

# Denly named athletic director



File photo

Dave Denly, head women's basketball coach, has accepted the athletic director position.

By DeLeon Freeman  
Staff reporter

The women's head basketball coach celebrated his 200th career win, coached his team to an 18-10 record and is now finding himself in new territory.

Dave Denly has been chosen to be the director of athletics. He will take over as the new athletic director July 1.

Denly will be filling in the shoes of Mike Kirkland, head women's track coach. Kirkland announced he would be stepping down as the athletic director in March in order to return to full-time coaching.

Denly said he was happy to have someone with experience in the job still working at the school in case he needed advice.

Five internal candidates were interviewed for the position. Richard Merriman, president, Andy Sheppard, vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty, and Dawn Pleas-Bailey, vice

president of student life, all conducted interviews.

Merriman said, "We wanted to keep the interviewing process quiet because it's an internal process and we didn't want the candidates to feel like they had to compete against one another."

Merriman, Sheppard and Pleas-Bailey all met with each other to discuss some of the qualities they should look for during the interviews. Sheppard asked questions regarding the future of the athletic unit, the relationship of athletics and academics and questions related to management.

Pleas-Bailey said conducting interviews for a position as important as this was hard, and made even harder when the candidates were people she works with everyday. "It was hard conducting interviews because we know the candidates so well," Pleas-Bailey said. "It was difficult to make a decision."

Merriman said, "Because of the strong group of appli-

cants it was quite difficult to make the choice. Each candidate brought a unique set of skills and experiences to the search process."

Denly said, "I had mixed feelings when I heard the news. I was excited and surprised."

Denly said he was excited to have the opportunity to fulfill the role of athletic director, but that he wouldn't have been interested in the position if he couldn't continue coaching. He has been with Southwestern for 13 years and has been the head women's basketball coach for the last 11 years. He has an overall 206-122 record as head coach, and has coached his teams into three consecutive 20-win seasons, with school records in both overall and conference wins.

Merriman said, "Dave has been here for over a decade so he understands what the college is trying to accomplish. His program is well established and he has learned how to win consistently.

Most of all, our women's basketball team is academically successful."

Denly said he knows it will be difficult to coach the team and do his duty as the athletic director, but he is comfortable with the assistants he has on staff and is ready to accept the challenge.

Merriman said, "Dave is aware of the difficulty. He is confident in his assistants. Jack McNickle is being appointed as associate head coach and will provide good additional leadership for women's basketball."

Denly said, "With this new opportunity I hope to help get the campus excited and build the support for athletics at Southwestern."

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## Conference title eludes men's golf

By Katie Gomez  
Staff reporter

He prepared for his final tournament less than two weeks before graduation.

Westin Weeast, business administration senior, said, "The last four years here at Southwestern College and on this golf team have been the best years of my life. I am sad that this could be my last college tournament and last time I get to play with this team. This has been a great team to play with and a great coach to play for. I couldn't ask for anything more. Hopefully we can rise to the occasion and win another conference championship and extend the season by going to nationals."

As the semester ends, the men's and women's golf teams say goodbye to their graduating seniors. Brad Sexson, head golf coach, said, "You know, I'm sad

to see our seniors go. I wish them all the luck."

Weeast will graduate and Chance Clark, business administration freshman, is transferring to the University of Kansas. This will leave the men's team with seven returning players, including Kenneth Wright, business administration junior, Jared Paul, business administration junior, Raleigh Hughes, business administration freshman, Bobby Weidner, business administration freshman, Timothy Jasper, business administration freshman, and Chad Richardson, business administration freshman. Richardson is returning in the fall after taking the spring semester off.

On Monday and Tuesday, the men traveled to Garden City. They joined Bethany, Bethel, Friends, Kansas Wesleyan, Ottawa and Sterling to compete in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Con-

ference Championship at the Buffalo Dunes Golf Course. The team took second, two shots behind Bethany College. Wright and Hughes tied for second in the conference tournament.

Last week, the men practiced, taking advantage of the warm sunny weather. Shooting a team practice score of 285 on Thursday, they hoped they would play well in Garden City.

The team had to win the tournament to qualify for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championship May 19-22 in Silvis, Ill. The team's season is over since they finished second.

Wright finished first in the conference this year. Paul finished fifth, Hughes seventh, and Jasper 10th.

Wright placed 10th at nationals last year and received an automatic bid for this year. "I'm excited for na-

tionals. I'm hoping to have another strong performance again this year. I really want to improve on my composure, not making so many high numbers," said Wright.

The women were scheduled to travel Monday and Tuesday to Bonner Springs to compete in the NAIA Championship Play-In at the Sunflower Hills Golf Course. The tournament was canceled because there had to be at least five teams in the tournament. Since Ottawa and Kansas Wesleyan are the only other schools in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference with a full women's team, there were only three teams.

The tournament could have helped boost the Builders' rank in the NAIA Coaches' Poll. The women are currently ranked No. 28 in the nation. They must be in the top 25 in order to qualify for the national tournament May

12-15 at the Meadowbrook Golf Course in Rapid City, SD. The women still have a chance to go based on their final NAIA ranking, which will be announced May 1.

The cancellation of the play-in was frustrating for Amy Kellner, business graduate, who finishes her eligibility on the team.

"It was definitely a disappointment. We really weren't given the chance that we deserved. I'm glad Blair's here to go through everything with me. I wouldn't want to do it alone. It's going to be hard to not be able to just throw on our golf bags and head out to the Country Club and represent SC," said Kellner. "Giving four years of your life to one certain thing, it's weird. I don't know what to do with myself now."

Blair Koehn, business administration senior, will also graduate.

Kaydee Johnson, business

administration sophomore, Lacie Holbert, communication freshman, and Courtney Huppert, business administration freshman, will return in the fall.

Huppert said, "I really hope coach signs another girl soon. We're 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."

Sexson has been working on recruiting. "It's an ongoing process but we're always looking for new players. We've yet to sign someone for next year," said Sexson. "As far as the season goes, I think we played pretty good considering the inconsistent weather we've had."

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## Women's tennis advances to KCAC tournament

By Samantha Gillis  
Features editor

The men snatched their first conference win this season April 21 at home against McPherson College.

The final score was 5-2. The women also walked away with a winning score of 9-0. Then the team prevailed once more April 23 at home against Central Christian College. The women's score was 8-1 and the men's was 5-4.

Ken Kraus, assistant tennis coach, said, "The Builder squad came ready to play and take care of business."

The women ended with a 3-3 conference record, which means they advance to the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament May 2 at the Riverside Tennis Courts in Wichita. On Saturday the men will go to Salina for a KCAC tournament. They will not advance to the KCAC championship in Wichita because only the

top four teams go.

The conference win for the men brought excitement and frustration for one senior. Andrew Manley, business administration senior, tore his ACL while playing against McPherson and had to forfeit his match. He did not play against Central Christian College but he is playing in conference.

He said, "I took away the positives, watching my teammates win without me." He even learned from his observation, Manley said. "It helped me see stuff that is hard to notice when you are in a fierce battle."

The weight of the big win was placed on one player—DJ Wilson, business administration junior. It was the final match of the day and the score was tied 4-4. Kraus said, "He overcame the pressure of the must-win situation and cruised to a 6-2, 6-0 win."

Later in the week against CCC, Kelsey Reynolds,

communication senior, was also pleased with the ending to their matches. She said, "We all played very well and won as a team."

Going into conference play this weekend will be nerve-racking. Manley said he is going to prepare both mentally and physically. "I am going to do some sit-ups and some leg lifts and get ready for some serious observing," he said.

Reynolds is taking a slightly different approach. She is going into the conference tournament with confidence and determination. She said, "We will be playing Bethany first, which will be tough, but I will just play my heart out since it will be my last."

Manley also only has one chance left at college level tennis. Through his experience he has learned one basic aspect. "Adversity," he said.

There will be two men's players graduating, Manley and Jason Jeschke, sport management senior. There

will be four members of the women's team graduating: Molly Hamlett, mathematics senior, Kourtney McLeland, biochemistry senior, Reynolds and Julie Wilke, elementary education senior.

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### Women vs. McPherson

Singles  
Reynolds def. Buffo, 6-1, 6-0  
Kourtney McLeland def. Andrews, 7-5, 7-5  
Molly Kearns def. Griggs, 6-0, 6-1  
Julie Wilke def. Cook, 6-2, 6-0  
Alesia Schneneis def. Baldi, 6-0, 6-0  
Lacey Hibbs def. Calderon, 6-1, 6-1  
Doubles  
Kearns and Hibbs def. Buffo and Andrews, 8-5  
Reynolds and McLeland def. Griggs and Calderon, 8-1  
Wilke and Schneweis def. Cook and Baldi, 8-1  
Final  
SC 9, McPherson 0

### Men vs. McPherson

Singles  
Rothrock def. Andrew Manley, 4-6, 5-3  
Clearly def. Jacob Tafoya, 6-0, 6-4  
Jeff Smith def. Hermogenez, 6-4, 6-4  
Jason Jeschke def. Comp-ton, 6-3, 4-6  
D.J. Wilson def. Patterson, 6-2, 6-0  
Toland def. Jacob Mires, 6-3, 6-2  
Doubles  
Rothrock and Clearly def. Manley and Mires, 8-1  
Tafoya and Smith def. Comp-ton and Toland, 8-3

Patterson and Hermogenez def. Jeschke and Wilson, 9-8 (10-6)  
Final  
SC 5, McPherson 4

### Women vs. Central Christian College

Singles  
Reynolds def. Gillilan, 6-2, 6-1  
Kourtney McLeland def. Marx, 6-0, 6-1  
Molly Kearns def. Pruter, 6-2, 6-1  
Julie Wilke def. Bartle, 6-1,

6-2  
Alesia Schneneis def. Spencer, 6-0, 6-0  
Pfannenstiel def. Hamlett, 6-1, 7-5  
Doubles  
Kearns and Hibbs def. Gillilan and Marx, 8-2  
Reynolds and McLeland def. Pruter and Bartle, 8-0  
Wilke and Schneweis def. Spencer and Pfannenstiel, 8-2  
Final  
SC 8, CCC 1

### Men vs. Central Christian College

Singles  
Jacob Tafoya def. Guillory, 2-6, 6-4 (10-8)  
Szolis def. Jeff Smith, 6-4, 6-2  
Cook def. Jason Jeschke, 6-3, 4-6 (10-3)  
D.J. Wilson def. Stauffer, 6-4, 6-2  
Jacob Mires def. Vanderhoof, 6-0, 6-2  
Doubles  
Tafoya and Smith def. Stauffer and Guillory, 8-5  
Crawford and Cook def. Jeschke and Wilson, 9-8 (7)  
Final  
SC 5, McPherson 4