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## KANSAS STATE FOOTBALL

# Wildcats dominate Texas A&M in the trenches

By ARNE GREEN

For The Ottawa Herald

MANHATTAN — It was flashy and workmanlike at the same time, but then with a 62-14 victory you're probably going to get a little of everything.

The Kansas State Wildcats delivered in spades Saturday night against Texas A M, treating the crowd of 44,934 at Snyder Family Stadium to an array of touchdowns — six rushing, one passing and another on a kickoff return — field goals and forced turnovers that left little doubt of the outcome.

But for all the fireworks, perhaps the most impressive development was the way the Wildcats dominated at the point of attack.

The offensive and defensive lines, much maligned through the first half of the season, finally showed that they too could be explosive.

On defense, the Wildcats had averaged one sack a game

through the first six, and four of them came against Football Championship Subdivision foes Massachusetts and Tennessee Tech.

By the time they were finished with A M quarterback Jerrod Johnson, the season total had doubled to 12.

"We got six sacks tonight and that's more than we had all year, so we did pressure them reasonably well," coach Bill Snyder said. "I think there were some matchups that were positive."

Defensive end Jeffrey Fitzgerald, who was credited with 21/2 sacks resulting in 30 lost yards for A M, said getting to Johnson was a priority.

"We worked on it very hard throughout this whole week," he said. "We knew they were a more passing style of offense, so just continuing to get after him, we really focused on that."

"It was good to see the results of it."

Not only did the front seven

put Johnson on his back, but also forced him into some bad throws.

The 6-foot-5, 243-pound Johnson came in completing 60.2 percent of his passes with 14 touchdowns and no interceptions, but was picked off three times by the Wildcat secondary.

"The defensive line tonight, I felt they were relentless," said cornerback Joshua Moore, whose interception early in the third quarter set up a touchdown that made it 52-0.

"That also makes it a lot easier on the defensive backs when they get a pass rush like that you know the quarterback's got to hurry up and get the ball out of his hands."

The same held true for the linebackers.

"It was awesome," said John Houlik, who had one sack and 31/2 tackles for loss. "(The front four) were keeping linemen off of us in the run game and they were really creating a lot of

pressure on the quarterback individually and with some of the linebackers blitzing.

"It really helped out."

For all the focus on the defensive line's lack of production, the Wildcats' offensive line was peppered all weeks with questions about A M defensive end Von Miller, who came in leading the nation in sacks with nine.

Miller did manage one sack, but that came in the second half against the second-string offense, long after the game was decided.

"I thought they did a pretty nice job," Snyder said of the offensive line. "(Miller is) a good player under any circumstances, a better than good player."

"He was a major focus for our offense during the course of the week. Nick (Stringer) lined up against him and did a wonderful job against him, and from time to time we tried to give him a little help as well."

Stringer, the Wildcats' senior

left tackle, drew the assignment of protecting quarterback Grant Gregory's blind side and took Miller as a personal challenge.

"I did. He's a great player and A M had a very good defense," Stringer said. "Our offensive line and our offense collectively did some good things tonight and it's something we can really build off of the rest of the season."

A big factor in slowing down Miller was the Wildcats' rushing attack, which produced 232 yards and an average of 4.5 a carry. Daniel Thomas had four rushing touchdowns in the first half and Keithen Valentine two more in the second.

"Keeping pressure off the quarterback is something we need to keep doing, and you do that by running the football," Stringer said. "Our running backs did a great job tonight and our coaching staff did a great job calling plays and keeping us in good situations."

## OHS VOLLEYBALL

# Cyclones handle big points better in league tourney

By The Herald Staff

LOUISBURG — The Ottawa High School volleyball team made a lot of progress Saturday in the Frontier League Tournament at Louisburg.

The Cyclones finished 2-1 in pool play and in a three-way tie for first in the pool.

The tiebreaker knocked Ottawa out of a chance to play for the league championship.

Ottawa was moved to third, based on point differential and was placed in the consolation bracket. Ottawa won that bracket to finish fifth.

"I was very pleased with how we played on Saturday," Ottawa coach Kendra Oberzan said. "We really came together as a team against Paola and maintained a high level of intensity throughout that match. Handling the pressure at the end of both sets against them was a huge step forward for us."

"The tiebreak was a tough way to get sent down to the consolation bracket, but I told the girls our focus was on getting better

for sub-state next week."

In pool play Ottawa defeated De Soto (17-25, 25-19, 25-19) and Paola (31-29, 28-26). Ottawa lost to Louisburg (25-20, 25-16).

In bracketed play, Ottawa downed Baldwin (25-16, 19-25, 25-21) and De Soto (25-22, 25-20).

"In bracket play we got down in a couple of sets and were able to claw our way back and win both matches," Oberzan said.

"We learned some valuable things about our team this weekend. We have new reference points for how we can play in pressure situations, and when we get down."

"Both will help us in our upcoming matches this week."

Ottawa (15-20) closes the regular season 6 p.m. today in a dual at Baldwin. Ottawa plays Saturday in the sub-state tournament at Spring Hill.

Alexis Roecker — 40 kills  
Maggie Bones — 31 kills, 59 digs  
Angela Geist — 59 assists  
Jaime Birzer — 8 aces, 5 solo blocks, 5 block assists, 51 digs  
Paige Weidner — 4 block assists

## PREP VOLLEYBALL

# TOURNEY SUCCESS

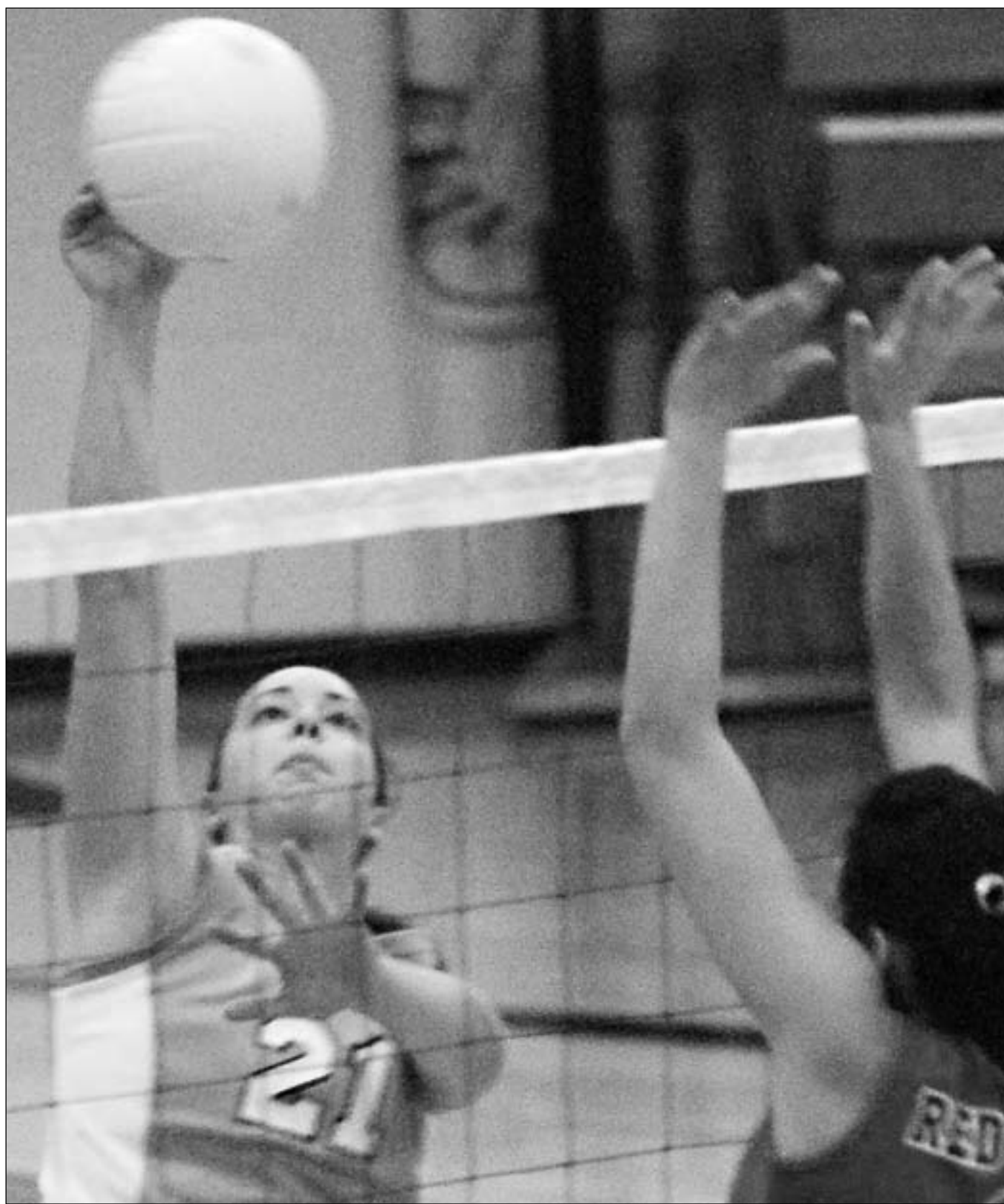


Photo by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

Central Heights High School junior Karly Schulte goes for a kill against Erie Saturday during pool play of the Central Heights Invitational at Ike Cearfoss gym. The Vikings won all five matches en route to the tournament title. It was the second tournament title this season for Central Heights.

# Central Heights rolls to home title

By The Herald Staff

Area high school volleyball teams fared well Saturday in volleyball tournaments.

Central Heights and Anderson County won home tournaments, while Wellsville and West Franklin were second in their tournaments.

The Vikings went 5-0 to win the CH Invitational. This was the second straight tourney title as the Vikings won the De Soto Invitational a week ago.

Central Heights defeated Erie (25-8, 25-9), Crest (25-7, 25-0), Metro Academy (25-15, 25-13), Osawatomie (25-10, 25-16) and Girard (25-10, 25-23).

Central Heights (32-4) closes the

regular season today at Osawatomie.

Kills — Marissa Cox 62, Katelin Horstick 22, Karly Schulte 17, Cecilia Wuertz 12.

Set assists — Casey Drodgy 38, Cox 34, Wuertz 23.

Blocks — Cox 7, 11 stuffs; Horstick 14, 10 stuffs; C. Drodgy 6 blocks, 3 stuffs.

Serve-serve — Cox 2.8, Maggie Cotter 2.4, Schulte 2.4, Wuertz 2.2.

Digs — Cotter 42, Schulte 32, Cox 29, Wuertz 24, C. Drodgy 18, Horstick 16.

## Wellsville

GARNETT — Wellsville played a lot of big points in its five matches all went three games.

The Eagles went 4-1, falling to Anderson County in the championship

match, to finish second.

"It was a long, physical day for our team as every match we played went three sets," Wellsville coach Eric Evans said. "I thought our defense was at a high level all day ... the girls had the attitude that no ball was going to touch the floor on our side. Also, I thought we stayed aggressive throughout the day in all aspects of our game."

In the finals, the Eagles fell to the Bulldogs, 21-25, 25-19, 25-9. In the semifinals, Wellsville downed Labette County, 25-13, 25-27, 25-19.

Wellsville won its pool. The Eagles defeated Fort Scott (25-13, 18-25,

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OHS soccer vs. Louisburg  
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OU FB vs. McPherson  
OHS FB vs. Eudora  
Wellsville vs. West Franklin VB

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