

Charlie's Corner
Inside

TIPTOEING INTO DECEMBER

As Forrest Gump would say, "And just like that it's high school basketball season." Yes, the pros and the colleges are still kicking the pigskin around but all across the country it's time for basketball to shove its round face to the front of the sports pages.

Speaking of basketball, a lot of teams around the NBA are nervous about what's happening with the Oklahoma Thunder. Why? If the season ended today, OKC would be in line to receive the Nos. 6, 9 and 14 picks in the upcoming draft and that draft is loaded with talent, more than most years. One other thing, the Thunder were recently 20-1 and most "experts" think they could win 70 games. They are in a class by themselves and could get even better with all of those first-round draft picks!

Has any coach made more of a mess of things than LSU's new hire, Lane Kiffin? He strung out his hiring for weeks, tantalizing LSU, Florida and Mississippi, getting them involved in a bidding war for his services that finally ended last week with him signing a contract with LSU for \$91 Million over seven years.

Kiffin is now LSU's coach but he is one of three head football coaches they are paying. Kiffin, recently fired Brian Kelly and his predecessor, Ed Orgeron. LSU will also pay Kiffin any bonus money he would have received at Ole Miss for games won during their season. That could be as much as \$1 million!

Kiffin told Ole Miss he was leaving for neighboring LSU but wanted to coach the Rebels through this playoff season. I am sure the language was different in the actual meeting but they said no.

LSU's athletic director did not make this hire. The Governor of Louisiana took over and ran this high-dollar drama. Will Kiffin win and make it through this seven-year contract? Doesn't matter financially as Kiffin is guaranteed a buyout of 80% of remaining money, even if he gets a new job. If Kiffin doesn't bring titles to Baton Rouge, not only will he be in trouble, so will the Governor.

With a 10-2 record, the Denver Broncos have a stranglehold on the AFC West standings and a place in the playoffs. At 6-6, the Kansas City Chiefs are sucking through a straw that has holes in it. They are barely gurgling! Can the Chiefs win five straight games and squeeze into the playoffs? Heck, I'm not even sure they can win Sunday against the Houston Texans!

With the Chargers and Denver still on the schedule, Chief Kingdom fans have got to think that this fun run is now over. Injuries and self-inflicted penalties have doomed this season from the very first game when the NFL sent the Chiefs and Chargers to South America to woo a new audience! It was a fun run but it is now over, at least for this year.

What to make of this Jayhawk football program? Is coach Leiphold the right guy to take Kansas to a higher level? He certainly has done a good job of making Kansas football relevant again. However, two straight years of 5-7 have dulled the senses of even the most loyal Jayhawk fan.

Almost everyone associated with Kansas football, and most of their fans, expected bigger things in 2024 and 2025. Why did things spiral downhill? The common denominator was close losses, mostly in the final minutes of numerous games, flipped the KU record from 8-4 or 7-5 to 5-7. When KU needed a defensive stop, they could never get it. Yes, I know that quarterback Jalon Daniels imploded several times, trying to be too good and, yes, that did cost them a couple of games but he did some really good things in getting them five wins.

No, KU's 5-7 records are not the fault of their offense. Come to the front of the class, defense, and take your whipping. The Kansas defense is simply too porous to get the Hawks to that next level. Hopefully, Leipold can find enough pieces, have enough money, and talk "sweet" enough to attract some big old dudes that can shut down the gunslinging offenses of the Big 12. Until he does, they are stuck on 5-7!

"I had a serious illness. They knew of a doctor on the Missouri side that probably could take care of me. I told them 'No, I'd rather die first'."
 --Former KU football coach Don Fambrough

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Keady Wanted Tournament Named for His Father

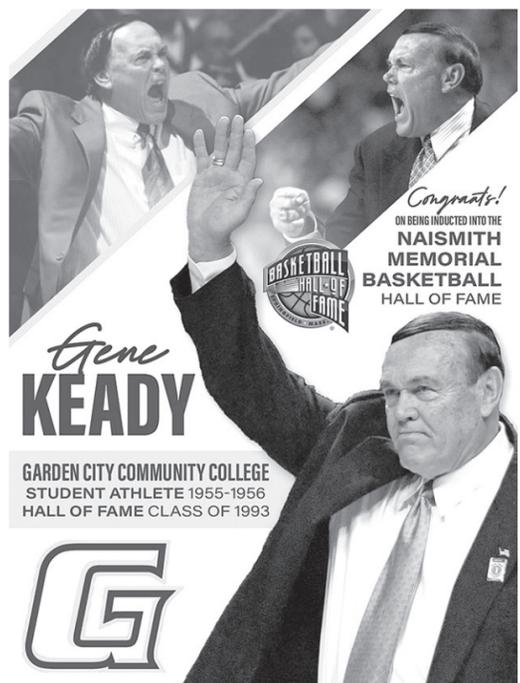
By C. TABLER

The Keady Basketball Classic tips off Monday. Ask most anyone and they will tell you that it is named in honor of Gene Keady, Larned High School graduate and former long-time coach at Purdue University. Gene Keady, however, wanted it named for his father.

Keady was in Larned in the summer of 2013 to accept the renaming of his parents' portion of Third Street in Larned as Gene Keady Way. During an interview following that event he commented about the basketball tournament. "I don't want it to be the Gene Keady Classic, I want it to be named for my dad, with the Keady name, not for me."

Gene Keady's father, Lloyd, was who Gene was talking about. Even though associate the tournament mostly with Gene Keady, perhaps both he and his father are honored with the name, "Keady Basketball Classic."

DID YOU KNOW.....That until 1954, Larned High School basketball games were played at Larned's City Auditorium? The Auditorium was in downtown Larned between 7th & 8th streets on the east side of Broadway.



LHS Football-1921

Editors Note: The following article is from the Tiller & Toiler, October 27, 1921.

**The Tiller and Toiler
 Thursday, October 27, 1921
 Larned 13, Burdett 7**

Tomorrow L. H. S. Will Play Spearville On The Larned Grounds

Larned High School formally opened its football schedule at home by playing Burdett High School Friday. The game was the climax of a week of "pep" carried on in L. H. S., during which "pep" meetings were frequently held, "pep" talks given and many new yells learned.

Friday noon, at the instigation of the Boosters' Club and the High School Yell Leader, Ferdinand Ewing, a parade of cars, three and one-half blocks long was formed which traversed the principal streets. The front car, besides a load of students, carried a huge sign announcing the game, the L. H. S. yell leader, and a football player in full regalia, who sat on the radiator, holding the mascot, Howard Dexter, also dressed in football togs. Many yells were given and much noise made. The town awoke from its lethargy to find that it had a High School, up and going, which was expected to have a football game that afternoon.

At 3 o'clock, just before the game, a similar parade was formed which went up and down Broadway once and then to the Fairgrounds.

The game was called at 3:30, with Larned receiving. Larned lost the ball and, about 5 minutes after the game started Burdett rushed their first, last and only touchdown across the line. Burdett then kicked goal. At the end of the next 5 minutes Howell of Larned made a touchdown but Lane missed the goal. Score at the end of the first quarter, Burdett 7, Larned 6.

The play wandered back and forth across the field until the last 5 minutes of the game when Lane placed the pigskin across the line by the splendid line bucking of Larned and then kicked goal. The final score was 13 to 7 in favor of Larned. Compton of Hays refereed and Hared of Larned umpired. Larned has a light but fast team. It is playing splendid football, considering that this is its first season. Larned should support this team. Many townspeople witnessed the game Friday but more should have done so.

Tomorrow Larned plays Spearville here. Spearville outweighs Larned.

They have lost but one game and that by a small margin. Larned is out to win. The boys are working hard this week. Come out and see them trim Spearville.

The Tiller and Toiler

LMS 8th Grade Girls Remain Undefeated

The Larned Middle School 8th Grade Girls improved their season record to 9-0 Tuesday evening as they downed Dodge City Sacred Heart 50-4. The 7th Grade Girls also won as they downed Sacred Heart 34-7.



The LMS basketball teams travel to Hillsboro on Thursday, December 4 and will have three regular season games remaining. Their next home game is Monday, December 16 as they host Bucklin.

Larned's Girls and Boys will play in a "C" team tournament at Lyons on Saturday, December 6.

DID YOU KNOW.....That the Keady Basketball Classic is named for Larned native Gene Keady who was more known as a football player but when he quit playing professional football there were no high school football coaching jobs open so he began his basketball coaching career at Beloit, Kansas high school?

Larned Wrestling Opens Season Dec. 5 & 6

By C. TABLER

This weekend the Larned Boys and Girls wrestlers get their season underway at Wakeeney. The Girls wrestle on Friday and the Boys on Saturday.

The Larned Girls, under Head Coach Matt Sleder, have fourteen wrestlers on the squad. Mia Munden and Cara Herbert are returning starters and are ranked #2 and #3 at their respective weight classes.



Taking over the Larned Boys from Sleder is new coach, Josh Ball. Ball will have eight boys returning from last years' team.

Assistant coaches for Larned are Hunter Fitzpatrick and Jennifer Fitzpatrick.

Five Takeaways from AP Top 25 Men's Basketball Poll

By Colby Colwell

Michigan State, Vanderbilt move up

The Spartans (7-0), up four spots to No. 7, are tied with Arizona for the most wins (three) against AP-ranked opponents this season and are off to their first undefeated start through seven games since they started 13-0 in 2015-16.

The Commodores (8-0) climb seven spots to No. 17 after winning the Battle 4 Atlantis Championship. Vanderbilt is scoring the second-most points per game (97.9 PPG) and is off to its best start since 2007-08.

Houston, St. John's plummet

The Cougars (7-1) fall five spots to No. 8 after a 76-73 loss to then-No. 17 Tennessee in the Players Era Festival. While freshman guard Kingston Flemings had a team-high 25 points (10-of-15 FG), Houston was unable to find any answer for Ja'Kobi Gillespie and Tennessee.

The Red Storm (4-3) drop nine spots to No. 23 after a lackluster showing in the Players Era. Defensive issues continue to plague St. John's, which gave up 83 points to then-No. 15 Iowa State and 85 points to a 21st-ranked Auburn team, giving the program eight consecutive losses to ranked nonconference opponents.

Kansas, USC join the rankings

The Jayhawks (6-2) make a return to the poll at No. 21 after picking up their first win over a ranked opponent this season in the win over Tennessee. Kansas is the only team in Division-I that has yet to allow an opposing team to shoot 30% from long-range.

The Trojans (7-0) debut at No. 24 after defeating former Pac-12 rival Arizona State, 88-75, to win the program's first Maui Invitational title. Auburn transfer Chad Baker-Mazara was key in the win with 23 points (9-of-16 FG) as USC is off to its best start to a season since it won 13 straight to begin the 2021-22 campaign.

EARLY DEADLINE for Weeks of Dec. 21 and Dec. 28: Deadline for ads, legals & articles will be MONDAY, Dec. 22 & MONDAY, Dec. 29 at 2:00 PM!
The Tiller & Toiler office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.