

# Volleyball takes aims at winning season

By Paige Carswell  
Staff reporter

After years of being one of the decidedly worst teams in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Southwestern College volleyball team is finally getting some coaches worried about their potential to be, well, good this year.

And if the other coaches aren't worried about it, they ought to be.

The team is bringing back nine varsity lettermen from the 2008 season in which the Lady Builders chalked up a 4-14 conference record and 8-20 overall record while starting four freshmen in Taylor Kinnamon, middle blocker, Kindell Copeland, setter, Kim Kellogg, defensive specialist, and Dwila Covey, outside hitter. They've also brought in four new recruits, including an exceptionally big hitter in senior Kara Robeson, a 6'0 middle blocker who transferred to Southwestern after playing two years at Barton County Community College and

one at Missouri Southern State University.

The Lady Builders are ranked eighth in preseason polls, but the women are aiming far above where they finished last year. They're aiming to be in the top three teams in the conference at the end of the season—a big jump from where they were last season, but with more experience and more leadership, the women believe it to be totally possible. “We started out great last year,” Caitlin Smith, junior outside hitter, said. “I think being a young team kind of hurt us. We're already looking so much better and we're definitely excited about that.”

Kinnamon was one who was thrust into a starting role as a freshman last year.

“I was so nervous,” Kinnamon said, “but we just had to grow up and do it. Last year was a big transition but this year I feel a lot more comfortable.”

The women looked comfortable when they scrimmaged Central Christian College Aug. 30. They won all five games against

the Lady Tigers, with the closest score being 25-21. Cori Meyer-Broddle, head coach, said she was impressed with how well the team carried out the games even after losing a few points in a row, but more so with how they dealt with the adjustments she gave them on the court, switching women from one position to another and taking Robeson out completely for one game. “I was just impressed with the whole team being able to adjust,” Meyer-Broddle said. “Their confidence in having a bad play and coming back and getting the next one is a lot better than it has been in the past.”

Kinnamon said, “We all have really high expectations for the season, so it was good to come out strong.”

Meyer-Broddle also said that there was another surprise that came from the scrimmage. When she decided to play Smith at the setter position along with returning setter Kindell Copeland, sophomore, she said the



Blake Carter/Collegian photographer  
Taylor Kinnamon, business administration sophomore, Cori Meyer-Broddle, head coach, Kindell Copeland, biology sophomore, and Dwila Covey, chemistry sophomore work on spiking during volleyball practice.

See volleyball, page 4-

## Feast, fun, football planned for upcoming Builderfest

By Benjamin Whitener  
Staff reporter

Hot dogs, music, inflatables and football. It all sounds like a great party. In its third year, Builderfest promises to bring fun and fellowship to the Southwestern campus and to Cowley County.

Builderfest is an event designed to

get students and community members alike to be involved with campus activities that will take place at 3 p.m. Sept. 12. This will be the third year, but the event was rained out in 2008, making 2009 its second occurrence.

In its first year Builderfest brought approximately 700 people and this year the event planners hope to bring

more. Ken Crandall, head football coach, said, “You just have to keep doing it until it gets bigger and bigger.”

Crandall is the visionary behind Builderfest and brought the idea from his previous coaching position in Minnesota.

Numerous events and activities are planned to take place including

a little league football game at 3 pm followed by inflatable bouncing rooms opening at 5:30 pm. There will be one inflatable for younger children and one for college students.

Other events include a pitching game hosted by the softball team, musical entertainment, a salsa competition at 5:30 p.m. hosted by Student Government and many other activities.

The games and activities will be followed by a tailgate party to help kick off the first home football game of the season. Students and com-

munity members are encouraged to come and enjoy hot dogs, chips and a drink for \$3 a person. Students with a meal plan can use their student identification cards, but cash will also be accepted. Dan Falk, dean of students, said, “It is a great event for families.”

The football game will begin at 7 p.m. The Builders will be taking on Sterling College. Right before the game, Builderfest attendees are asked to help build the Builder Canal through which the football team will run onto the field. Builderfest

is a lead into the football game but Crandall said, “The point of Builderfest isn't to put people in the stands. It is to bring the community together and get people involved with the college.”

Builderfest will take place between Stewart Field House and White PE.

KSWC 100.3 The Jinx radio station will be covering the event.

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## Soccer sets goals for year

By Clint Dick  
Staff reporter

There was nothing glamorous about the men's soccer team's 3-13-1 (1-8) record last year. Despite their struggles, second-year head coach Ruben Sanchez is confident that his team can get back on track.

“We have a lot of great core players coming back and a lot of freshmen guys who can make an impact,” said Sanchez of the team's chances this season. “It's just a matter of how we come out. I think we will be competitive and I hope the guys come out and prove that on the field.”

There is no doubt that the soccer team is competitive, but they are also young. With almost half of the players on the roster being freshmen, Southwestern is one of the youngest teams in the conference. Still, Sanchez and his players have put in a lot of hard work toward the upcoming season. “We work a lot on our tactics. We need to be a little better prepared for each team when we face them,” said Sanchez. “We are also working on becoming more united as a team.”

The men's soccer team returns with two seniors this year, Shane Neises and Andrew Bonvehi. Juniors on the team consist of Jason Bond, George McNitt, and Tian Zeng. Daniel Forsyth, Scott Rethorst, Ian High, and Alexandre Macasane make up the sophomores on the team and Stefan Carter, Dalton (DJ) Donner, Jordan Silerio-Rivas, Trevor Yingling, Bamidele Ogunseye, Joseph Coyle, and Cristian Mendoza are the freshmen players. The purple and white scrimmage is on Sept. 2

and their first game is Sept. 5 at Bacone College in Oklahoma.

### Women's soccer

The women's soccer team is looking for something to wash the bitter taste out of their mouth from last season. While Southwestern played one of its best seasons in the last few years, the Moundbuilders finished one place shy in the conference standings to earn a bid to the KCAC Conference Tournament. Despite the disappointment, it is a new year and Joe Wood, who is entering his fourth season as the women's soccer head coach, is determined to get Southwestern back into the postseason. “We are trying to make improvements as a whole in the soccer program,” said Wood. “We want to continue to improve our record and continue to earn awards both in athletics and academics.” Last year, the team earned both the Champions of Character Award, which is given out to a team by the NAIA for showing integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership, and the Scholar Team Award, which is earned when every player on the team has a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Southwestern certainly proved themselves off the field, but what about on? Last season the Moundbuilders were ranked nationally for least goals allowed, shut out eight opponents, and finished the season 7-7-3 (3-4-2). This year they return 10 players and add nine fresh faces. Taylor Aldrich, midfield senior, Rene Schwan, defender and midfield, and Kerry Sonnenburg,

defender and midfield, are the three returning seniors. The junior players consist of Danielle Carr, goalkeeper, Rachel Muth, goalkeeper, Jamie Harkness, defender, Alejandra Rojas, defender, and Morgan Taylor, midfielder. The sophomores on the team are Katie Bipes, midfield, Morgan Constantine, defender, Kelli Florio, midfield, and Alexandria Hopson, forward. Southwestern has also built up an impressive group of recruits that Wood is very enthusiastic about. “We've got three seniors who have done a phenomenal job in the past and a group of solid returners,” said Wood, “But we also have an extraordinary recruiting class in which I have high expectations in.” The freshmen players consist of Melanie Marsh, defender and midfielder, Amber Jones, goalkeeper and forward, Nicole Mound, midfield, Kayla Hart, forward, Nicole Struxness, midfield, Donaji Garcia, defender and midfield, and Lindsey Webb, defender.

With a new season about to kick off and the conference title back up for grabs, anticipation is building. Though the Moundbuilders don't seem like much on paper, Wood has confidence that his team can go far. “This year's team is optimistic,” said Woods, “I think that this season will be a surprise and that we can and will surprise some people.” The women's purple and white scrimmage takes place at 5 p.m. Sept. 2. Their first game is at 6 p.m. Sept. 5 at Bacone College.

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## New tennis coach takes court

By Clint Dick  
Staff reporter

He left behind a legacy that will be remembered for years to come. For a total of 24 years John Paulin, head tennis coach, led Moundbuilder tennis. He started back in 1975 when he began as the women's head coach and ended last June when he retired from coaching. Paulin coached the women's tennis team from 1975 to 1990 and coached both men's and women's from 2000 to 2009.

He led the women's tennis team to nine Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference championship titles and was inducted into the Southwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. There is a new coach at the helm. Even though he has some big shoes to fill, he is no stranger to the game of tennis.

In 1985, Randy Smith won the KCAC championship in No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles at Southwestern. He graduated the same year with a bachelor's degree in biology. During the late 80's, Smith coached tennis at Friends University in Wichita and he later went on to run a tennis program each summer which 300 to 500 juniors attend. His passion for the game led him to the opportunity to return to his alma mater when he was hired as the new men's and women's tennis coach in early July.

“I felt very blessed,” said Smith “I felt like God had something to do with it and I was very excited about

getting the job.”

“His experience level is phenomenal,” said Dave Denly, athletic director, “He has a love for the game and that is why he was the guy for the job.”

Not only is Smith experienced, he has a tight relationship with Paulin. “We are really close and I have a lot of respect for him,” said Smith. “He was the women's coach when I went to Southwestern and he was the minister who married my wife and I.” Smith has the uncanny ability to motivate his players. “I want to help them see their full potential and then help them reach that potential,” said Smith, “I want to see everyone giving it their best and trying their hardest when they are on the court.”

Smith isn't just looking for players who do well on the court. “I expect each player to have good character and to be responsible for his or her actions off the court.” He expects his players to, “respect themselves, respect the coach, and respect their schools to the highest level.”

Smith takes over a program that has been highly successful the last few years. Last year, women's tennis finished third overall in the KCAC. With veteran players Molly Kearns, elementary education senior, Lacey Hibbs, elementary education junior, Alesia Schneewis, biology senior, and Genaya Domenico, marine biology junior, returning, it should be another great season. Women's tennis also added new coming players

Katie McNett, English freshman, Melissa Roetzer, biology freshman, Morgan Hubele, elementary education junior, and Alyssa Peterson, undeclared major freshman, who are all looking to build on the success of the team.

“I believe Coach Smith can help the team out a lot. He has had a lot of experience in tennis and seems very willing to help us all individually and as a team,” said McNett. “He seems like a very nice guy who's dedicated to helping the tennis team do great things and I'm looking forward to the season.” Their first chance to prove themselves comes in a home game against Cowley College at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 17.

Men's tennis finished sixth in the KCAC last year. Things are looking up as six returning players and two newcomers make up a team determined to get back in the hunt. Jeff Smith, Jacob Tafoya, business and computer information junior, Tristan Walters, biochemistry junior, Jacob Mires, undeclared sophomore, DJ Wilson, business administration senior, and Andrew Manly make up the veterans. Cole Ebenkamp, business and marketing freshman, and Jessie Riggs, liberal arts freshman are the newcomers. The first tennis match of the season for the men is Sept. 9 at 3:30 at home against Cowley College.

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## Former Falcon ditches wings to become new Head Men's Basketball Coach

By Lacie Holbert  
Collegian reporter

With basketball season approaching students will be seeing many new faces on and along the court. One new face Stewart Field house will be seeing a lot of is new men's basketball coach, Matt O'Brien. O'Brien was hired early July to replace Doug Hall, former coach. Hall accepted a position as director of operations for the men's basketball team at the University of Missouri in Kansas City.

O'Brien attended Friends Uni-

versity, where he received an undergraduate degree in physical education and a master's degree in management. O'Brien played basketball at Friends from 1996 to 1999. After graduation, he was an assistant basketball coach, sports information director, and a facilities manager for Friends before accepting the position of head coach at Central Christian College in McPherson.

O'Brien was intrigued by Southwestern's winning tradition of academic success. O'Brien said, “I want to see the men succeed on as well as off the court, especially academical-

ly.” He is looking forward to building a relationship with his team and with the community of Winfield.

O'Brien is excited about Southwestern College and appreciates being a part of an institution that has a strong sense of community. “I have had the opportunity to attend a few of the events and have enjoyed meeting new people and learning more about Southwestern.”

One of his goals is to keep the strong program alive. He looks forward to the approaching season. “After meeting with the team for the first time this week, I am pleased

with our prospects. It appears that we will have a strong leadership from our upperclassmen which I feel is very important to build a successful program both on and off the court. I am also very impressed with the younger players as well as the overall character of the team so far,” said O'Brien.

Jared Irvin, business sophomore, is excited about the approaching season with the new additions to the team. “I have very high expectations for our team this year and can't wait to see the changes Coach O'Brien makes to the program if any.”

David Denly, athletic director, is excited about having O'Brien at Southwestern. Denly also feels that the program is in excellent shape and is anxious to see what O'Brien can add to the program. “I do not see any drastic changes in the way the program is handled,” Denly said. Denly agreed that, with a new coach, everyone can have a fresh start which is very positive and exciting.

O'Brien said the transition to Southwestern has been smooth, thanks to the staff and faculty for being so helpful. “Coach Denly is great to work for and has been very

supportive as I get prepared for this season. Also, I am very fortunate that both assistant coaches have remained on staff and working hard to get ready for the season.”

The men's basketball team will have a tough schedule of non-conference games. Most will be on the road before conference. They open Nov. 5 against Mid-America Christian University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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