

Assistant coaches Current coaching staff comes together

By Monica Springer
Sports editor

They want to bring pride back to the program.

One new assistant coach and two returning coaches round out the football coaching staff.

"We're looking for an intense year. I'm not going to put a number on it, but we're expected to win a lot more games," said Dion Meneley, defensive coordinator.

While looking for assistant coaches, there were some aspects that out-weighted others.

"I was looking for guys that understand how important it is to be a small college football coach," said Ken Crandall, head football coach. "I want guys that understand that though football's very important to us, the academic side needs to be just as important."

Another important aspect Crandall looked for in his assistant coaches is

the importance of family.

"I was looking for guys that understand family is going to be important to us and for our players. It's important that the guys who play for us understand that we care about them and love them. But we're going to demand some discipline," said Crandall.

Meneley is the new defensive coordinator. Crandall said Meneley was recommended by colleagues from Pittsburg State University.

"I think Dion's going to bring experience on the defensive side. He's a real go-getter type of guy. I'm not a big rah-rah guy. It's helpful to have one of those guys on staff. I think Dion will do that," Crandall said.

Meneley said a couple of things were important in choosing to coach at Southwestern. Getting to know

the coaching staff and the appeal of the campus played a large part.

"When I came down here and talked to coach Crandall I found out his philosophies and how he wanted to run the team. I loved the direction," Meneley said. "The guys here are very personable. As far as a



Meneley

Tagg

Webb

working relationship goes it just felt very comfortable."

Meneley said Southwestern was a place he felt he could recruit to. "When you come to Southwestern the campus is very appealing. Campus life is great. People are great. It was a great college atmosphere."

Meneley is from Topeka. He was

a graduate assistant at Washburn University from 2003 to 2005, and the defensive line coach from 2005 to 2006.

Meneley was part of Washburn's Mineral Bowl championship, and the school's first conference championship and playoffs in 2005. Meneley graduated from Pittsburg State University.

Meneley said he brings a positive influence to the program. "I'm a pretty upbeat type of guy. I want to encourage them. I want to bring a positive influence to the kids. When they walk on the field they know we're going to work hard, but we're going to have a lot of fun at it. It's a game they need to enjoy."

The two returning assistant coaches are Jimmie Tagg, offensive line and tight ends coach, and Floyd Webb, defensive line coach.

"I felt like when we made the transition both of them did a great job of recruiting. I felt like I could

rely on them. I'm real excited about both of them," said Crandall.

From 2005-2006 Tagg was the assistant offensive line and tight ends coach for Southwestern. He was the student assistant offensive line coach from 2004 to 2005.

"Jimmie graduated from here, so he has a pretty good idea of how things work. If I have a question I know I can go to him," said Crandall.

This is Tagg's third year of coaching for Southwestern. He earned his bachelor's degree at Southwestern in 2005.

"I bleed purple. That's all I can say. I love this place," said Tagg. "I'm working my way up the ladder being a young coach. There are lots of bumps and bruises, but Coach Crandall is my kind of coach. We're all here to do one thing and that's win."

Floyd Webb is in his second year as the defensive line coach.

"I enjoy being here at Southwestern. This is where I want to be," said Webb. "It's got tradition. It's got pride."

In 2005 to 2006, Webb coached the defensive line at Highland Community College. He was a graduate assistant at the University of Nebraska from 2003-2004.

Webb earned his Bachelor of Arts from Westmar University in LeMars, Iowa. He has a master's degree in health, recreation, and physical education from the University of Nebraska.

Webb said he brings a sense of team to the program.

"Where I came from and where I played it's all about the team. Team's first. You're a family. We're bringing pride back to the program," said Webb.

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Recruiting and retention Small roster provides individual attention for players

By Monica Springer
Sports editor

Everybody wants to talk about numbers. With a new coach this year, that's understandable.

But rather than numbers, Ken Crandall, head football coach, is more concerned about the quality of player coming into the football program.

"We want to find the best football players we can. I want guys that I feel like I can have a one-on-one relationship with. I think it's important for us to get the right guys this year for what we want to build," Crandall said.

Crandall was hired in December, after 11 years of coaching at the University of Minnesota-Morris.

Todd Moore, director of admission, said, "He wants to have a good academic team. And he had that at Morris. Ken brings experience and knows what it takes to have a good academic team. He's a good mentor for coaches already here." Roster

An ideal roster size is 85, Crandall said. There are 45 on the roster now. About 22 have signed so far, and they hope to get 15 more.

"If 85 guys are on the roster, they can understand that they're an important part of the program. They can see themselves playing in the near future if they're not playing," Crandall said. "I think if you get into

with three students signing letters of intent from Mesa, Ariz., Peoria, Ariz., and Flagstaff, Ariz.

"That was an area that I had recruited a little before in Morris. Kids there just don't have many options for four-year colleges. They have a lot of junior colleges but they don't have as many four-year colleges," Crandall said.

"The fellas are working hard. Attitudes have definitely changed. I think we're all on the same path."

- Jimmie Tagg, offensive line and tight ends coach

that 100 or 120 range guys start to feel like they're never going to play and get distant. That's not what we want."

The freshmen recruits have come from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Crandall has also recruited Arizona,

He said the staff is behind in recruiting from Kansas, but said they'll pick up the slack for the 2008-2009 year.

"He's a very good guy," said Moore. "I don't think it's a year to judge him recruiting wise. That'll be

in a couple years."

When recruiting, Crandall said the key aspect he's looking for is depth.

"We're pretty lucky because we've got a pretty good returning core back. We feel like we need some depth at the offensive line and at wide receiver."

On the defensive side, Crandall said the secondary position is still wide open. "On the defensive side we felt pretty good with the core guys. Secondary was huge, we needed to bring a bunch of guys in there. Those slots are wide open. No one's played much back there before. Everywhere else we're just trying to fill in depth."

Dion Meneley, defensive coordinator, said the staff got a late start in the recruiting process, but they've signed quality students.

"Numbers wise, we're not sitting at 25 or 40 commitments right now. But we have a good number of kids who we think can challenge for positions," Meneley said. "That's what we want from a coaching point of view."

Seventeen students have signed letters on intent, according to the football website. Three are from Arizona, four are from Texas, one is from Florida, one from Georgia, and the others are from Kansas.

"The ones we're bringing in are ones we know that will be with this program for four or five years until they graduate," Meneley said. "We're not just bringing in bodies. We're bringing in kids that are ready to play."

Over half of this year's freshman class has either dropped out or transferred to another school. Moore cited three reasons why students leave.

If students are from an area not within driving distance, they can't go home as often. This leads to the first retention problem.

The other two reasons are restrictions of academics and financial problems.

"If we have 70 students on the roster, we don't want to go sign 10 more just to fill it. We don't want to take just anybody," Moore said. "We

don't want kids if we can't retain them. I think that's been a problem with the past coaching staff."

Some players quit before the change in coaches was announced.

"You definitely never know who will return. And you're not quite sure what the follow will be," said Moore.

Jimmie Tagg, offensive line and tight ends coach, said the team dynamic has changed considerably since last year.

"The fellas are working hard. Attitudes have definitely changed. I think we're all on the same path. We're working hard," Tagg said.

The football staff wants their hard work recognized. Tagg said he encourages to attend all home games and away games if possible.

"We want the students to be alive and ready to go. We have to get the students involved back in this program," Tagg said.

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Softball team gets another win against Tabor College

By Scott Nuss
Staff reporter

Members of the softball team (3-22, 2-6) can breathe a little easier. The squad has played its final road games of the season. All of the team's remaining games will be played at Winfield's Broadway Sports Complex.

Monday night the team was swept 3-0 and 2-0 by Kansas Wesleyan (15-14, 5-3). Tuesday they traveled to Friends University for a doubleheader with the arch-rival Falcons. Results of the games were not available at press time.

Saturday, the Bethany Swedes (18-15, 4-6) come to the Broadway Complex for a doubleheader

beginning at 1 p.m.

The team will entertain Ottawa University (13-12, 7-1) in an evening twin bill starting at 5 p.m. on April 25 at the Broadway Complex.

The team got a much-needed confidence boost Thursday with a sweep of Tabor (0-14, 0-10) in Hillsboro.

Southwestern trailed 3-0 after three innings before starting a slow comeback to tie the game 3-3 at the end of regulation. It was then that the team got its first taste of the International Tie Breaker system, a modified system used to break ties.

"In the International Tie Breaker you start the 8th inning with whoever made your last out on second base," said Amber Good, head coach.

Katie Burrow, outfielder, was the first player on second base for the Lady Builders. A bunt by Kinsey

"If we keep progressing and putting the little things together, the wins will start coming for us."

- Amber Good, head coach

Colclasure, catcher, advanced Burrow to third base. A flurry of Tabor College errors allowed Burrow to score and sent Colclasure to third base. Colclasure would later score

to give the Builders a 5-3 lead. The Southwestern defense gave up just one run in the bottom of the eighth

to secure the 5-4 win.

"Michelle Dreiling and Monica Sauber had solid games at the plate," Good said. "Michelle went four-for-five and Monica went three-for-five."

The nightcap was a much different story. Southwestern jumped out to a 2-0 first-inning lead and extended that lead to 7-0 in the third inning. Tabor scored its first run in the fourth inning before the Lady Builders tacked on five more in the sixth inning, then held on for a 12-3 win.

"We came out with a lot more enthusiasm in the second game," Good said.

"We had a much better showing at the plate than we've been having. Whitney Baker had a couple ground rule doubles that drove in a few runs. Everybody reached base in the game," Good said.

If nothing else, the sweep served as a confidence booster for the team.

"That is how we are capable of

hitting the ball, no matter who we're playing," Good said. "If we can show up ready to play and produce at the plate then we are very hard to beat."

Six games remain before the conference tournament May 3-5 which will be played at Broadway Complex. The team appears to be improving in nearly all aspects of their game.

"The girls are learning a lot right now," Good said. "We are getting some solid senior leadership. If we keep progressing and putting the little things together, the wins will start coming for us."

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Team opts against competing in Wichita, travels to KU today

By Eddie Carmichael
Staff reporter

The track team traveled to Hillsboro to compete in the Tabor Invitational on April 18. Fifteen teams competed at Tabor. Press results were not available as of press

time.

The team will travel to Lawrence to compete in the KU relays April 19-21.

There will be 150 teams competing at KU.

The track team didn't compete in the K.T. Woodman Classic at Wichita

State because of the weather.

Mike Kirkland, head women's coach, said, "The track meet was pushed to Sunday. We decided not to compete because we would have had three meets in one week. We thought that was too much."

Sarah Morton, digital arts junior,

qualified for nationals in the triple jump with a 37-5 3/4 April 7 at the Oklahoma Christian Invitational in Oklahoma City.

So far this season two have been national qualifiers. Andrew Pearson, English and psychology senior, qualified in the 100 meter

with a time of 10.60 March 15 at the Southwestern Invitational.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics outdoor championships are May 24-26 in Fresno, Calif.

The men are vying for their 25 straight conference title. The women

are competing for their 15 straight conference title.

Monica Springer contributed to this story.

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—KACP from p. 1 received second place in feature writing. Scott Nuss, journalism senior, received two honorable mentions in sports news, and an honorable mention in sports photography. Amanda Smith, political science freshman, received an honorable mention in editorial writing. Matt Webb, radio/television production & per-

formance freshman, received an honorable mention in editorial writing and honorable mention in sports feature writing.

April McCormick, communication junior, Jessica Bernhardt, journalism freshman, and Katie Allender, journalism sophomore, also attended the conference.

Stacy Sparks, assistant pro-

fessor of journalism and student publications advisor, accompanied the students on the trip.

The students heard presentations by Wichita Eagle writers and photographers.

College media advisors also presented sessions on career development, news writing, marketing, and online journalism.

Students toured the Wichita Eagle and Sullivan Higdon and Sink advertising.

The keynote address was delivered by John Hanna, a Topeka correspondent and chief legislative correspondent for the Associated Press.

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