

# Football tackles second conference win



Clint Dick/Collegian photographer

Zak Tazkargy, sophomore linebacker, closes in as teammates Blake Ridgway, senior defensive line, Kasey Kaiser, junior defensive line, and Weston Mills, sophomore defensive line, take down Bethel's Garrett Hiebert, junior quarterback, during the second quarter of Saturday's game. The Southwestern defense accumulated 6.5 sacks throughout the game, helping to propel the men to a 21-20 win over the Threshers. The team improved to 2-6 overall and 2-5 in conference.

By Clint Dick  
Staff reporter

If there is one team in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference that is desperate for a win, it's Tabor College. Coming into Saturday's game against Southwestern the Blue Jays are 0-8. "The way I see it is that they are coming into my house trying to beat me," said Thaddeus Carrena, senior defensive lineman. "I am not looking at their record because they are coming to win just like we are. I see them just as any other opponent." Tabor is coming off of a 43-10 loss at home to McPherson College.

Offensively, Tabor has struggled to keep up with the elite teams in the KCAC. They rank last in pass efficiency with a 97.3 efficiency rating and a 7-12 touchdown-to-interception ratio. They have allowed 30 sacks this season. With a 22.30 percent third-down conversion rate, the Blue Jays are also dead last in the conference in third-down percentage.

The defense hasn't performed much better. Tabor is ranked last in almost every major defensive category including scoring defense,

sacks per game, and total defensive yards allowed. Their 45.1 points per game and 488.6 yards per game shows how severely the Blue Jays have struggled to keep opposing offenses off the field and out of the endzone.

After a 48-7 loss at McPherson on Oct. 24, the Moundbuilders clashed heads with conference rival Bethel at home. The game featured two evenly-matched teams in an up and down battle for bragging rights in the lower section of the KCAC standings.

The Builders found themselves in a hole early on as Lance Evans, freshman running back, fumbled on Southwestern's second possession.

"We got back into turnover mode again," said Ken Crandall, head football coach. "We have been playing good football we just need to keep it going."

On the ensuing play, Garrett Hiebert, junior quarterback, connected with Jeremy Newhouse, senior fullback, for a 25-yard touchdown pass to give the Threshers an early lead.

Newhouse would go on to score again after Southwestern's Jordan Barrett, freshman quarterback, fumbled on the Builder two-yard line.

Two plays later, Newhouse found the endzone on a one-yard run to increase the Thresher lead to 14-0.

On the Builders ensuing drive, Barrett hit Dillon Fowler, freshman wide receiver, deep for a 40-yard gain. "I'm not the primary route on that play," said Fowler. "I just found a hole in the zone and Barrett hit me for a big gain." That would set up a crisp pass from Barrett to Jeff Schaefer, junior wide receiver, for a 13-yard touchdown to make the score 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

The Builders continued to find success through the air as Barrett connected with Schaefer again with 10:22 left in the half. This time Barrett found Schaefer wide open in the middle of the field. Schaefer hauled in the pass and ran the rest of the way to the endzone for a 33-yard touchdown to knot the score up at 14.

With just 0:45 left in the half, the Builder defense made arguably the biggest play of the game. With Bethel driving into Southwestern territory, Hiebert passed to Lance Francis, senior wide receiver, in the flat. Southwestern's Nick Koch, junior

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## Men's basketball envisions unity Women shoot for consistent scoring

By Samantha Gillis  
News and editorial editor

Unity is the new vision for the men's basketball team—at least according to head coach Matt O'Brien. With no promises to win, O'Brien wants to build his basketball program on a foundation of character rather than stats and gleaming gold medals. O'Brien feels his non-traditional approach has served him well in the past, and he is confident it will lead his new team in the same direction.

The team plays its first game Nov. 5 in Oklahoma, against Mid-America Christian University, who went 3-28 overall last season. The Builders prevailed over MACU last year, with a score of 86-77.

Despite the win, O'Brien sees some challenges. "It's going to be difficult to play against Oklahoma. We're going to be on the road and they are NAIA, Division one team," he said.

There are other challenges such as a disadvantage in height. With three Mid-America players at 6'9 and only one Builder at 6'5, the team will have to rely on their speed. "We have fairly solid speed on the team. Justin Diggles (senior guard) is explosive from the half court, and Tim

Miser (senior guard) is a fast guard who can get into the lane," O'Brien said.

But this is not new for O'Brien, who has never coached a player over 6'5. "My past teams have always been undersized. We always relied on unity, hustle and unselfish players," he said.

Diggles said, "We are going to be a running endurance team. No set plays, just if you see someone pass it to them.

Now that Diggles is finally back on the court after his knee rehabilitation, he said he felt "like a big kid in a candy store." He describes his injury as fun. "I went from 193 (pounds) to 184 (pounds)," he said.

In light of the ACL injury of David King, senior post, the team has made some adjustments in its playing style. O'Brien said, "(We will focus) more on a concentrated effort on our transition effort offense verses our half court offense."

O'Brien has recognized one player in particular who has stepped up, in the place of King. "Stuart Ballard (junior forward). If he plays with as much confidence as I have in him he is going to be a special player for Southwestern," he said. In the past Ballard has played minimal minutes, O'Brien said. As a post who is

a willing and able passer, O'Brien sees Ballard as a weapon.

Ballard, said, "Yes, there is a little pressure, especially considering I have to try and replace the production of an All-Conference player. But I believe I have worked hard and I am ready."

Under the course of three scrimmages against Butler Junior College, the team was able to preview their abilities before their first game. The men only won one of their three scrimmages. "But they are humble and willing to learn," said O'Brien.

O'Brien wanted to use the pre-season scrimmages and games to get every player a chance to show what they can do. "Paul Campbell, a freshman (guard) showed a tremendous amount of effort," said O'Brien.

"I think the freshmen are going to continue to grow," said Diggles.

Being a player who worked hard and was willing to do anything for his team but didn't get much playing time was how O'Brien described himself in his hay days at Friends University. "I always hated players who wouldn't hustle, players who weren't team first mentality," he said. From this he has developed his philosophy on coaching.

This is why he aspires to build

a team from character rather than skill—a team that can depend on each other. "The fox hole is great test to see the perception your players have on each other. I, for one, would want every single one of these guys in my fox hole," said O'Brien.

Selfishness was the catalyst of last season's struggles according to Ballard, and also "no chemistry. It seemed like losing was accepted and nobody cared." This year the team has morphed into a team who brings it every day and hates losing said Ballard.

O'Brien is still uncertain of the starting five for Thursday. "We probably won't know until the tip off," he said.

"The first game is a statement which will hopefully provide momentum for the rest of the season," said Ballard.

"I will go out there and have no mercy on anyone—it's game time, it's time to go," said Diggles.

The men's season kicks off at 7 p.m. Nov. 5 at Mid-America Christian University. Their first home game is at 7 p.m. Nov. 9 against Hillsdale Baptist College.

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By Michelle Dreiling  
Staff reporter

The Lady Builders are ready to step out on the court.

"Practices are going good," said Dave Denly, head coach. "We've had injuries and sickness so we've not had a full squad any of the days that we've practiced over the last two weeks but we've had pretty good energy and focus from our kids and I feel like we're making progress."

The Builders' first opponent will be Mid-America Christian University Nov. 5 in Oklahoma City. The MACU Lady Evangelists are in the NCCAA Division I and were picked ninth in the Sooner Athletic Conference this season.

"We've played them every year over the last three or four years. They're very comparable to our conference," said Denly. "I think they, on given nights, could play as well as anyone in our league. The toughest thing will be first game jitters, a lot of kids are new to the program or coming back and haven't played for a year or so, so they're going to be working on chemistry and timing.

It's going to be interesting. I think we're going to be excited, and the energy level is going to be there. It's just whether or not we're executing like we can at this time of the year."

This year's offense is going to be slightly different than last year. "We're going to run some motion and some stuff we ran last year, but we've changed it slightly to adjust to the personnel we have. Obviously it's going to be different. (Kara Beal) was such a big part of what we did last year, and given all the freshmen we had last year she had to take on an even bigger role. But this year with getting Tylar Hartfield back to go inside, (Jordan) Cossman back on the perimeter, and adding some more weapons offensively, we're not going to rely on one person near as much as we did last year. I really want this team to be more balanced across the board. We're going to be a lot more up tempo this year than we were last year."

Recent practices have helped the team become more focused. Anna Pruitt, junior guard, said, "The hardest part about practice is just putting

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## Illness runs away with cross country performance level

By Katie Gomez  
Staff reporter

Multiple illnesses got the better of them as Cross Country competed in their final invitational of the season. The men and women hosted the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Mid-States Classic Oct. 24 alongside

27 teams from six different states.

The women finished ninth out of 22 teams with a total time of 1:40:59.23. Amy Pierson, nursing junior, came in second place at 18:27:50. Jennifer Hendrixson, nursing sophomore, finished 46th with a time of 20:14:23 and Sydney Nelson, biology freshman, finished 48th at 20:19:96.

The men finished 10th out of 22

teams with a time of 2:14:38.53. Andrew Topham, biology junior, took sixth place out of 215 runners at 25:43:58. Frank Adelman, biology freshman, finished 43rd with a time of 26:49:58 and Clint Kessler, undecided freshman, took 52nd at 27:09:85.

The men and women fought hard as multiple cases of the flu

and even a case of H1N1 affected several members of the team who ran, despite their illness. Jim Helmer, head coach, was pleased with the way the teams performed considering their circumstances.

"I thought our women ran really well. There were quality teams there and overall, our performance was really good," said Helmer. "I think

our guys were ready to be fourth of fifth and then four of our top five guys had had the flu throughout the week. They all raced but I'm not sure they all should have."

Helmer was disappointed for his team because they couldn't perform like they were ready to. "We've had great workouts, but with that many down with the flu, it was just not

what we hoped for. Those things just happen and we're not the only ones struggling with sick players. It's a hard time right now," said Helmer.

Helmer believes his teams have had a great season and can prevail if they just overcome their challenges and get healthy.

"Quantity wise, our numbers are

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## Two earn Player of the Week in win over Bethel

The football team had two Players of the Week during its second conference win of the season.

Josh Plummer, sophomore linebacker, was named the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Defensive Player of the Week. In the Builders' 21-20 win over Bethel College, Plummer had 7 tackles (2 solo), including 2 tackles-for-loss, 0.5 sack and one interception. Plummer scored the winning touchdown on a 49-yard fumble recovery. The team is 2-6 overall, and 2-5 in the KCAC.

Matt Tria, freshman punter, was named the KCAC Special Teams Player of the week. Tria had 10 punts for 402 yards (long 55 yards) in the win over Bethel.



Plummer



Tria

## Women's soccer charges into quarterfinals

By Lacie Holbert  
Staff reporter

Conference is officially over for the men's and women's soccer team. The men's team finished the season in last place in the conference. Their season record was 1-15-1. As for the women's team, they are preparing for the quarterfinal tournament which will start Nov. 6. This will be the first time since 2005 to attend the quarterfinal tournament and the most conference wins since 2004. The Lady Builders go into the tournament ranked No. 6 with a record of 7-9-1.

For the quarterfinals the team seated higher in conference will host. In order to advance to the quarterfinals tournament, a team must be ranked within the top six in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference rankings.

The teams competing in the tournament include: Ottawa University, Kansas Wesleyan University, McPherson College, Friends Univer-

sity, Bethel College and Southwestern.

The tournament will be played single elimination. On Nov. 6 the No. 3 team will play the No. 6 ranked team and the No. 4 team will play the No. 5 team ranked team leaving the top two teams in conference to advance on to the semifinals, which will be played on Nov. 10. From there the winners of the semifinal game will advance on to the finals Nov. 14, hosted by Tabor.

The women's team lost 2-0 to Kansas Wesleyan Oct. 31. Rachel Muth, junior goalie, said, "We had a really good first half, but came out flat the second half. I think overall the game could have been a lot better. As a team we need to figure out how to play a full 90 minutes consistently."

The men's team lost 8-1 to Kansas Wesleyan Oct. 31. Andrew Bonvehi, senior forward, scored the only goal for the Builders. Stefan Carter, freshman midfielder, made the assist.

Carter said, "The game was really slow starting off but after the first half we picked up the intensity of the game. Kansas Wesleyan was a tough game. As a team, they have a lot of talent and speed."

The women lost 6-0 to Ottawa Oct. 28. Joe Wood, head women's soccer coach, said, "Ottawa was a really tough game. We held them scoreless for the first 20 minutes of the game. We had opportunities to score, but couldn't get our foot on it. Their No. 1 in conference and have only given up one goal to McPherson in conference play. Ottawa is goal scoring when their in they're zone."

The men's team lost 3-0 to Ottawa Oct. 28. Jason Bond, junior defense, said, "Ottawa was a good quality team that had a lot of strong athletes. They had a lot speed, plus a lot more subs, then we had. It's tough not having many subs, if any at all and trying to keep up with our opponent for 90 minutes. I think not having many subs really affects our team during a game."

The women's team lost 2-0 to Friends Oct. 24. The Falcons scored once in the first half and then once in the second half.

Wood said, "The Friends game was a special game because it was senior day. We recognized two seniors, Kerry Sonnenburg and Rene Schwan. It was a very winnable game, but unfortunately we could not put anything in the back of the net."

The men's team lost 2-1 to Friends Oct. 24. Andrew Bonvehi, senior forward, scored the only goal for the Builders. The Builders took the Falcons into overtime but the Falcons scored the winning goal.

Bond said, "I thought the Friends game was a really good game and effort by the team. Our midfielders really stepped it up and played great. Also Daniel Forsyth, goalie, made a lot of saves which helped save us."

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