last season.

"Overall the time trials were better, even with Frank (Adelman) injured. I think once we get all of the pieces together, we will be a very intimidating team," said Crum, accounting junior.

The women's team looks to bounce back after last season. Last year, the team only had one returner, and this season, they will return six of their

top seven. The women, after a streak of four conference wins, finished fourth last year, and want to get back on top this season.

"I am real excited about this group of girls. They all have talent and a willingness to work hard. The team is coming together well," said Amy Pierson, nursing senior.

"All of the runners had good

summers, as a team we put in between 500 and 600 miles this summer, so they are fit and ready to go," said Helmer.

"Yes, winning the conference is nice, but our main goal is to finish in the top five at nationals," said Crum.

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