

Basketball part of Hodge family DNA

Three siblings all coaching high school basketball

BY GENE MORRIS
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SPRING HILL – There is quite a coaching tree in the Duane and Judy Hodge family.

Their oldest daughter, Jessica Crawford, played for the Spring Hill Lady Broncos state championship team in 2003.

Crawford studies Elementary Education at Oklahoma State and is the head coach at Lee's Summit High School.

Jami Hodge, a Spring Hill graduate, is the head coach at Olathe West High School.

She played for the Lady Broncos in high school and was a conference champion and on a national runner-up team at Baker University.

Danny Hodge played basketball at Spring Hill and went on to play for Emporia State where he met his wife, Addie Lackey. She played for the Lady Hornets.

Hodge is an assistant

coach for the Spring Hill High School Broncos boys basketball program. He coaches the junior varsity boys team and assists with the varsity team. Hodge teaches elementary physical education at Dayton Creek.

Basketball Family

Duane Hodge was coaching one of Danny's competitive teams in Gardner. Jessica was home for the summer from college. She was sitting on the bench helping her dad coach.

Jessica first met her future husband, Casey, during the basketball tournament. He was a referee at the game.

"That is how they first met," Duane said. "They later dated and are currently married and have three children. So basketball really brought them together as well and has shaped their family. Casey was a Kansas Gatorade player of the year and played college basketball at Colorado.

Duane coached all three of his children as they started playing basketball as youngsters.

"My father coached high school basketball," he said. "I learned the game from him. Basketball has been a big part of our family as we brought our family up with me coaching the kids and taking summer vacations playing basketball.

"Judy and I are very proud of them all, especially how they support each other," he said. "We did not know they would all go into the education field, but we knew they would all get the opportunity to play college basketball and get an education while playing the game we all love."

Sibling Rivalry

Duane and Judy were in the stands this past winter as Jessica and Jami coached against each other for the first time with Lee's Summit High School playing Olathe West High School.

"Watching Jessica and Jami coach against each other was amazing," Duane said. "They both are strong women and leaders with a desire to be successful while developing young ladies. It is a proud moment whenever we see them coach, but I prefer to see them go against other teams instead of each other."

Duane and Judy have a passion for the game of basketball.

"Judy and I both played high school basketball too," he said. "I played one year in college."



Submitted Photo

Danny Hodge, Jami Hodge and Jessica Crawford, siblings who graduated from Spring Hill, are now all teachers who coach high school basketball.

Jessica and Jami have coached high school girls basketball for years, but this season was the first time they faced each other. Jami is in her fourth season with Olathe West and her first year as head coach.

Jessica, like most siblings, wants to see her sister succeed, just not the night their teams are playing each other.

"Jami won the game," Jessica said. "I had mixed emotions, I want to see her succeed but also wanted to win."

Jessica played college basketball at Southeastern Oklahoma State. She coached three years in Oklahoma. She has been with Lee's Summit High School for 13 years.

"It is a lot of fun to share that bond of coaching high school basketball," Jessica said. "My favorite thing about coaching is giving girls a home and a family to belong to. My teams have been talented and not so talented, but each year they grow as women. There is so much to learn from being on a team to help prepare you for life."

Jami, just as competitive as her sister, was on the other end of the court coaching Olathe West.

It was one of those moments you just have to take in and enjoy the experience, Jami said.

"Coaching against my sister was an incredible experience, both surreal and competitive," Jami said. "We've

always shared a love for the game, and to be on opposite sidelines, strategizing against each other, was something really special. There was definitely some sibling rivalry, but at the end of the day, we both wanted our teams to compete at their best.

"As for the outcome, Olathe West got the win, but no matter what, it was a moment we'll always remember," she said. "We've always talked basketball and shared ideas, but this was the first time we had to game-plan against each other. It made for some fun family conversations leading up to the game."

Jami was an assistant coach at Perry-Lecompton. She served as an assistant coach at Bethany College for one year and served two years as an assistant coach at Baker University.

"I have gained a lot of experience at both the college and high school levels," she said. "It has helped develop who I am as a coach today leading a 6A program."

Basketball is just in the family DNA, Jami said.

"It's pretty unique to be one of three siblings coaching high school basketball," she said. "It is something I take a lot of pride in. Basketball has always been a huge part of our family, and now, as coaches, we get to share our passion in a different way."

"We support each other, exchange ideas, and, of

course, compete a little bit too," Jami said. "It's special to have that built-in network of people who truly understand the highs and lows of coaching. What makes it even more special is that all three of our spouses have also been involved in basketball at the collegiate level, whether through playing or coaching. That connection makes our family even more intertwined with the game."

Jami played four seasons with the Baker University women's basketball team. She was on the 2014 conference championship team. The team made tournament appearances in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was the national runner-up in 2016.

"My favorite part of coaching is the relationships, watching players grow both on and off the court," Jami said. "I love seeing their hard work pay off, watching them develop confidence, and knowing I've played a small role in their journey is what makes it all worth it."

"I started coaching because of my love for the game," she said. "My dad coached all three of us growing up, and he instilled in us a passion for the game, along with the life skills that come with playing. Whether it was playing, studying, or just talking basketball, I always knew I wanted to stay connected to it. Coaching gave me that opportunity, and I am forever grateful."



Submitted Photo

Jessica Crawford (left) and Jami Hodge pose for pictures after coaching against each other in a game between Lee's Summit and Olathe West.



Submitted Photo

The Hodge family not only has a passion for basketball but also loves their Kansas City Chiefs. Members of the Hodge family basketball tree are (from left) Duane, Jami, Judy, Jessica and Danny. All three of their children are teachers and coach high school basketball.

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(Published in the Miami County Republic, April 2, 2025)
Summary of Ordinance No. 3871

On March 27, 2025, the City of Osawatomie, adopted Ordinance No. 3871, Annexing land to the City of Osawatomie, Kansas. All that part of the South half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 22 East, Miami County, Kansas described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Southwest quarter of said Section 1; thence South 89 degrees 29 minutes 38 seconds West, along the South line of said Southwest Quarter, a distance of 223.23 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 43 degrees 22 minutes 02 seconds West, a distance of 855.79 feet to a point on the East right-of-way line of Highway 169 as now established; thence along said right-of-way on a curve to the left with a radius of 4183.22 feet, an arc length of 83.99 feet, with a chord bearing South 18 degrees 15 minutes 41 seconds West, a distance of 83.99 feet; thence South 17 degrees 40 minutes 53 seconds West along said right of way line, a distance of 576.58 feet to a point on the South line of said Southwest quarter; thence North 89 degrees 29 minutes 38 seconds East, along the South line of said Southeast Quarter, a distance of 789.12 feet the point of beginning containing 5.69 acres more or less. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.osawatomieks.org or at City Hall, 439 Main St., Osawatomie, Kansas. This summary certified by Jeffery W. Deane, J.D., City Attorney

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(First Published in the Miami County Republic, March 19, 2025) IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS In the Matter of the Estate of CARL GRANT WEIR, Deceased. Case No. MI-2025-PR-000017
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that on March 7, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Last Will and Testament and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was filed in this Court by Elizabeth Sue Lundgren, the sole heir, legatee, devisee and the Executor of the Estate of Carl Grant Weir, Deceased. All creditors of the above-named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.
DOMONEY & DOMONEY
18 E. Wea; P.O. Box 411

PUBLIC NOTICE

Paola, KS 66071
(913) 294-2800; Fax: (913) 594-4601
Attorneys for Executor (3t.)
Elizabeth Sue Lundgren Executor.
Publish: Miami County Republic
Date: March 19, 26 and April 2, 2025
3264540

Miami County District Court
MI-2025-DM-000017
In the Matter of the Marriage of Sarah M Fortney-Castillo vs. Jorge Francisco Castillo-Deleon ORDER Allowing Service by Publication. the COURT FINDS: Petitioner filed an Affidavit asking for publication service upon respondent. Petitioner does not know where respondent lives, petitioner has made reasonable efforts to find out where respondent is living but has not been able to find out that information, and petitioner has done all things reasonably necessary to try to find out where the respondent is living. petitioner may give

PUBLIC NOTICE

notice to respondent of the filing of the divorce petition by publication service as is provided by K.S.A. 60-307 IT IS SO ORDERED.

Publish: Miami County Republic
Date: March 19, 26 and April 2, 2025
3270380

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS In the Matter of the Estate of RICHARD EDGAR KLEIN, Deceased Case No. MI-2025-PR-000018
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are notified that on March 10, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary Under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Renee Rogers, an heir, devisee and legatee, and Administrator for the estate of Richard E. Klein, deceased.