

THE TROJOURNAL

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The Southeast of Saline State Champion football team celebrates after winning the 3A State Championship by hoisting their trophy in the air. The Trojans won over the Silver Lake Eagles 30-28. For more football pictures, see pgs. 6-7. (Photo by Sadie Myers)

Around the Halls

Would you rather be a reindeer or an elf?



Joe Pope, Jr. - "Elf, so I can bring joy to all of the little kids."



Calvin Roesner, Sr. - "Reindeer, because females are more prevalent."



Jordan Pengra, Jr. - "Elf, they have magic!"



Mitch Mugler, So. - "Reindeer; you can fly."



Southeast of Saline

THE TROJOURNAL

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Letters should be 300 words or less and must be signed. Editors reserve the right to edit for punctuation, spelling and usage.

Loyal fans follow Trojans

By Ozzy Smith

The mighty Trojan football team has finally planted their flag at the top of the mountain. No one will forget about the 2005 SES football team, but we would like to recognize those that do not suit up and participate on the gridiron. They are the tried-and-true Trojan fans, all of whom have traveled hundreds of miles to watch the team they know and love. These supporters have sat in ice-cold weather for hours, yelling until their voices go hoarse.



Even when it seemed like the Trojans couldn't have been in a worse position, the fans never gave up on their team. Their loyalty never wavered through all of the trials and tribulations that the football team had to endure this year. After the devastating 19-0 loss to Beloit, you would have thought the fans' morale would have been affected. Even after that first loss, it seemed as if the fans were even louder on week two of the season. From there on out, the belief that the Trojans were going to take State was in everyone's hearts. Soon enough, Trojan fans got their wish when Southeast of Saline was crowned as the 3A State Champions of Kansas.

The attendance at the State game in Topeka was tremendous. The sea of purple inundating the stadium included SES students, parents, teachers, administrators, support personnel, and SES alumni. Considering how loud the fans at State were, you might have guessed it was a college football game. The fans were amazing to watch—jumping up and down clad in their purple and white.

One of the many enthusiastic Trojan fans this season was Judy Hall. Hall was the football team's regular bus driver. She drove the Trojans to almost every game and when she couldn't, she always gave them a send-off. Most wonder why she didn't drive the bus to the State game at Topeka. She had another game to watch; she went to the Salina Central game, where her son, assistant coach, Mike Hall, was helping the Mustangs win their own State Championship. After watching the entire Central game, she drove from Emporia to Topeka and paid eight dollars to watch the last quarter of the Southeast game. She is among many other fans that traveled many miles to watch the Trojans play. Talk about fan dedication.

When it comes down to it, the Southeast football team ended the year as the best in the State, but their fans are also second-to-none.

Homework load discourages holiday spirit

Letter to the editor

By Danny Clifford

Christmas is the time of the year to rejoice and spend time with your family. This past year, however, has proven to be a lot different. Teachers have been cramming in tests the last week before Christmas Break. As a junior, my schedule is always busy and there is always more work that needs to be done. Recently, though, I've been wondering why I haven't had any free time.

The obvious reason is that there is too much work being shoved at us before semester ends. In the last five



days before break, I've taken eight tests. In the class that I only have one and a half class periods during the last week, I'm expected to take four tests. Four tests in roughly two hours and fifteen minutes of class time are not only unreasonable, they're outrageous.

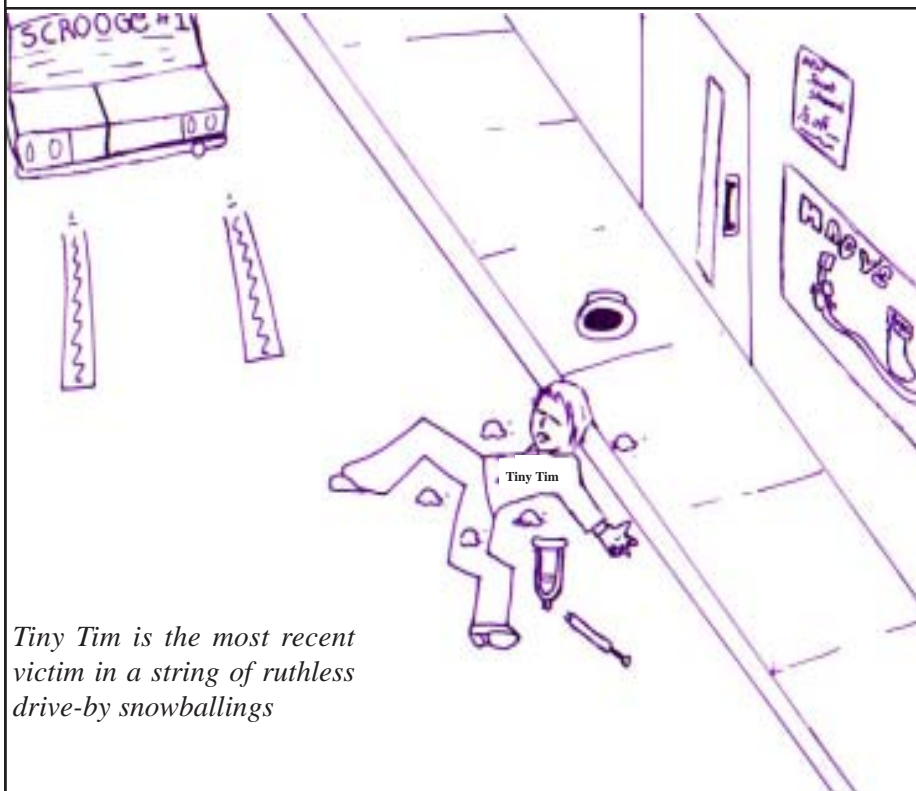
I understand that tests and homework are necessary to learn new material. However, so many different subjects shoved into a week and a half is unrealistic. Finals are something that we must learn to cope with in high school and certainly in college. Most of the tests I've had to take, though, aren't even finals. They're simply tests to finish up a chapter or a section.

One teacher's reasoning behind these hurry-up tests is that they don't want to re-teach the information after break. I believe that even thirty minutes

of reviewing would more than cover what we learned before break and wouldn't take much out of class time.

School is important, and testing is a critical step in the learning process. I have no objection to finals and homework. However, the amount of tests and homework given this time of year is not only unrealistic, it's counter-productive to effective learning. I don't expect for teachers to not try to teach us anything the week before break, but I would like there to be a little leniency towards students because this really is the busiest time of the year for many people. School doesn't have to be impossible, and we can still learn what we need to know for college and life without excessive homework and testing during the holiday season.

Christmas Cartoons by Jacob Simmons



Tiny Tim is the most recent victim in a string of ruthless drive-by snowballings



How well do you know your Christmas trivia?

By Chelsea Kelley

It's that time of the year! People are shopping, snow is falling, and Santa's elves are working especially hard this time of year. While you're waiting on Christmas to arrive, here is some trivia! We polled three Southeast students to aid you in this quiz, so see what Cassie McDowell, Crystal Gott, and Jade Breeden had to say. Be careful though; some of these are pretty tricky!

1.) Who wrote "A Christmas Carol?"

- A.) Charles Dickens
- B.) Emily Dickinson
- C.) Charles Dickinson

Hint: Jade said C.

2.) What country created eggnog?

- A.) Greece
- B.) Afghanistan
- C.) U.S.A

Hint: Crystal said A.

3.) What is it that made Frosty the Snowman come to life?

- A.) An Evil Spell
- B.) Pixie Dust
- C.) Magic Silk Hat

Hint: Cassie said B.

4.) In the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with Jim Carrey, who was the Grinch in love with?

- A.) Martha May Whoveir
- B.) The Mayor
- C.) Cindy Lou Who

Hint: Crystal said C.

5.) How many times is the name "Santa Claus" used in the book "The Night before Christmas?"

- A.) Eighty-Seven
- B.) None
- C.) Four

Hint: Jade said A.

6.) In the movie "The Nightmare before Christmas," who wanted to celebrate Christmas after a visit to Christmas Town?

- A.) Jack Skellington
- B.) Dr. Finkelstein
- C.) Mr. Oogie Boogie

Hint: Cassie said A.

7.) What was the first stocking stuffer?

- A.) Gold Coins
- B.) Coal
- C.) Chocolate

Hint: Cassie said C.

8.) In "A Christmas Carol," what was Ebenezer Scrooge's partner's name?

- A.) Bob Marley
- B.) Tiny Tim
- C.) Jacob Marley

Hint: Cassie said B.

9.) Who is the narrator for the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with the Jim Carrey?

- A.) The Grinch
- B.) Anthony Hopkins
- C.) Dr. Seuss

Hint: Jade said C.

10.) What is the plant that people kiss under around Christmas?

- A.) Holly
- B.) Poison Ivy
- C.) Mistletoe

Hint: Crystal Said C.

Well, I hope you learned something new and had a blast! Take this home and quiz your family and friends on their Christmas facts.

Answers: 1.) A 2.) C 3.) C 4.) A 5.) B 6.) A 7.) A 8.) C 9.) B 10.) C

Croatian reflects on experience in U.S., situation at home

By Rachel Nicholson and Chelsi Hemphill

While many Americans are telling stories of the war in Iraq, Ivan Jovic, a foreign exchange student from Zagreb, Croatia, discusses the differences from the US and also his country's conflicts with Serbia

Jovic enjoys telling about his experiences in the United States, and how Croatia is different from here. He says one of the main differences between the United States and Croatia is the number of sports offered.

"In Croatia, we don't play so many sports, because the big deal is school. If you do play sports, you play at a club, not at school," he said.

The school Jovic attends in Croatia is different from Southeast in many ways.

"I'm going to the best school in my town. We also have 15 subjects, and we're really good at Computer Science and Math," Jovic said.

He also thinks that Croatia has better food and adds that they do have a McDonalds and Subway there. One of the things that remain the same between the two countries is the Christmas holiday, although there is one small difference.

"In Croatia, it's a little more about church than it is the presents," he said.

Although Jovic is excited about celebrating Christmas in the United States, he also misses his family a little more than usual around the holidays. His family consists of his father, who grows plants and flowers for a living, his mother, who owns a garden center and a mowing company, and two siblings.

"I have a brother who is 12, and a sister who is 18," Jovic said.

Relationship-wise, Jovic doesn't currently have a girlfriend. However, he used to have one back in Croatia. For Jovic, relationships in Croatia are slightly different than they are here for a few small reasons.

"In Croatia, I live in the city and school is shorter, so we have more time to hang out," Jovic said.

In his free time, Jovic also enjoys playing the guitar, although he's switched his style in music since coming to the United States.

"When I came here, I stopped playing Classic music and started playing rock. I'm getting really good," he said.

Overall, Jovic is enjoying the United States and his experiences at SES.

"I like it here. It's real cool. I play a lot of sports, and we won state. So I was really lucky to come to this school," Jovic said.

Although Jovic is having a lot of fun here in the US, he still thinks about home and their conflicts with Serbia. The main cause of the war between the two countries was that Serbia wanted to expand, and take over Croatian land, while Croatia wanted to remain independent.

"Serbia wanted to have a big Serbia and take all the Croatian land," Jovic said.

Although the war between the two countries is now over, a few ongoing conflicts remain.

"After ten years, the courts are trying to sue Croatian generals because they blame them for starting the war. They arrested General Ante Gotovina, and we Croatians are mad about it. He's a hero. The Croatians were just trying to protect their land and their people," Jovic said.



Foreign exchange student, Ivan Jovic, smiles on the sidelines at the state football game. "I was really lucky to come to this school," he said about playing football for Southeast. (Photo by Sadie Myers)

Californian makes transition to Kansan

By Chelsi Hemphill and Rachel Nicholson

"They're really rich, maybe snobby. They act how people see them in movies basically."

That's how sophomore Jessica Cantrell described the average California girl.

Even though she confirmed some of the negative aspects of the stereotypical California girl, Cantrell said she was not pleased when she heard she'd be moving to Kansas from Sacramento, California, due to her dad's job transfer with Phillips Lighting.

"I thought I'd never want to move here. I told my parents that I'd stay with a friend in California. I really didn't want to move here, but my



parents saw the job as a better opportunity, so I had to," she said.

Although Cantrell lived in California, she doesn't think she fits any certain stereotype that people may have of California girls.

"I was just myself. I wasn't mean," she said.

Cantrell admits that she did stereotype Kansans as "country hicks" before her family made the move.

"I thought a lot of them would be farmer-type people and not up to date with modern stuff," Cantrell said.

However, once Cantrell arrived in Kansas, she found this stereotype to be false.

"Most people don't act like farmers. They act a lot like California people, except they live in the country," she said.

One of the first differences she noticed was how much open space there is compared to Sacramento.

"There is so much more country here in Kansas than in California," Cantrell said.

In California there are just big cities and buildings everywhere. There are also some changes in school size.

"In California, the schools were a lot bigger, because this school is so much smaller everyone knows everyone!" said Cantrell.

Her family consists of her mother, Karen, who is an accountant. Her father, Lance, who works at Phillips, and a 10 year old sister named Ashley.

Cantrell sees both advantages and disadvantages of living in Kansas.

"The advantages are I get to be exposed to a different kind of place, get to meet new people, and make new friends. The disadvantages are there's a lot less stuff here than in California, not as much "city," and there's a smaller mall here with less stores."

Athlete plays football despite injury

By Max McClure

Broken bones don't bother junior Nick Hardesty. Hardesty has been playing with a broken finger throughout much of the football season, and he plans to be back 100 percent for basketball.

"The doctor said I could just tape my fingers while I play," Hardesty said.

He broke his finger not when he was playing football but when he was "playing around."

"I was catching a puck and I misread it, so it hit my finger wrong," he said.

The reason that he had to wear the cast was because of a spiral fracture. A spiral fracture, also

know as a torsion fracture, results when the bone has been twisted apart. The injury to his finger kept him out of football for a week and a half starting on Oct. 25.

"I had to have surgery to heal my finger. That's why I had to wear the cast during the football games," he said.

But Hardesty is glad he had surgery on it when he did.

"If I hadn't gotten it fixed, I wouldn't have been able to bend it again," he said.

Even though he said his finger feels fine, he

thinks it could be affecting his game.

"It could be hurting my shot a little bit. Maybe it is my finger or maybe it's just not practicing enough. I can't really tell, but it could be affecting it," he said.

The injury didn't seem to faze him in the game against Bennington. He was the top scorer for the Trojans with 14 points.

"My finger did throw it off a little bit," Hardesty said.

He thinks it should be back to normal soon though.

"It should be completely healed in about two to three weeks," he said.

During part of the healing period, he was forced to wear a cast. His cast created other problems including things that did not deal with sports.

"With the cast on it's pretty hard to write and to take a shower," he said.

For those reasons and others, he said he's glad to see the cast he wore during football off.

"I had to persuade the doctor to get me a cast. He wanted me to wear something bigger when I played football. Now I just have to tape my ring and pinky fingers together for basketball," he said.

Though his finger made sports seem a little awkward, he doesn't put the blame on his finger for fumbling in the State Championship football game.

"It was a great hit, the guy hit right on the ball. It might have affected it a little bit, but not much," he said.

Hardesty said that he not only thought the injury had little to do with fumbling that it's also not causing much trouble now that basketball has begun.

"The biggest problem I had (in the first game) was the tape was falling off. I had to get it taped a few extra times. Other than that, it felt fine," he said.



Despite the cast on his finger, Nick Hardesty runs the ball against Conway Springs at the Sectional playoff game. He broke his finger halfway through the season. (Photo by Sadie Myers)

Trojan football team finally gets to dig



its cleats into the top of the mountain



8

1. Bryson Flax picks up some extra yards after making a catch at the Bi-District game against Lyons.

2. Justin Schropp looks to pass the ball during the Regional game at Phillipsburg.

3. Travis Sheets looks for an opening in the Panther's defense at the Regional game.

4. Michael Lacy prepares to sack Hillsboro's quarterback in the backfield at the October home game.

5. Andy Weber and Cody Melander block the Silver Lake defense while Nick Hardesty runs through at the state championship game in Topeka.

6. The SES sideline, including coaches Larry Hemphill, Brad Edwards, and Pat Haxton anxiously watch the state championship game.

7. Joel Pengra jumps to catch the ball at the home game vs. Hillsboro.

8. The Southeast football team, led by senior Justin Schropp, and coach Pat Haxton, walk to the field at the championship game.

9. Colby Douglas stretches across the end zone over the Russell Broncos' defense.

(All photos by Sadie Myers)



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Santa's Silly Page

If you could give any one in the student body anything for Christmas, who would you give to, and what would it be?



Match the teachers with gifts they would give!

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mrs. Rohr
3. Mr. Sager
4. Mrs. Streit
5. Mr. Gies
6. Mrs. McLaughlin
7. Mr. or Coach Haxton
8. Mr. Tuzicka



A) Holly Henry- A growth spurt for a little more height on the basketball court!

B) Travis Sheets-All state recognition, "He deserves it!"

C) Freshman Class- The desire and ability to do more than minimum required (more than C worthy)

D) Student Body-A safe holiday with no worries and no pressures!

E) Junior Class-Increase class average in American History. So there is better competition for classroom champions.

F) Student Body- Proper winter clothing

G) Cole VanBlaricon-understand that

H) Student Body-Peace and tranquility on this planet. So they don't have to worry about friends, relatives or acquaintances being involved in terrorist attacks or being





The Trojan Calendar



Science Club

Jan. 11 - Science Olympiad

Care Group

Dec. 11 - Christmas Party

BB/BS

Dec. 21 - Christmas Party

Dec. 20 - Salvation Army

Work Day

FCCLA

Feb. 1 - District Elections and Star Events Completion

Foreign Language Club make plans for Eurotrip in summer

By Rachel Nicholson

From June 1 – 9, SES foreign language club students, and a couple of alumni and parents, will venture across the sea to France and Spain. The group will depart from Kansas City and embark on a flight of 8-10 hours without any stops.

They will land in Paris and spend a few days sight-seeing and absorbing the French culture. After a few days they will take a night train to Madrid, where they will continue sight-seeing and will be allowed some free time to explore the city with a friend.

The total cost is approximately \$2,200. Sponsor, Mrs. Rita Tinkler, said that several students, a parent, and an SES alumnus had expressed strong interest in going. Danielle Abrams, Ryan Unruh and

his sister Ashley, and Rachel Nicholson and her mother Bonnie have shown interest in going.

Tinkler said she didn't know if any had turned in the required deposit of money but that all had said they were firmly committed to going. The educational travel company requires at least five people plus a sponsor to commit and pay the deposit in order to arrange the trip. You don't even have to know Spanish or French well to go on the trip, because there will be a bilingual tour guide.

"More students and their family members are welcome to sign up. It's going to be a once in a lifetime experience, and I would like as many people as possible to experience it," Tinkler said.

Scholars scrape second twice

By John Christie

The Trojan Scholars' Bowl team is now in the flow of the 2005-2006 season. The varsity team has competed in ten meets to date, while the freshmen-sophomore team has competed in five meets.

The varsity has medaled in three meets with one fourth and two second place finishes. The most recent was Dec. 13 at Russell where they took second with a five and two record.

The freshmen-sophomore team recently collected their second first place finish in just two weeks time. They took first at both Pike Valley on Dec. 5 and Bennington on Dec. 15.

A varsity/freshmen-sophomore meet was scheduled on Saturday Dec. 17, but due to weather, the Southeast of Saline teams were unable to compete. There was also a meet on Monday Dec. 19, but the results were too late for publication.

The scholars' bowl team will not be competing again until after the winter break. The varsity will host a meet on Jan. 5 here at Southeast, but the team will not be competing until Jan. 7 at Council Grove.

The freshmen-sophomore team will help with the home meet and will be competing next at Sacred Heart on Jan. 14.

NCAA targets schools with Indian mascots

Opinion

By Robert Graham

Since their inception, college athletics have always been filled with pageantry and tradition. Students, alumni, and fans follow their schools from coast to coast to take part and cheer them to victory.

These loyal followers are proud to call themselves Trojans, Jayhawks, or Wildcats. Their teams' mascots are a



symbol for everything that is great about their schools, but what would happen if, suddenly, their beloved mascots were struck down and banned from being a part of athletic events – forever?

In August, eighteen schools received news from the NCAA that this was the case. All schools with American Indian mascots were told that they could not use their nicknames, mascots, or logos in postseason tournaments. The reason? These mascots were deemed “hostile or abusive” towards people of American Indian descent.

On the surface, this gesture appears to be an attempt by the NCAA to be more sensitive to the American Indian population, but I wonder how serious they really are. Their ban only applies to postseason play, so throughout the regular season, the offensive nicknames could still be used by the schools.

The NCAA is the supreme governing body of college athletics, so if the problem is as serious as they say, then they should be willing to ban the mascots in all games. By

not doing so, it seems to me that the NCAA is just trying to put a band-aid on the “problem” and hoping the complaints die down without the need for more serious measures.

Banned by the NCAA were the nicknames Chippewas, Seminoles, Utes, Choctaws, Fighting Illini, Fighting Sioux, Braves, Indians, Redmen, and Savages.

I can see how “Redmen” and “Savages” would be considered offensive. They are outdated stereotypes that should be replaced, but the other nicknames are simply names that appear to be honoring the spirit of these proud people.

Some schools' nicknames were left off of the list because the NCAA felt that they were not “abusing” American Indian culture. The North Carolina-Pembroke Braves are exempt because the school was founded as a school for American Indians and the school admits a high percentage of American Indian students. That high percentage, however, is only 20%, so a large majority of the student body still is not of Indian descent.

Another exemption to the ban is the nickname “Warriors.” This nickname has been controversial for similar reasons as the others, but the NCAA claims that the mascots and logos do not portray hurtful images towards American Indians.

I would accept that answer if it wasn't for the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors. Their mascot portrays a Pacific Islander native to the Islands of Hawaii. Why is this different? I realize that Pacific Islanders are not American Indians, but that should not make their nickname less offensive. If the NCAA wants to be sensitive, they should be sensitive to every group of people.

The NCAA did institute an appeal process to allow the affected schools to make their

case, but it has shown mixed results. After numerous appeals, only three schools (Central Michigan Chippewas, Florida State Seminoles, and Utah Utes) were allowed to keep their mascots. These schools won their appeals mainly because they had consent from the tribes whose names they use. Other schools have not been able to reach agreements with local tribes.

One such school is the North Dakota Fighting Sioux. They lost their appeal because of a lack of support from local tribes, even though they include the Sioux tribe in decisions involving logos and mascots to avoid being offensive.

Another school that did not gain NCAA approval is the Bradley Braves. Despite removing all pictures of Indians from their logos and uniforms and doing away with their Indian mascot, the NCAA still felt that the name “Braves” was unacceptable. They stated that the name would create an environment where opposing fans could still be abusive to American Indians.

One school, the Illinois Fighting Illini, will be allowed to keep their nickname if they drop all depictions of American Indians. This will be allowed because the Illini were not a tribe of Indians but a coalition of Indian tribes, and the term “Fighting Illini” is a reference to World War I veterans from Illinois.

American Indian tribes are an important part of the history of America, and we should not try to insult them, but the intent of these nicknames does not appear to be “hostile or abusive.” Schools choose mascots that they can be proud of. There must be some respect for the American Indians, or administrators would have selected some other symbol to represent their schools. The names should be seen as a tribute to American Indians past and present in honor of their contributions to the United States.

SES wrestlers begin a rebuilding season

By Clint Spiller

The young Southeast of Saline wrestling team is in the midst of a rebuilding season after returning only about a quarter of their varsity wrestlers from last year. This was shown in their recent dual at Minneapolis, where they lost 56-18.

Beginning the year with an 1-2 dual record, the Trojans are not where they would like to be, but according to coach Jeff Tanner, it is to be expected.

“I knew it was going to be rough, but some of the freshman are really com-

ing along pretty well,” Tanner said.

In their recent loss to Minneapolis on Dec. 15, the Trojans did come out with two victories. Freshmen Ryan Hahn (103 lbs.) and Jason Prater (160 lbs.) both pinned their opponents. The other six points were accounted for by freshman Zach Short (112 lbs.), who walked out with a bye.

“Junior high was a lot easier. I only lost once last year. High school is a lot tougher,” Hahn said about the change in competition level. Hahn is currently 5-4.

Senior Chris Weller (140 lbs), the only returning wrestler with a winning record from last year, has had to endure a slow start, beginning the year 5-3. Weller, also a member of the Southeast of Saline State Champion football team, began wrestling practice only three days before the first competition.

“I'm a little rusty, because football carried on so far into the season,” Weller said. “We have a lot more time left in the season. I'm not worried.”

Trojans take a break at 5-1

By Robert Graham

Southeast of Saline's boys' basketball team appears to be putting things together after a somewhat slow start due to a quick transition from football to basketball.

On Friday, in their first home game of the season, the Trojans soundly beat league foe Beloit 57-42.

Following their win over Beloit, the Trojan basketball team will soar into the winter break with a 5-1 overall record, a 2-0 league record, and a four-game winning streak.

From the outset, Southeast, ranked number seven in 3A by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association (KBCA), used its defensive quickness to attack Beloit and jump out to a 17-6 first-quarter advantage.

"Our defense was key. Our full court pressure sped them up and took them out of their offense," said head coach Mike Davert.

Junior Bryson Flax also said the fans had an impact on the fast start.

"The crowd was really into it. Beloit's a rivalry, so we all wanted to get out and play well," Flax said.

The Trojans continued to put pressure on Beloit in the ensuing quarters by combining their high pressure defense with a solid performance on offense.

"We did a really good job of passing and getting the ball to the open man. Our guys did a good job of recognizing who had the hot hand," Davert said.

Flax led all scorers with 16 points, and senior Travis Sheets added 10 points to the Trojans' cause. The win was a big one heading into the winter break.

"It was an emo-

tional win for us," Sheets said. "Going 2-0 in league before break was key."

Davert agreed that the good start bodes well for the rest of the season.

"The fact that we got off to a quick start has given the guys confidence," Davert said. "After Christmas, the level of competition steps up, so we have to step up, too."

Despite their start, Davert feels his team still needs work in some fundamentals like shooting free throws and rebounding.

"We have to get a lot better rebounding. To accomplish our goals this season, our rebounding has to improve," Davert said.

Another area Southeast must improve is their conditioning. Davert said that due to the short time for preparation following the end of football season, the Trojans were not as well conditioned as they would like to have been. The players feel that problem is beginning to subside.

"We've improved a lot recently because our legs are under us and our shots are falling," Flax said.

"We're finally playing ourselves in to shape," Sheets said.



Senior Jimmy McDowell dribbles the ball up the court in the Trojans' first game of the season. The Trojans won the game against Centre 63-55. (Photo by Sadie Myers)

Sports Box

By Robert Graham

Football

Sept. 2 Beloit	0-19	L
Sept. 9 @ Minneapolis	56-8	W
Sept. 16 Russell	24-0	W
Sept. 23 @ Sac. Heart	46-28	W
Sept. 30 Belleville	50-0	W
Oct. 7 @ Ellsworth	60-8	W
Oct. 14 Marion	50-28	W
Oct. 21 @ Hesston	32-23	W
Oct. 27 Hillsboro(Sr. Rec.)	26-7	W
Nov. 1 Lyons	42-15	W
Nov. 5 @ Phillipsburg	26-13	W
Nov. 11 Conway Springs	32-0	W
Nov. 18 @ Garden Plain	26-22	W
Nov. 26 Silver Lake	30-28	W

Record 13-1

3A STATE CHAMPS

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 2 @ Centre	63-55	W
Dec. 5-12 Blue & Gold Classic		5th
Bennington	39-41	L
Sterling	52-29	W
Solomon	54-53	W
Dec. 13 @ Ellsworth	65-47	W
Dec. 16 Beloit	57-42	W

Upcoming Games:

Jan. 3 @ Russell
Jan. 6 Minneapolis
Jan. 13 @ Belleville

Record 5-1

Girls' Basketball

Dec. 2 @ Centre	63-44	W
Dec. 5-12 Blue & Gold Classic		3rd
Bennington	47-27	W
Sacred Heart	43-57	L
Halstead	63-45	W
Dec. 13 @ Ellsworth	42-52	L
Dec. 16 Beloit	56-57	L

Upcoming Games:

Jan. 3 @ Russell
Jan. 6 Minneapolis
Jan. 13 @ Belleville

Record 3-3

Wrestling

Dec. 2 Ellsworth	36-33	W
Dec. 3 Lincoln Trny		5 th
Dec. 8 @ Beloit Dual	6-78	L
Dec. 10 Minneapolis Trny		11 th
Dec. 15 @ Minneapolis	18-56	L

Dual Record 1-2

Cat and mouse game ends in defeat for Lady Trojans

By Skylar Nosker

It was a classic showdown last Friday night, when the Southeast of Saline Lady Trojans took on the Beloit Lady Trojans.

It was a cat and mouse game, going back and forth between the two, but Southeast wound up on the short end of the stick losing by one, 56-57.

The game was looking out of reach, when Beloit went up by 12 with 4:21 left in the third quarter. Southeast busted out a 16-4 run behind shots of senior Brooke Kent and sophomore Elissa Stein.

During the run, Kent scored eight while Stein put in six of her own. They were able to tie the game at 40 with 7:31 left in the game.

After answering every shot, Southeast managed to go up by six, 54-48. But there was still 2:20 left.

Beloit took advantage as they went on a nine point scoring run, five coming from Jill Schmidt who hit the game winning shot with one minute left.

The Lady Trojans had four players in double figures, with Stein leading the way with 11 points. Kent finished with 12 and senior Holly Henry and

sophomore Shayla Seim had 10. Junior Kelsey Brown fell one point and two rebounds short of a double-double, nine points and eight boards.

The Lady Trojans fall to 3-3, 0-2 in League and will have a nice break to prepare for the game in Russell.

"I think the group is working well together. Our goal is to be at our best towards the end of the year. I think the girls are definitely working towards that goal," said Coach Sager.

The game will tip-off at Russell on Jan. 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Trojans shoot down Eagles to become State Champs

By Skylar Nosker

The Boston Red Sox broke the "Curse of the Bambino," the Chicago White Sox won their first World Series since "Shoeless Joe" Jackson cheated in the 1919 World Series, and the Southeast of Saline football team won their first State championship in the 37 years of existence.

The Southeast Trojans had to take the two-hour morning drive to Topeka to battle with the Silver Lake Eagles for State. The Trojans had already beaten the top teams in Class 3A up to that point—Phillipsburg, Conway Springs, and Garden Plain.

Not only did the team go, but hundreds of Trojan fans filled their gas tanks to make the trip to pump up the team.

"Looking into that crowd and seeing all the people there and hearing how loud they were and how anxious they were to get things going for us to have success, it sure was a great feeling to realize there were so many people out there pulling for us," Coach Pat Haxton said.

When the game kicked off at 2:45 p.m., the Trojans came out firing on all cylinders on both sides of the ball.

On the first possession of the game, senior defensive back Justin Schropp picked off Eagles' quarterback Dale Kruger. Then it was the offense's turn.

The offense charged down the field and tacked on six points when Schropp hit Junior Bryson Flax for an 11-yard touchdown.

The defense forced the Eagles to punt and gave the offense great field position. The Trojans took advantage of the short field and scored off of a one-yard run by senior Travis Sheets. The 29-yard drive ended with one second left in the first quarter.

Southeast took the first quarter lead 16-0. But this wasn't going to be a blowout.

"I knew they were too good of a football team and that they were going to make adjustments to us," said Coach Haxton. "Their seniors wanted to win pretty bad, too. They've been (champions for) a long time, so no, I never felt comfortable, never felt in control, never felt like we were going to win or lose that game till it was over."

Those Eagle seniors were making their fourth trip to State. Two of them, quarterback Dale Kruger and linebacker Andrew Christopher, scored two touchdowns to tie the game at 16. In a span of a minute, Kruger ran the ball into the end zone from the one yardline. Then on defense Christopher

picked off Schropp and ran it back 13 yards for the tying score.

After driving the ball 63 yards, Schropp punched the ball in from the one to take the lead by eight with 50 seconds left in the first half.

The Eagles charged down the field, but fell two yards short of tying the game when Senior Kyle Steele was pushed out of bounds as time expired.

After the half, The Trojans had to work from behind, after they turned over a fumble and a blocked punt that both resulted into two Eagle touchdowns. The last on was a 14-yard run by Steele that gave the Eagles the lead 28-24.

On the next offensive drive for the Trojans, the offensive line helped plow the way for the Trojans' winning touchdown.

Even though they had to start at their own 20-yard line and had to play six straight third downs, the line pushed and protected the offense all the way to the Eagles' 12-yard line. Then as Schropp scrambled to the outside, Flax came back and laid out an Eagle defender to spring Schropp for the winning touchdown.

At the time, there was still plenty of game left. After stopping Silver Lake, the Trojans kept the ball on the ground to run out the clock. The Trojans were facing fourth and one on the Eagles' 47-yard line. That's when Coach Haxton had a dilemma — punt or go for the first down.

"Looking at it by the book, you should punt in that situation, (but) at that point I was torn be-

tween the two," said Coach Haxton. "I thought we could make it, but the book tells you to punt in that situation. I knew I had to have the input of the kids and if it was a unanimous decision to go for it, we were going for it."

They went for it.

"I don't think I was scared or worried. I don't know how to even approach it. I went over to the guy on the sideline holding the sticks, and I told him that I must be the dumbest person in the world. This is either going to make us or break us. If we make this, the game is over."

Junior Nick Hardesty did convert the fourth down, and the Trojans kept running down the clock. They found themselves at another fourth down but also converted it.

The Trojans won the Class 3A State championship, 30-28.

For eleven players, this was their last game. The list includes Schropp, Sheets, Michael Lacy, James Hemphill, Jimmy McDowell, Ivan Jovic, Dylan Helvey, Kyle Maine, Colby Lemons, Chris Weller, and Pierre Pauly. With them leaving, the Trojans lose a lot of leadership and talent but the coach is still optimistic about next season.

"I feel great. I have no doubt that the kids won't do everything in their power to get back to the top of that mountain. I really believe that we have the skills and the work ethic but a lot's got to happen in order for that to happen," said Coach Haxton.



The Trojan football team takes on final picture with their trophies. The Trojans finished their season 13-1 and won their first state football championship in school history. (Photo by Sadie Myers)

Cross country coach named 3A boys coach of the year

By Klint Spiller

Southeast of Saline cross country coach Wade Caselman was stunned when he read the letter from the 3A representative in the Kansas Cross Country and Track and Field Association (KCCTFA) Gary Sigle. The letter said that Caselman had been named the 2005 3A boys' cross country coach of the year.



"I was very shocked. There are a lot of well-deserving coaches that could have received that honor, but to receive that honor, I was very, very surprised and honored," Caselman said.

To be bestowed with this honor, a ballot is sent in by the coaches in each classification, and they vote for their fellow col-

leagues to determine who will win. Caselman is only the sixth 3A boys coach to receive this award since it has been given in 2000.

Caselman ascribed much of this honor to the work ethic of his team and his mentors in the past.

"I give a lot of the credit to our boys. They worked hard during the off-season and all season long," Caselman said. "I also attribute it to some of my mentors. I had good coaches growing up, and I've been under Mr. Sager for several years. I have learned a lot from him."

His team began their run for glory during the summer. Caselman wanted them to come into the season with a large endurance base. He attempted to do this by instituting a program which involved giving a variety of prizes for the amount of miles ran during the summer. Not only that, but he would meet

three times a week with his runners at seven in the morning for those who want to have a voluntary team morning run.

"He really deserves it for all the hard work that he has put in to make us better," senior Brady Srna said. "He took time out of his busy schedule to be there throughout the summer three times a week in the morning just to run with us."

Caselman, who has only been the head coach for the past three years, is an alumnus of Southeast. Actually, it was his freshman year when the program first began. Throughout all four of his years in high school, he placed in the top 10 in State and was on the very first SES State Championship-winning team. He was here for the beginning of the long line of Southeast of Saline cross country tradition, and now, as a coach, Caselman is still making his mark.

Football coach reaches the mountain's summit

By Stephanie Frost

Coach Pat Haxton has been attempting to reach the summit of the mountain since he started coaching the Southeast of Saline football team in 1999. He finally did it. Not only did his Trojans earn the 3A State Championship, but he was also named the Salina Journal All-Area Coach of the Year.



Now that he's at the summit, Haxton said that he wants his players to follow up with the same kind of effort and the same kind of intensity they had last year. He's ready to start the hike again.

Following are his comments from a recent interview:

Question: What was your reaction to the Gatorade bath?

Answer: "It was cold!! I wasn't ready for it; it was kind of crazy because I was hugging Travis Sheets at the time and telling him how proud I was of the work that they had done. I think that he was setting me up the whole time, because he bailed out right at the last second. I wish that they would have used water instead of Gatorade because my back and hair was sticky for about 4 hours before I could get in a shower;

but it was well worth it. It was awesome!"

Question: If you were to make a mental highlight film of this season, what players, plays and events would be on there?

Answer: "You know, some of them would be some of the adjustments that Travis Sheets made. When I go over the game in my mind I see several plays where we had to do a lot of adjusting, like the way our defensive line was played in the playoffs and it really got us where we were suppose to be. Travis is a kid that doesn't get a lot of credit, but the things that Travis brought to the football team were amazing."

Question: What are you really saying to the officials when you call them over?

Answer: "(Laughs) None of your business! I do question the officials way to much, and I am a pretty intense guy and the officials are either gonna deal with me or hate me, and unfortunately, the majority of the time they hate me when it is all over with."

Question: The receivers that you send to the huddle with a play say you have a hard time making up your mind on which play to run. What percent of the time do

they actually run the play you told them to?

Answer: "Almost always, there have always been a couple of times where they haven't done it. But it is true that there are times that I will change the formations, not so much the play but I will change the direction that I want the play to be run as they are leaving me, so I do have to holler at them to get back, but it's usually not the play as much as the formations and the direction that I want them to run it. They do a nice job of understanding what I am talking about."

Question: What are you saying to the other high schools and colleges who are offering you jobs?

Answer: "I haven't had anybody offer me a job, but I am not going anywhere. Until they fire me, this is where I want to be, but I don't think that that will happen. I don't anticipate that right now anyway."

Question: What will it take to repeat as state champs next year?

Answer: "The same kind of effort, the same kind of intensity and the same kind of work that they put into this year. We are going to have to work hard everyday this summer to get stronger and faster and do everything we can in order to repeat that, and that takes a lot of work, a lot of effort, and a lot of discipline between now and then."

School organizations bring out holiday spirit

By Andrew Bauer

'Tis the season for charity, tradition, and chowing down. Such is the mood at Southeast of Saline. As Christmas approaches, many student groups are creating holiday spirit through fellowship, charity, and entertainment. Here are what some of these groups have going on this month.

Stuco

Success spawns tradition. Living proof of this is Stuco's sponsoring of an event that has become a tradition at Southeast: The Hanging of the Greens.

"The Hanging of the Greens is a lot of fun," said Stuco president, Chelsey Mueller. "It's our winter assembly that has performances from the jazz band, madrigals, and the dance team. Also Britten O'Banan and Joey Frazier are going to be performing, and Gracia Johnson is putting together the slideshow with pictures of students."

The Hanging of the Greens will be on Dec. 22 in the theater. Teachers will participate by introducing each act with a short skit. The theme for the skits this year comes from famous Christmas stories. Mr. Mike Garretson is among the teachers performing; however, the contents of his skit have been labeled 'classified.'

"I'm not allowed to divulge that information," said Mueller. "But (his skit) is supposed to be really funny."

NHS

NHS is helping to bring out the true spirit of Christmas this month by doing acts of charity for the needy. On Dec. 3, NHS blitzed Salina with around 60 students at once, raising enough to completely fill a suburban and a pickup truck with food and other items.

Members were divided up into teams in a competition based on what items each team was able to collect. Members of the winning teams received gift cards for places such as Chili's, Hollywood Theater, and Target.

"We had prizes so that the teams would have some incentive to collect a lot of food," said Rachael Moon. "For each item you collect, you get some points. The more the item is needed, the more points you get."

NHS is also making plans to participate in the Salvation Army's Distribution Day. This is an event in which people with low incomes can receive food, clothing, and hygienic items. NHS members will carry out groceries for those who are unable to do so.

Distribution Day will be on Dec. 20.

Care Group/Big Brothers Big Sisters

Christmas is, undisputedly, a time for fun. Big Brothers Big Sisters and the girls' Care Group is doing just that by throwing parties for each of their organizations.

On Dec. 11, Care Group went to the Salina Community Theatre's production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," followed by a gift exchange and a party at Mrs. White's house.

"I got a necklace from Joni during the gift exchange," said Christina Sparacino. "After that, we also made a gift package for Kelsey Brown's dad, Sergeant Jim Brown, who's in Iraq."

The mentoring group, Big Brothers Big Sisters, will also have a big Christmas party in the upper gym.

"We're throwing a major Christmas party," said sponsor, Judy White. "Originally, we were going to have a skating party also; but since there's so much going on this month, we weren't able to book a good day. So we're going to have a bigger Christmas party instead."

High school members and their "littles" will have a gift exchange along with

some games. The party will take place today during Seminar.

FCCLA

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." On Dec. 18, FCCLA took this proverb from the movie, 'Elf,' to heart when they went on a family caroling party.

"This is the first year we've gone caroling," said Alex Earles, FCCLA president. "We sang for nursing homes and places for the disadvantaged. It was also a family event, so we all got to bring our families along."

FCCLA is also selling candy canes with messages attached. Students who wish to buy one can have them delivered to someone in the school.

"The candy cane fundraiser isn't really so much about money," said Meaghan Ryan. "It's mostly something we can do for Christmas."

FCCLA will also be showing their appreciation for the staff at SES by sending gifts to staff members. This project has been a bit of a tradition in FCCLA.

"Our officer team will be providing appreciation gifts for the staff to show that their hard work doesn't go unappreciated," said sponsor, Juanelle Garretson.

Greenhand members earn gold

By Brent Sweany

Before the celebration for the Southeast of Saline State championship football team ever began, the Southeast of Saline FFA chapter was celebrating something else. Over 125 people celebrated the fifth birthday party of the Southeast of Saline FFA Chapter at the SES FFA Open House. Alumni presentations, the unveiling of an FFA wall of achievements, and two elaborate birthday cakes marked the fifth anniversary of SES FFA.

On Nov. 17, FFA alumni members and the FFA Officer Team welcomed present and former members and guests to the Open House. Guests were treated to a dinner of chili and birthday cake and were given a tour through the Agriculture room, the Metal Shop and the SES Greenhouse, learning about all of the things that go on in each area. FFA members informed guests about Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), National FFA Convention, Ag Classes and Career Development Events

(CDE) like Parliamentary Procedure and Dairy Cattle Judging. (Two events that SES FFA participates in.)

On November 18, FFA members traveled to Manhattan for the Dairy Cattle Judging CDE. Members of the senior judging team were Jacob Fehlman, Brent Sweany, Kajsa Thelander, Taylor Short, Sarah Anderes and Charley Staab. The senior team took fourth place.

Greenhand Members present were Layton Everhart, Greg Peterson, Bria Sweany, Shawna Caldwell, Tyler Herrington, Sadie Roesner, Jamie Hitchcock, and Kristi Hargadine. The Greenhand team took first place at the contest with medal winners Sadie Roesner, Layton Everhart, Greg Peterson, and Bria Sweany.

"The team's success was due to hardwork and many members attending the event to help the team succeed," FFA sponsor Brandi Disberger said.