

AARON BORTON / Hays Daily News

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The 2007 Smith Center offensive line, Jared Mocaby, Matt Seemann, Grady Godsey, Kirk Palmer, Brayton Gillen, Justin Nixon and Drew Joy, was selected as the Offensive Player of the Year for the 2007 HDN Super 11 Team.

# RED ROAD BLOCK

## Smith Center line nearly a picture of perfection

By CONOR NICHOLL  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

SMITH CENTER — Smith Center High School, leading 16-7 in the second quarter against Pittsburg-St. Mary's/Colgan in the Class 2-1A state championship game, faced a long third down.

The Redmen coaches called a draw for quarterback Joe Windscheffel.

The senior took the snap, pulled to his right and faced heavy pressure from a Panther linebacker. He dodged the tackler, turned to his left and saw a welcoming sight.

Every Smith Center lineman was still working, still on their blocks and still focused on beating their opponent. The play didn't break down.

Windscheffel completely reversed field, ran behind every lineman's block and gained 30 yards that set up a Redman score.

"It was probably one of the biggest plays," senior

tight end Jared Mocaby said with a smile on Thursday afternoon at the Smith Center Fieldhouse.

The run epitomized Smith Center's brilliant offensive line play, a line that was the fulcrum behind a 40-14 win in the state championship and a 13-0 record. It marked the Redmen's seventh state title in the past 30 years and fourth in a row.

The line, which executed head coach Roger Barta's patented wishbone offense to near perfection, helped Smith Center, who lost two of their top three running backs to season-ending injuries during the year, outscore their opponents 844-20 and tally at least 50 points in 11 games.

Smith Center rushed for 5,574 yards on 486 carries, an average of 11.45 yards per run and 428.8 rushing yards per game. Five players finished with at least 500 yards.

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## Coach, team spend time in spotlight

By RANDY GONZALES  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

When the New York Times comes to town, you know you have hit the big time.

The Smith Center prep football team, known throughout Kansas as one of the best programs in the state, gained national acclaim this season — and quite by accident.

The Redmen set a national high school record with 72 points in the first quarter in an eventual 83-0 win over Plainville in the opener of the Class

2-1A playoffs.

The Associated Press ran a small wire story about the record, adding the fact that Smith Center had outscored opponents 740-0 at the time.

"It was a national record — we had no idea that was going on," 30th-year head coach Roger Barta said. "We didn't know what to do that game."

That was one of the few times Barta, his coaching staff, and players were caught off-guard this season. Smith Center eventually did give up a point, but wound up

outscored the opposition 844-20, winning a fourth straight Class 2-1A state title in such dominating fashion that Barta has been selected Coach of the Year on the 24th annual Hays Daily News all-area football team.

But this year, along with the success on the field, will be remembered for the glare of the national spotlight. The New York Times ran a front-page story, the Denver Post, USA Today, Sports Illustrated and ESPN were among other national media outlets that spread the word.

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## 24th annual HDN All-Area Super 11

| Player            | Ht./Wt.  | Class | Pos.    | School         |
|-------------------|----------|-------|---------|----------------|
| Ted Crabtree      | 6-2/185  | Sr.   | QB/FS   | St. Francis    |
| Jason Crawford    | 5-11/180 | Sr.   | QB/DB   | Natoma         |
| Taylor Elder      | 5-11/180 | Sr.   | RB/LB   | Sharon Springs |
| Brayton Gillen    | 5-10/217 | Sr.   | OL/LB   | Smith Center   |
| Daniel Gottschalk | 5-11/165 | Sr.   | WR/DB/K | Ellis          |
| Jeff Hennick      | 6-2/185  | Sr.   | QB/FS   | Sharon Springs |
| Ethan Kuhlmann    | 6-4/235  | Sr.   | QB/LB   | Kensington     |
| Marshall Musil    | 6-3/215  | Jr.   | RB/DE   | La Croase      |
| Aaron Racette     | 6-2/225  | Sr.   | RB/DE   | Oakley         |
| Braden Wilson     | 6-6/220  | Sr.   | RB/DE   | Smith Center   |
| Joe Windscheffel  | 6-2/210  | Sr.   | QB/S    | Smith Center   |

## Right place at the right time

When teams were forced to pass the ball against St. Francis, Indian senior Ted Crabtree was right in the thick of things. So much so, that the Indian senior picked off 12 passes in 13 games.

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# 'Hawks handle Ohio

By DOUG TUCKER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — No. 3 Kansas had its preferred starting lineup intact and on the floor when the game began for the first time this season, and it showed.

Brandon Rush drained his first three 3-pointers and helped Mario Chalmers spark a 19-0 run in the opening minutes, and the Jayhawks swamped Ohio 88-51 Saturday in their inaugural appearance in Kansas City's new Sprint Center.

Rush, who'd been coming off the bench and easing back into action following knee surgery, made his first start and cooled off after his hot beginning but still wound up with 13 points.

In addition, guard Sheron Collins made his second

appearance after missing six games while healing a stress fracture in his foot as the



unbeaten Jayhawks blew past an Ohio team that had won four straight and was fresh off a 61-55 victory at Maryland.

The Bobcats (6-3) tried several different defenses in a futile effort to stop the Kansas onslaught while a sellout crowd roared in the 18,500-seat arena, which was sold out despite a forecast of snow.

Chalmers had 17 points on 7 of 9 shooting and Darrell Arthur had 14 points as the Jayhawks went to 10-0 for the 11th time in school history.

Kansas led 46-20 at the end of the first half and quickly built the lead to 60-28 on consecutive 3-pointers by Russell Robinson and Collins and Sasha Kaun's dunk.

The Bobcats, who came into the game with four players scoring in double figures, were led by Bert Whittington's 10 points. Kansas outbounded the visitors from the Mid-American Conference 46-27.

With Kansas wearing its bright red uniforms and the Bobcats in green, the two teams lent a bright seasonal look to the glistening new arena, which is only about 30 minutes from the Kansas campus across the state line.

The Jayhawks, lining in the loud and energetic crowd support they always get in Kansas City, won their 27th straight regular-season game here and raised their all-time record in KC to 185-75.

Arthur, the Jayhawks' leading scorer this season, had eight rebounds to go with his 14 points while Darnell Jackson had 11 points and another eight rebounds.

Robinson, a senior guard, had 11 assists. The quicker Jayhawks had 26 points off 17 turnovers and blocked seven shots the shorter Bobcats put up.

In winning six of their first eight, the Bobcats had compiled a plus-42 rebound margin, but aside from Leon Williams, who had 11 rebounds, no Bobcat other than Jerome Tillman had more than six.

## Tigers win 'ugly' at GMC after long layoff

By CONOR NICHOLL  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

In head coach Mark Johnson's eyes, his Fort Hays State University men's basketball team resembled the snowstorm that raged through Hays on Friday night.

"Ugly," he said. The Tigers, playing for the first time since Dec. 3, still defeated Kansas Wesleyan University, a NAIA opponent, 78-61 at Gross Memorial Coliseum and improved to 6-1 this season.

However, the game produced 23 Tiger fouls and 19 turnovers, tied for the second most this year. Individually, senior guard Jake Sims delivered a sterling effort with a season-high 16 points and 12 rebounds, only the second Fort Hays double-double this season.

"We just could never get in a flow due to the layoff maybe," Sims said. "It was a long layoff. We started out sluggish. We are kind of getting tired of practicing against each other."

Fort Hays led throughout, but three Kansas Wesleyan runs kept the game within 20 points nearly the entire contest. The Coyotes enjoyed a 10-0 run in the first half and 10-0 and 9-0 bursts after intermission.

The Tigers improved to 5-0 against NAIA teams this season and moved to 28-0 against NAIA squads in Johnson's tenure.

This was the first victory over a NAIA team this season that wasn't decided by at least 20 points and the first time an NAIA squad tallied more than 50 points against the Tigers.

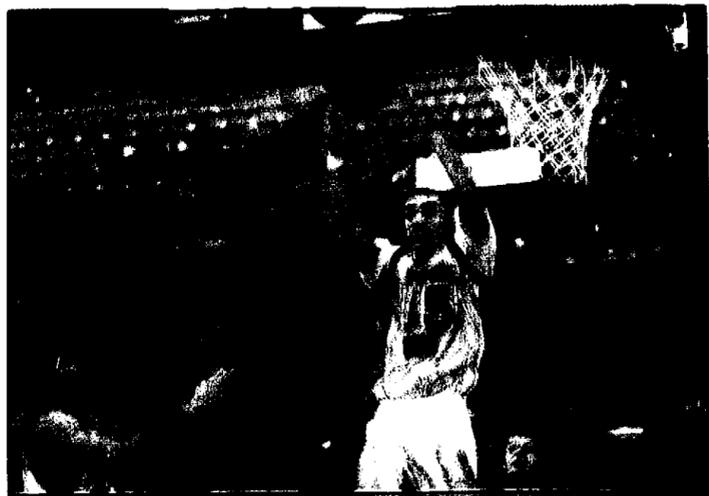
"We held our opponent to under 65 and that is a goal of ours to not allow the other team to score 65 points,"

Johnson said. "I just didn't like the way that we got it done."

"I felt like we were very lethargic out there and we just didn't have our focus and anytime you do that it affects your offense so bad," he added.

Sims, a former Dodge City Community College player and Div. I transfer from Gardner-Webb University, had his strongest game, numbers-wise, this year. During practice this past week, Johnson reminded Sims that the coaching staff wanted him to be a more effective rebounder, especially on the offensive glass.

Sims responded with 12 rebounds, tied for the most by any Fort Hays player this season. He pulled down four offensive rebounds, only four fewer than he had in the first six games of the season.



AARON BORTON / Hays Daily News

Fort Hays sophomore Tim Peintner rebounds the ball during Friday's game against Kansas Wesleyan at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

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