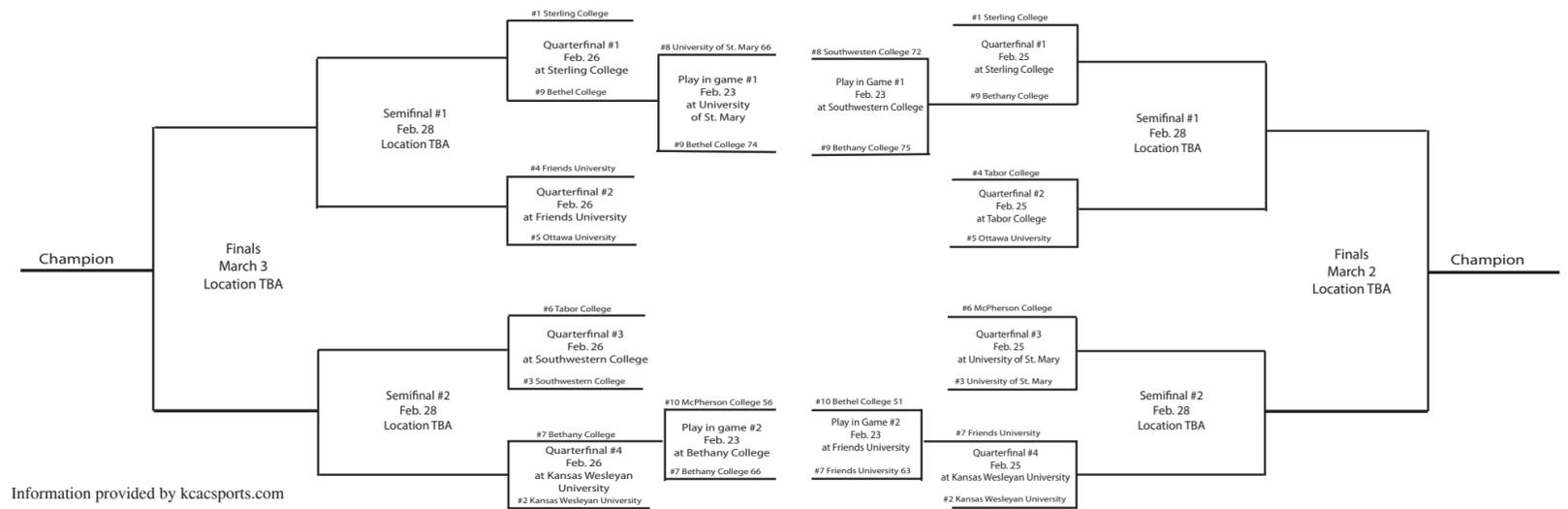


# Basketball battles in KCAC tournament



## Spring season begins for golf teams

By Katie Gomez  
Staff reporter

With sunny days and warm weather comes tee times, birdies and nine irons. After a three month break, the men's and women's golf teams have finally dug out their golf bags, rain suits and polos. They are gearing up for a strong season. Spring practice officially started Jan. 28.

Returning men's players are Westin Weeast, business senior, Jared Paul, business junior, and Kenneth Wright, business junior. New members of the men's team this year are Raleigh Hughes, business freshman, Bobby

Weidner, business freshman, Jordan Lytton, business freshman, Chance Clark, business freshman, and Timothy Jasper, business freshman.

Returning women's players are Amy Kellner, business graduate, Blair Koehn, business senior, and Kaydee Johnson, business sophomore. Courtney Huppert, business freshman, and Lacie Holbert, communication freshman, are new members of the women's team this year.

The women's team began the season Monday and Tuesday when they traveled to Arkansas for the Lion Classic. Nine different teams

from Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri competed in the invitational. Results for the tournament were unavailable at press time.

The first men's tournament is March 9 and 10 at the Elks Country Club and the Turkey Creek Country Club in Salina, in the Swede Invitational hosted by Bethany.

Both teams have been playing practice rounds at Winfield Country Club and Quail Ridge Golf Club, taking advantage of all of the nice weather they can get their hands on.

Besides playing the regular 18 holes, the teams have been working on their swings at the driving range as well

as making par at the putting green.

Each team plays in qualifying rounds in order to rank the players and determine who will go to tournaments. Qualifying has become an everyday occurrence, with the men qualifying on Mondays and Wednesdays and women on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"Well there are five girls on the women's team so they all get to go to tournaments," said Weidner. "But the guys have to basically fight for spots because there are eight of us and only five can go so we try and do our best in qualifying so we can go."

Brad Sexson, men's and

women's head coach, has both teams on rigorous workout plans that focus on strength and conditioning.

"Both guys and girls have probably trained harder in the off season over at the Jim Farney Center than they have since I've been here," said Sexson. "They are definitely preparing themselves for this season."

Sexson has been working on recruiting at least two more women for next year and possibly one man. One player from the men's team and two from the women's team will graduate.

Huppert said, "I really hope coach signs another girl soon. We are only going

to have three girls and we need at least four for a team, so I'm just hoping we have enough for a team next year. I really don't want to have to go somewhere else."

As far as a season outlook, Sexson shared his goals for spring. "I just hope to see them all improve, especially for next year. We've got a lot of young freshmen in the program that are putting way too much pressure on themselves, as usual. We are trying to get their focus on the process, rather than results."

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## Pressure in sports affects leaders, followers alike



Paige Carswell

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It's the missed last-second shot. The two made free throws to secure the game by one point. The last minute touchdown pass.

Pressure is defined as the "constraining or compelling force of influence." Translation: it's either going

to motivate someone or hold them back. And whatever it does is beyond their control.

It's something that no one can prepare for. As much as you can try to simulate a do-or-die situation in your mind, you won't ever be fully prepared. Like it or not, sometimes you can only plan everything but the conclusion.

It's the now or never point in the winter season.

The women's basketball, men's basketball and indoor track teams have taken or are taking their last chances to continue their seasons.

When the men's basketball

team played Bethany College Monday during the play-in game of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament, they knew what was at stake. Win and they would have a chance to take on the No. 1 team in the conference. Lose and they were done.

They were the higher seed. They had beaten the Swedes twice earlier in the season. But something was different about the play-in game.

There was an additional factor in the mix. The men lost the game.

It wasn't a lack of want or trying that lost it. It was a

last-second shot by a Bethany player who decided to take the pressure and thrive on it.

Back to 1994. Plano East vs. John Tyler, both high schools in Texas. When John Tyler had a 41-17 lead with a little less than three minutes left in the football game, fans started leaving.

That was when Plano East mounted an incredible comeback against John Tyler. But, when they were finally ahead with only 11 seconds left, they couldn't bring down the opposing John Tyler player, who ran 97 yards for a touchdown, finally sealing the win that

had been expected by the fans who had left just three minutes earlier.

It gets to college students. It gets to the pros. It gets to high school students.

People of all shapes, sizes, ethnicities, sports, majors and activities have to deal with pressure. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors have to deal with it. Freshmen feeling the pressure to become part of the team, and seniors feeling the pressure to lead it. Star players trying to make that last-second shot and bench players either hoping that it will or won't be them to be

put on the floor when the game gets tough.

With no way to prepare for it and no set system to embrace and overcome it, pressure is the most integral part of any game or sport. It's why we watch the game.

The twisting, gut-wrenching feeling in our stomachs that we hate and love at the same time is the reason we came in the first place. It's the reason the rest of us are still in our seats with three minutes to go, unwilling to concede that the game might just be over. We know that pressure makes sure that never happens.

## Indoor track competes at Missouri Southern

Feb. 21

### Women

600 Yard Run- 6, Kinnamon 1:34.45, Sanders 1:42.42  
800 Meter- 6, Ross 2:29.64, Unruh 2:29.98, Hendrixson 2:40.52, Shuck 2:43.67  
1 Mile- 1, Joiner 5:05.35, Pierson 5:10.51, Carter 5:35.93, Dunigan 5:46.24  
3000 Meter- 4, Topham 11:03.16, Dunigan 11:43.51, Pastor 12:28.72, Walter 13:15.20  
60 meter hurdles prelims- 11, Roth 11.56.  
4x400 Relay- Southwestern "A"- 6, 4:15.80, Southwestern "B"- 4:44.22  
Long Jump- 1, Carswell 5.15m  
Triple Jump- 1, Carswell 11.20m  
Shotput- 8, Botswick 11.24m  
Weight Throw- 8, Botswick 12.04m

### Men

60 meter prelims- 8, Siler 7.21, Parker 7.56, Cooper 7.57, Kirkhart 7.71

200 meter- 6, Siler 23.51, Kirkhart 24.41, Cooper 24.99, Freeman 25.09, Larsen 25.69  
400 meter- 10, Schroter 52.39, Perkins 52.57, Trimmel 56.19, Roberts 57.90  
600 yard- 5, Cherry 1:15.96, Johnson 1:16.84  
800 meter- 3, Silovsky 2:01.18, Bryant 2:02.96, Drendel 2:04.59, Weeast 2:14.43  
1 mile- 10, Drendel 4:34.10  
3000 meter- 3, Topham 8:50.11, Crum 9:03.47, Eberle 9:05.77, Conroy 9:25.92  
4x400 Meter Relay- 3, Southwestern "A" 3:27.81, Southwestern "B" DNF  
Distance Medley- 2, Southwestern "A" 10:21.83  
Long Jump- 9, Freeman 5.39m  
Shot put- 10, Abernathy 12.40m, Lampert 9.10m  
Weight Throw- 4, Hutchins 15.02m, Wilson 11.94m, Anglemeyer 11.78m, Just 10.82m



Paige Carswell/Collegian photographer

Colton Siler, freshman sprinter, runs the 200 M during the indoor meet at Missouri Southern University Feb. 21. Siler placed sixth in the event with a time of 23.51.



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