Hoops

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the opportunity to show off a variety of options in their backcourt. Marcus Whitlock Jr. made four 3s. Quintero Barnett, a transfer from Division II Walsh University, led all scorers with 24 points on 9-for-15 shooting. Eli Rice, a 6-foot-7 wing with experience at two Big Ten schools, added 18 off the bench.

MTSU doesn't have as much size in its lineup as KU's previous buy-game opponent Fordham, but does have two centers on its roster: 6-foot-11 Serbian sophomore Luka Jovanovic and 6-foot-10 JUCO transfer Kaleb Siler, who got the start against Fisk.

Head coach Nick McDevitt is in his ninth year leading the Blue Raiders. MTSU hasn't made the tournament since its pair of first-round upset wins under Kermit Davis in 2016 and 2017.

NO. 17 KANSAS JAYHAWKS (1-0) VS. MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS (1-0)

- Allen Fieldhouse, Lawrence, 8 p.m.
- Broadcast: ESPNU
- Radio: Jayhawk Radio Network (in Lawrence, KLWN AM 1320 / K269GB FM 101.7 / KKSW FM 105.9 / KMXN FM 92.9)

KEEP AN EYE OUT

Figure eight: KU has numerous possible options in its rotation this season, and Self has discussed wanting to deploy around 10 players. However, he also said on Thursday that seven or eight tend to separate themselves. In the Jayhawks' opener against Fordham, they relied on a clear top eight: Guards Melvin Council Jr. and Taylen Kinney and wings Tyran Stokes and Tre White started with center Christian Reeves, with forward Trey Kaufman-Renn taking Reeves' place in the second half. Off the bench came guard Leroy Blyden Jr. and forward Keanu Dawes. This could give an early indication of who might figure prominently into KU's higher-level games, especially if Self keeps it consistent against MTSU. Of course, Kohl Rosario hasn't been able to practice of late due to a concussion, and he and fellow wings Dennis Parker Jr., Trent Perry and Luke Barnett will all get opportunities to prove themselves worthy of spot minutes lower in the rotation. Parker and Perry got six each and Barnett garnered four in mop-up duty.

Sweet charity: Self called KU's free-throw shooting a "major concern," and indeed the Jayhawks struggled from the line against Fordham at 16-for-30 (53.3%) on the night after an uninspiring 64.5% across their three exhibitions. This team, and especially Stokes, should get to the line quite a bit and will need to take full advantage of those opportunities, especially as it is still trying to find its rhythm in the halfcourt. A better performance against MTSU would provide more confidence in the Jayhawks' competence in this regard.

Out of favor: Paul Mbiya had his shot at a potential starting spot at center this offseason while Christian Reeves was recovering from shoulder surgery, but ever since Reeves came back and Kaufman-Renn joined the fold, Mbiya has been largely consigned to the bench, outside of some solid early minutes against former teammate Flory Bidunga in the Louisville exhibition. Against Fordham, Mbiya didn't play until very late and racked up six rebounds and two blocks in his four minutes, but also missed an awkward shot at the right block and came up empty on three free throws. Mbiya might be KU's best rim protector, but the rest of his game could need to improve to get him on the court consistently.

OFF-KILTER OBSERVATION

MTSU forward Ofri Naveh was a member of West Virginia teams that beat KU during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons. Originally from Israel, last year he started all 32 games at Oral Roberts before transferring again.

Firebirds

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"They are a very good high school football team with the guys that they have," Stewart said. "They are about football, you can tell. They are focused on football, and they work hard, and they're tough guys."

Derby (9-0) has hardly been challenged on the scoreboard, winning every game by at least 21 points, including a 64-0 win last week against Wichita North in which the offense only gained 330 yards.

A lot of the Panthers' success has come from their defense, which is first in Class 6A, allowing just 10.7 points per game while forcing 15 turnovers. The Panthers have also collected 16 sacks and 53 tackles for loss this season.

"I think that benefits their offense greatly," Stewart said. "Their defense makes it more challenging for (opponents) to win the game… They do a good job (and) give great effort."

The Panthers have had some injuries along the defensive line, but that hasn't affected the unit at all, which still finds ways to create havoc in the backfield and challenge opposing offenses.



MIKE GUNNOE/Special to the Journal-World

Free State senior Garrison Oatis celebrates a tackle for a loss against Dodge City during the first round of the playoffs on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at Free State High School.

Much like all season, this puts great emphasis on the Firebirds' offensive line to protect quarterback Packson McDaniel and allow for the running game to get going. Last week, Free State rushed for 250 yards, and the line isn't lacking in confidence this week even against one of the state's most talented defenses.

"I've been very happy with our offensive line and their efforts," Stewart said. "They're probably going to go at it just like any other game of, hey, let's go at them and block them and do our best."

Derby also has a strong secondary, which could challenge the Free State passing game, but the Firebirds will still look to use the speed of players like Alijah Beckum, Harrison Leiszler and Maddon Brittingham to have success downfield.

The Panthers' offense is also exemplary, averaging 44.8 points a contest. Much like the Firebirds, it starts in the running game for Derby, specifically with athlete Davon Morrison.

Morrison, a senior, has spent time at wide receiver throughout his career but has become the team's leading rusher as Derby has been without South Dakota commit Arieus Finley Jr., who has only played in two games due to injuries.

This season, Morrison, who runs a 4.3-second 40-yard dash, has rushed for 1,224 yards with 24 touchdowns, averaging 9.3 yards per attempt.

"He's definitely fast, probably the fastest guy we've seen all year," Stewart said. "They give him the ball in a variety of ways… We have to do a really good job of containing him and team-tackling him because he's a guy that we can be in the right spot and do our job, and do what the coaches tell you to do, but he might still get some yards because he's fast."

For the rest of the offense, quarterback Blade Clark, son of Derby coach Brandon Clark, has rushed for 500 yards on his own while passing for 1,178. Schematically, the Panthers run a similar offense to Lawrence, which Free State faced two weeks ago, but have a plethora of dangerous weapons on the outside that make it difficult to stop one person in particular.

"The challenge is more at, you know, execution and the athleticism they bring, and trying to defend everything," Stewart said. "I think our guys will feel more confident lining up against the scheme; now the question is, 'Are we good enough to defend their guys?'"

Free State has hung around with the best teams in the state all year, and Stewart expects Friday to be no different. What challenged the Firebirds in the losses to Gardner Edgerton, Mill Valley and even Lawrence is that a few plays went against the Firebirds, allowing their opponents to pull away in the second half.

Minimizing these mistakes and making plays of its own, Stewart says, will be an important factor in pulling off the upset.

"We have got to be able to turn the game, and you know, make plays to build some momentum on our end," Stewart said. "We haven't had the plays go our way, and then, when those plays haven't gone our way, we haven't really had the ability to flip the momentum and bring it back.

"The defense is going (to have) to play really, really well, and then make some plays where maybe the call goes our way."

Kickoff from Panther Stadium is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Lions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

"I think that they're a confident group," Thoren said. "They're clicking on all cylinders. They're playing their best football late, and I think we are too, so I'm excited for that."

Olathe North averaged just over 29 points per game across its first five games, but the offense has stepped up a notch in the Eagles' win streak and has been averaging 49 points per game.

The Eagles have an explosive offense with speed at their playmaking positions. Their spread offense allows them to move the ball around and get playmakers into open space where they can make plays. Chase Cain is a capable quarterback who can move the offense down the field through the air and can step up and out of the pocket to scramble for extra yards.



PARKER I. JOHNSON/Special to the Journal-World

Lawrence High quarterback Joey Dooley (15) and Lawrence High wide receiver Truth Pope (1) celebrate after scoring a touchdown on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026 at Lawrence High School in Lawrence.

It isn't all on the passing game, though. Running back Camron Porter is a shifty, speedy running back who can burst through a hole and take the ball to the house. Against Gardner Edgerton, he had multiple explosive touchdown runs, including a 60-yarder.

"All five threats you really have to deal with," Thoren said. "They can really run. There are a lot of problems that they present, and you've got to honor them or they'll make you pay in a hurry."

The Olathe North defense started the year giving up an average of 29 points per game, but over the last four weeks, the defense is allowing a little over 15 points per game.

Thoren sees that tough mentality on this Olathe North defense. The Eagles play hard, fly to the football and aren't afraid of a big play or a big hit. It all starts with the front seven, who have a particularly aggressive play style.

"They're a scrappy team," Thoren said. "Their front is physical — they will attack you. They've gotten better as the year has gone on, just like their offense."

The defense isn't totally immovable. Olathe East only scored a touchdown against the Eagles, but the Hawks scored more than two touchdowns only once this season. Shawnee Mission West's 20 points against the Eagles were the second-most the Vikings scored.

Lawrence's offense has done well mitigating aggressive defensive fronts with strong offensive line play, and the Lions will need that again to create opportunities for the Lawrence playmakers.

It helps that the Lions will have the home crowd behind them for support. It meant a lot to Lawrence to have that home-field advantage a week ago against Shawnee Mission South, and against a tough, confident rival school, the Lions will need that support once again.

"I know our guys are excited for that, and it should be a cool, crisp night," Thoren said. "It should be great football weather, so they're excited to get rolling with it."

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. on Friday night at Lawrence High.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TO PLACE AN AD: 785.832.2222 ljworld.column.us/place

(First published in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World on the 6th of November, 2026)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN IMPOUNDED BY THE LAWRENCE KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION IF THE OWNERS DO NOT CLAIM THEM WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE SECOND PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. THE OWNERS OF THE VEHICLES ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL, STORAGE CHARGES AND PUBLICATION COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY.

YEAR
VEHICLE TYPE
REGISTRATION
SERIAL #
REGISTERED OWNER

2023
DOD Durango whi
B7136 KS
1C4RDJFG9PC558279
Unknown

2014
FOR Fiesta whi
4757YW ME 2022
3FABP4AJXEM168220
Unknown

2001
ACU MDX blk
3616AGR KS 2026
2HNYD18281H500451
Jamar Lane

2003
LINC Towncar whi
797EQI KS 2023
1LNHM8ZW33Y643273
Caring Funeral Service Inc

2017
KIA Soul blk
515PFJ KS 2024
KNDJN2A22H7419617
Angelina Cruz Dominguez and Laura Brandt

2001
TOY Tundra
205LFZ KS 2024
5TBBT44191S209495
Karen Hines

2007
DOD Ram 1500 sil
5904AKA KS 2026
1D7HA18217S246426
Samuel Greene

Sherri Riedemann,
City Clerk
City of Lawrence, KS
October 29, 2026

(First published in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World on the 6th of November, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of
the Estate of

RICHARD S. FREEMAN,
Deceased

Case No.
DG-2026-PR-000214

Petition Pursuant to
K.S.A. Chapter 59.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION OF DESCENT AND APPROVAL OF VALID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Michael W. Freeman, heir of Richard S. Freeman, deceased, praying that descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Douglas County, Kansas:

Lot Fifteen (15) on Pinkney Street, now 6th Street, in the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas.

commonly known as 510 West 6th St., Lawrence, KS 66047, together with all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by said decedent at the time of his death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of his death be assigned to Petitioner, pursuant to the terms of the valid Settlement Agreement filed with the Petition.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition in said Court on or before Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 2:00 o'clock p.m., which is located at 111 East Eleventh Street, Lawrence, Douglas County, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to do so, the Court will proceed and enter judgment as requested or such orders as the Court determines appropriate.

Michael W. Freeman
Petitioner

RILING, BURKHEAD,
& NITCHER, Chartered
808 Massachusetts Street
P. O. Box B
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
(785) 841-4700, telephone
jnitcher@rilinglaw.com
By John W. Nitcher

Attorneys for Petitioner

DATEBOOK

Events Listed Weekly or Monthly
785-832-2222 ▪ datebook@ljworld.com

Events for the week of Nov 3rd through Nov 10th

Tribute to Veterans Gala
Sunday, November 8, 5-9 pm
at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. Admission is free, however a reservation is required. doleinstitute@ku.edu or at (785) 864-4900.

Lawrence Veterans Day Parade
Saturday Nov. 14, 11 a.m.
Downtown Lawrence.

Community Meal
Every Sun: 3:30 - 5pm
Free vegan/vegetarian meal cooked by LFK
Food Not Bombs.
All are welcome!
ECM Building
1204 Oread

ACA of Lawrence
Tuesdays: 7pm - 8:30 pm
946 Vermont St.
12-Step Program
(Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families), at the First United Methodist Church.

American Legion Bingo
Every Wednesday & Saturday
Doors open for "pull tab" games: 4:30 pm
Snack bar open: 5pm
Bingo starts: 6:45 pm
3408 W 6th Street

Veggie Lunch
Every Thur: 11:30am-1pm
Join for a delicious, free veggie lunch.
All are welcome!
ECM Building, 1204 Oread

Cottin's Hardware Farmers Market
Thursdays 4 - 6:30 pm
Local Vendors - *Back Outdoors!*
1832 Massachusetts St.

NAMI Connection Support Group & NAMI Family Support Group
Every Wednesday (excluding holidays)
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Plymouth Congregational Church - 925 Vermont
Enter at the double glass doors north of the main entrance.
For more information, call 785-840-5889.

Domestic Violence Support Group
Tuesdays 6-7 pm
On Zoom
Free and confidential.
Sign up at willowdvcenter.org/support

Screening of "Play Free"
A new documentary film explores a program uniting children and incarcerated mothers for child-directed play. Nov. 12, 7 pm. Lawrence Arts Center. Free tickets required and available from the Arts Center at (785) 843-2787

Lawrence Breakfast Optimist Club
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Tuesdays,
7:00am at StoneHill Hotel
6101 Rock Chalk Drive