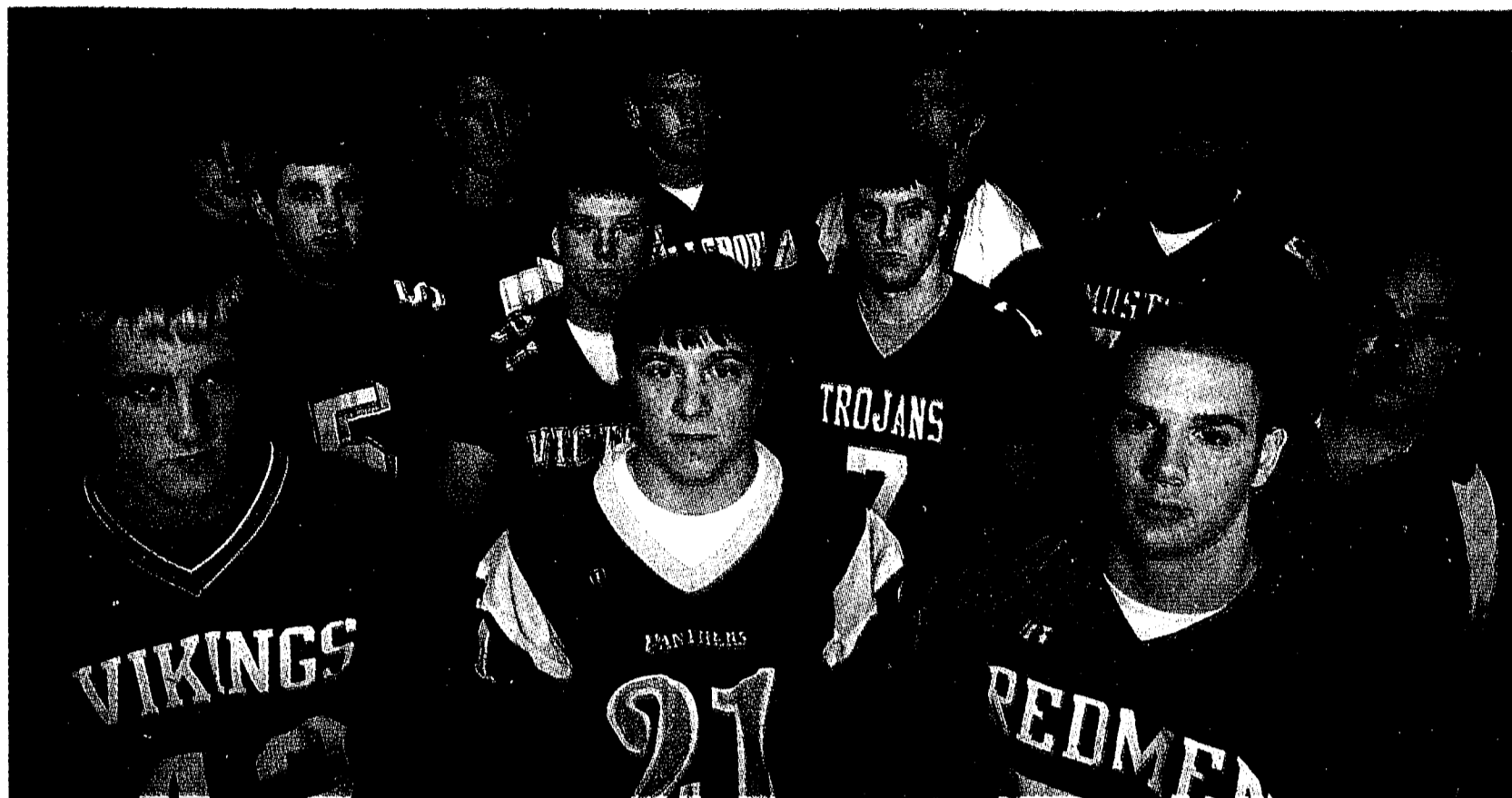
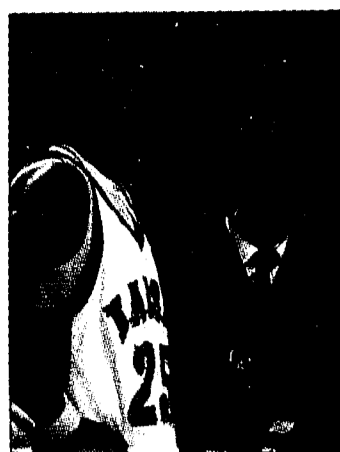


2006 ALL-AREA FOOTBALL



RODRICK REIDSMA / Salina Journal
The Salina Journal's 2006 All-Area Football Team. Front row (left to right) Michael Baker, Smoky Valley; Jarret Abell, Phillipsburg; and Kirk Palmer, Smith Center. Second row (left to right) Joel McAtee, St. Francis; Jared Pfeifer, Victoria; Nick Hardesty, Southeast of Saline; and Coach of the Year Roger Barta, Smith Center. Back row (left to right) William Irvine, Chapman; Dane Simoneau, Sacred Heart; Lucas Hamm, Hillsboro; Alex Whitehill, McPherson; and Charlie Davis, Salina Central. All-Area capsules C2.



The Associated Press
KU coach Bill Self (right) stands with Brandon Rush toward the end of Saturday's game against Toledo. Rush finished with 19 points, including a career-high five 3-pointers.

Block party a 'dud'

Jayhawks swat 15 shots, yet foe hangs around until the end

By DOUG TUCKER
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — So how does a team set a school record with 15 blocked shots while getting outrebounded?

BIG 12 MEN
Toledo 58
Kansas 68

Kansas coach Bill Self can't wait to study film of the 12th-ranked Jayhawks' 68-58 victory over Toledo on Saturday and find out.

In what will probably be their last game in venerable Kemper Arena, the Jayhawks held a huge size advantage over the plucky Rockets (2-5), whose tallest starter was only 6-foot-6, while Kansas (8-2) had five players 6-8 or taller.

Yet, Toledo managed to push the Jayhawks all game long, finishing with 37-35 rebound advantage.

"Sometimes rebounding stats can be a little misleading," said Self, studying the stat sheet of a game he called "a dud." "They got six offensive rebounds that went out of

See BLOCK, Page C5

Top 11 has it all

By SEAN PURCELL
Salina Journal

This year's Salina Journal All-Area Top 11 football team has a little bit of everything.

In what has been dubbed the "Year of the Quarterback" by some of the state's prep writers, this Top 11 has two of Kansas' best in Sacred Heart's Dane Simoneau and Southeast of Saline's Nick Hardesty. Together, the Salina County products combined to pass for 4,517 yards, rush for 2,503 and had a hand in nearly 100 touchdowns.

A receiver to throw to? Hillsboro tight end Lucas Hamm, who caught 24 passes to help lead the Trojans to a berth in the 3A semifinals, is a big target at 6-foot-4.

But Hamm's position of choice is probably line-backer, as is the case for Smoky Valley's Michael Baker, Victoria's Jared Pfeifer and McPherson's

ALL-AREA TOP 11

Player, School	HT.	WT.	YR.	POS.
Jarret Abell, Phillipsburg	5-9	184	Sr.	RB-DB
Michael Baker, Smoky Valley	5-11	210	Sr.	LB-RB
Charlie Davis, Salina Central	6-4	255	Sr.	DL
Lucas Hamm, Hillsboro	6-4	210	Sr.	LB-TE
Nick Hardesty, Southeast-Saline	6-1	190	Sr.	QB-LB
William Irvine, Chapman	6-1	175	Sr.	RB-FS
Joel McAtee, St. Francis	6-1	180	Sr.	RB-LB
Kirk Palmer, Smith Center	5-11	210	Jr.	OL-LB
Jared Pfeifer, Victoria	5-7	175	Sr.	LB-OB
Dane Simoneau, Sacred Heart	6-4	180	Sr.	QB
Alex Whitehill, McPherson	6-3	210	Sr.	LB

COACH OF THE YEAR: Roger Barta, Smith Center

Alex Whitehill.

Baker and Hamm both had more than 80 tackles on the season and were unanimous all-Mid-Central Activities Association selections. Whitehill was named the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail Division II Defensive Player of the Year.

Then there's Pfeifer, who may not be big on size at 5-

foot-7 but had the talent to anchor a Victoria defense that shut out four opponents on its way to a second eight-man state title in three seasons.

Need a lineman? For offense, this Top 11 has Smith Center center Kirk Palmer, who helped the Redmen roll up more than 5,200 rushing yards on their way to a

third straight unbeaten season and Class 2-1A state title. On defense, Salina Central tackle Charlie Davis, with 17 tackles for loss and six sacks, is as good as they come.

Any good team has a potent rushing attack, and this year's Top 11 features St. Francis running back Joel McAtee, who despite miss-

ing two games due to an injury piled up 1,290 yards (averaging more than 10 yards per carry) to finish No. 2 on his school's career rushing list.

And when all else fails, every successful team needs a couple of jack-of-all-trades players. With Phillipsburg's Jarret Abell and Chapman's William Irvine, this Top 11 is in good hands.

Both 1,000-yard rushers and standouts in the defensive backfield, Abell and Irvine were invaluable on special teams, too.

Also Chapman's punter and kicker, Irvine had three punt return touchdowns for the Irish this year. Abell returned four kicks for touchdowns this season — two kickoffs and two punts — to give him a state-best 16 for his career.

So, there you have it, this year's Top 11 team with Smith Center's Roger Barta as its coach. For more on Barta and the players, look inside.



RAVENS AT CHIEFS

When: Today, noon
Records: Ravens, 9-3; Chiefs 7-5
TV: CBS. Radio: KILS, 92.7-FM.
Line: Chiefs by 3.

No place like home

By DOUG TUCKER
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Every year it happens, almost without fail.

First, the Midwestern air turns frosty and brisk and seasonal music fills the airwaves. Excited children clamor onto the laps of department store Santas.

See HOME, Page C6

SE-Saline boys capture crown



JEFF COOPER / Salina Journal
Southeast of Saline's Ross Terry (left) contests a shot by Sterling's Richard Stromberg in Saturday's title game.

Trojans stay unbeaten, win elusive first title at Bicentennial Center

By LARRY MORITZ
Salina Journal

It took 24 tournament appearances and 72 games, but the Southeast of Saline boys basketball team finally walked out of the Bicentennial Center — their home away from home in recent years — as champions.

Southeast finished an impressive three-game run at the Sacred Heart Blue & Gold Classic with a 60-46 victory over a persistent Sterling ballclub in Saturday's championship contest.

The Trojans have never finished higher than second place in 20 appearances at the midseason Salina Invitational, and this was Southeast's first title in the

four-year history of the Blue & Gold.

"I don't think Southeast had ever won a tournament trophy before," said Southeast senior Doug Beaton, selected the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. "We just wanted to come out and go 4-0 to start the season and now we want to be 6-0 before the Christmas break."

Southeast did improve to 4-0, but unlike its first three victories this season, was pushed into the fourth quarter.

Sterling (2-2) was a surprise title-game participant after finishing last in this tournament in 2004 and 2005. The Black Bears, who came from behind in the fourth quarter of both their first-round and semifinal wins, could not produce a third comeback victory against the Trojans.

"One of our goals was to win the Blue & Gold and we knew it would be difficult," Southeast coach Mike Davert said. "Some

See SE-SALINE, Page C10



BOYS RESULTS

1st place	
SE-Saline	60
Sterling	46
3rd place	
Bennington	53
Minneapolis	45
(overtime)	
5th place	
Sacred Heart	42
Ell-Saline	33
7th place	
Halstead	73
Solomon	54
Additional coverage,	
	C10

FARGO, N.D. — Kansas State head coach Bob Huggins said he told his players months ago that the game against North Dakota State could "make or break" the season. "I knew they were that good," he said of the Bison.

The Wildcats responded with an 83-81 victory, thanks to 24 points and a game-winning 3-point field goal by Lance Harris in front of a sellout crowd of 6,110 at the Bison Sports Arena Saturday.

"We competed," Huggins said. "We have a tendency sometimes when things don't go our way not to compete."

The Wildcats (6-3) survived a 31-point outing and a last-second shot by Ben Woodside. The Bison point guard faked Harris out of position on the last attempt, but his off-balance shot came up short and no foul was called.

See K-STATE, Page C5

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