



Kat Chatter



Thursday, April 12, 2012

Thought for the day

"For true success ask yourself these four questions:
Why? Why not? Why not me? Why not now?"

-- Jimmy Dean



Today's Athletic Events

5:00PM Girls Varsity Tennis Twin Lakes Away

THE WILDKAT SCOREBOARD

R
E
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T
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Baseball

Kokomo 7, Western 5

Girls Track

Westfield 78.5, Kokomo 52.5

Softball

Tipton 2, Kokomo 1

KOKOMO
WILDKATS

B A S E B A L L

The Kats needed a huge shot in the arm confidence-wise, and Wednesday night in Russiaville they got one in a thrilling 7-5 win over Western.

The Kats were down 3-2 going into the top of the 7th inning. Juniors Drew Guge and Chase Hatfield drew walks to put runners on 1st and 2nd with one out. Senior Channing Webster was put in to pinch-hit and delivered a huge double over the centerfielder's head plating both runners. Webster, then trying to advance on the relay throw to home, was interfered with by the Western third baseman and awarded home, giving the Kats a 5-3 lead.

After the Western relief pitcher struck out the next Kat batter for the second out, junior Cody Shipley then hit a double to the right center gap. Senior Drew Sawyer then followed Shipley's double with an insurance 2-run home run.

To Western's credit they didn't quit either, as they plated two runs in the bottom of the 7th, but Drew Sale struck out the final Western batter for the complete-game win.

Without a doubt this was a huge TEAM win...the guys never quit and gave it their all!

The Kats are back in action Friday as they travel to Frankfort to take on the Hot Dogs.

As always, GOD Bless and hope to see you at the park!
- **Coach Weeks**

Despite some outstanding performances by the sprinters, throwers, and hurdlers, the Kokomo Lady Wildkats track & field team dropped its season opener to visiting Westfield, 78.5 to 52.5, at Walter Cross Field Wednesday evening.

The Lady Wildkats finished 1-2 in the 100, 200, shot put, and 100 high hurdles.

Sophomore Ma-Ryssa Martin won two individual events as she and classmate Iesha Wallace placed 1-2 in the 100, while Ma-Ryssa and freshman Darryelle Cole earned 1-2 in the 200. Ma-Ryssa recorded outstanding times of :12.87 in the 100 and :27.04 in the 200, while Iesha was a tick back in the 100 at :13.17 and Darryelle ran :28.47 in the 200.

Sophomore Summer Blackamore had an outstanding winning throw of 39-0 to win the shot put, and she placed second in the discus at 89-1. Junior Emily Parkhurst had a good night by placing second in the shot put at 30-9 and third in the discus at 86-0.

Sophomore Brianna Lancaster led a Kokomo 1-2 finish in the 100 high hurdles in :17.18, while classmate Raven Pugh was a close second in :17.26. Brianna, Ma-Ryssa, Raven, and Iesha teamed to win the 400 relay in an outstanding early-season time of :52.14.

Senior Annika Taber won the 300 low hurdles in an outstanding time of :52.99, while junior Alyson Rohlfing turned in a personal best of 13:50.51 to win the 3,200. Senior Sarah Frey cleared 5-feet in the high jump, but placed third on misses.

The Lady Kats return to action Saturday at the Marion Relays.-
Coach Barnes

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S O F T B A L L

The softball team suffered their first loss of the season last night 2-1 against Tipton at home. Kokomo fought hard but came up short against the Blue Devils' D1 pitching signee Shelby Hursh.

Tipton drew first blood in the top of the second inning off a walk and a double by Hursh.

Kokomo tried to answer with a two-out rally in the third off a drag bunt from freshman Paris McCullum and hit by Samantha Johnson, but the Kats were silenced again at the plate by Hursh, who averaged nearly two strikeouts per inning.

Tough defense and good pitching held the score for both teams until the sixth inning when Tipton was able to capitalize on a walk and wild pitch with a bloop hit to score their second run of the night.

Kokomo got on the board in the bottom of the sixth with a leadoff drag bunt from McCullum followed by a stolen base, a sacrifice bunt from Johnson, and a squeeze bunt from Kendra Ryker to score McCullum.

Each team only committed one error for the night.

Christine Skaggs suffered the loss in the pitcher's circle, giving up three hits and five walks while striking out five. Hursh allowed four hits and no walks while striking out 13.

We definitely get better every game and last night was a huge step in preparing us to execute during tournament play!

Come visit us at the Markland Mall Saturday as we sell t-shirts to raise money for the American Cancer Society for our upcoming Cancer Awareness game April 30th at Western.

You can catch the Lady Kats at home against Lewis Cass Monday at 5PM. – **Coach Tate**

DID YOU KNOW?

The Wildkats boys' basketball team finished the 2011-12 campaign with a 20-5 record. It was the first back-to-back 20-win seasons since the 1995-96 and 1996-97 teams went 47-7 with records of 24-2 and 23-5, respectively. This season marked the 23rd time in KHS history that the boys' basketball team had reached the 20-win plateau.

The Kats won the 2012 sectional, trouncing Logansport 83-59 in the championship game. It was Kokomo 72nd sectional title; no school in the state of Indiana has won more.

Kokomo lost to Carmel in the Marion Regional 52-48. The Greyhounds would go on to win the IHSAA Class 4A State Championship. The Wildkats defeated Carmel 47-40 during the regular season.

The senior class of Jalen Tinder, Tony Moses, Armon Bridgeforth, Jaylin Waldon, D.J. Balentine, and Christian Arnett saw the Kats go 74-22 during their four years of high school. That was the best four-year mark since the class of 1998 went 85-18.

Kokomo averaged 67.6 points per game this season, which was the 30th best in the state. The last time a Wildkat boys' basketball team averaged more was in the 1974-75 season, when Kokomo averaged 72.8 points per game. The 1961-62 team averaged 80.7, tops in KHS history.

Since the inception of class basketball, Kokomo has played 41 games in the IHSAA tournament and has a 26-15 record for a fine winning percentage of .634.

The Wildkats were 13-0 at Memorial Gym this season, 7-2 in road games, and 0-3 in games played on a neutral court. Kokomo has now won 15 straight games at Memorial Gym. Coach Brian McCauley's teams are 48-17 (.738) in games played at home.

The Sagarin Ratings had Kokomo's schedule as the 19th toughest in the state. Nine schools on the Wildkats' schedule finished the year ranked by the Associated Press, and the Kats had a 7-4 record in those games, having played Carmel and Western twice. Six of Kokomo's 20 opponents were sectional champions.

Eighteen of our 25 opponents were from Class 4A, and the Kats were 14-4 against them. Five opponents were Class 3A schools and Kokomo finished 4-1 against those teams. The Wildkats played one game against a Class 2A team, a ranked Tipton squad, and were victorious.

Kokomo played in the prestigious Hall of Fame Classic in the New Castle Fieldhouse. The Kats fell to North Central and to Pendleton Heights. North Central completed their season ranked third in the state and the Arabians were ranked second.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kokomo won the inaugural Coca-Cola Old School Sectional. The tournament brought together the five Howard County schools, plus Maconaquah, just like the IHSAA did before class basketball.

Kokomo finished third in the North Central Conference with a 5-2 record. Muncie Central won the title with a perfect 7-0 mark. The Bearcats and Wildkats were the only NCC schools to win IHSAA sectional crowns. As a whole the NCC was quite competitive once again as the eight schools had a combined 80-42 mark outside of the league, the sixth best winning percentage among conferences in Indiana.

After losing in the Hall of Fame Classic, Kokomo won their next 10 games. This was the 19th time in KHS boys' basketball history that a Wildkat team had a streak of 10 or more victories and the second season in a row that has happened.

The Kats averaged 23.8 field goals made per game this season, the most in the last 28 years.

Kokomo led at halftime in 21 of their 25 games. In those 21, the Kats had an 18-3 record.

The Wildkats were 9-0 when they shot better than 50% from the field. In Brian McCauley's six years as head coach, the Kats are 36-5 in games where they have shot 50% or better.

When they shot better than their opponents, which happened 16 times in 2011-12, Kokomo had a 15-1 record.

The Red-and-Blue out-rebounded their opponents 17 times this season and had a 16-1 record in those games.

Coach Brian McCauley's club had fewer turnovers than their opponents in 18 of the Kats' 25 games. Kokomo had a 16-2 record in those 18 contests.

The second quarter was the Wildkats' best this season. Kokomo outscored their opponents in that period in 23 of their 25 games.

Kokomo had more steals than their opponents in 23 of 25 games.

The Wildkats scored 99 points against Huntington North at North Arena. The last time the Kats scored more came in the 1973-74 season, when they hit the century mark in a 100-74 win over Peru.

Kokomo was 9-0 in games where they scored 70 or more points. In Brian McCauley's tenure, the Kats are 31-2 in games where they have scored 70 or more.

DID YOU KNOW?

For the season, Kokomo made more free throws than our opponents even attempted. The Kats were successful on 368 of 523 attempts from the 15-foot stripe, while our opponents made 218 of their 317 tries.

Kokomo's 41-point win over Maconaquah in the Coca-Cola Old School Sectional was the biggest win by a Wildkat team during Brian McCauley's tenure as head coach.

Six times this season, Kokomo's opponents shot over 50% from the field. The Wildkats were 3-3 in those games.

In their 13 home games, the Red-and-Blue shot 53.5% from two-point range and 32.6% from behind the three-point line. In nine true road games, the Kats hit 51.1% from inside the arc and 37.3% from long distance.

The Kats were a better rebounding team at home, averaging 33.3 boards a game at Memorial Gym compared to 31.4 on the road. In their three games on neutral floors, all Kokomo losses, the Kats averaged 26.0 rebounds.

Kokomo shot 47.8% from the field in their 20 wins and 42.3% in their five losses.

The Wildkats averaged 14.2 three-point attempts in their 20 victories and 16.2 in their five setbacks.

The Kats shot 32.6% from three-point territory at Memorial Gym. In road games, the Wildkats hit 37.3% from behind the arc, and on neutral courts, Kokomo hit 40.4% from three-point land.

In 20 wins, Kokomo averaged 9.5 steals per game. In five losses, they had an average of 6.4.

The Wildkats had more trouble taking care of the basketball at Memorial Gym than they did away from home. The Kats averaged 10.1 turnovers in 13 games at Memorial Gym, 9.3 errors on the road, and 7.3 turnovers on neutral courts.

Kokomo averaged 70.4 points per game in their seven North Central Conference games. The opponents got just 61.0.

In NCC play, the Kats shot 49.1% from the field compared to 47.0% for their seven conference foes.

The Wildkats had 182 free throw attempts in seven NCC games, an average of 26 attempts per game, while our opponents shot just 104. Kokomo made more free throws in league play (133) than our opponents attempted.

DID YOU KNOW?

Coach Brian McCauley moved into the sixth spot for all-time wins as a boys' basketball coach at Kokomo High School. McCauley, in his sixth year at KHS, moved past Ralph King, who won 87 games from 1942-47. The next target for McCauley, who has a 92-47 overall mark, is legendary coach Chet Hill, who was 94-78 from 1921-1928.

The normal starters for the Wildkats consisted of senior Jalen Tinder and junior LaBradford Sebree at forwards, and the three-guard lineup of senior D.J. Balentine, senior Armon Bridgeforth, and sophomore Tayler Persons. Balentine was the only Wildkat to start all 25 games, while Tinder, Sebree, Persons, and Bridgeforth answered the starting call in 24 contests. Senior Tony Moses and sophomore Erik Bowen were generally the first two Kats off the bench.

There was not a single game this season where the Kats had just one player in double figures in scoring. There were two games where five Kokomo players scored 10 or more points, and there were four times where four Kats scored in double figures. Twelve times there were three double-digit scorers, and there were seven occasions where just two Wildkats finished with ten or more.

D.J. Balentine was Kokomo's leading scorer at 18.2 points per game, but was far from a one-man show. Balentine led the Kats in scoring in 13 of their 25 games, and Tayler Persons was the top scorer eight times. Erik Bowen and LaBradford Sebree each topped the scoring column twice, and Jalen Tinder led on one occasion. Balentine's 28-point outburst against Fishers and North Central was the top individual effort of the year.

Tayler Persons led the team in rebounding for the season with 5.5 rebounds a game. He led the team in caroms in eight games, while Erik Bowen was tops on six occasions. Persons had two games of 11 and Bowen had one for the top single-game effort of the year.

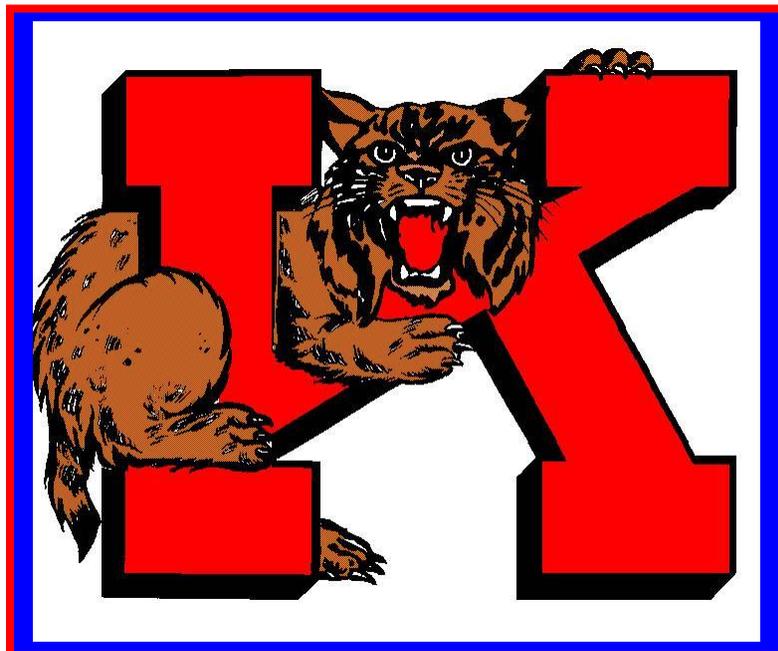
Armon Bridgeforth was the top assist person in 13 games, while D.J. Balentine was tops in 12 games (including ties). Bridgeforth also led the team in steals in 11 contests, best on the team.

Coach Mike Susong's JV Wildkats finished the season with a record of 13-6.

BOYS BASKETBALL

INDIANA ALL-STARS

YEAR	PLAYER
1939	Neil Hercules
1940	Chet Gabriel
1941	Carl Campbell
1942	Jack Turner
1944	Gene Turner
1945	Tom Schwartz
1946	Maurice Conwell
1952	Junior Phipps
1955	Jim Butcher
1956	Paul Conwell
1959	Jimmy Rayl
1961	Rich Scott
1961	Ron Hughes
1962	Jim Ligon
1970	Bruce Rose
1988	Brian Hogan
1996	Lee Coomler
2012	D.J. Balentine



BOYS BASKETBALL

1000-POINT CLUB

POINTS	PLAYER	YEAR
1900	Jim Ligon	(1962)
1632	Jimmy Rayl	(1959)
1280	D.J. Balentine	(2012)
1270	Tim McFarland	(1976)
1199	Brad McNulty	(1972)
1163	Charlie Hall	(1974)
1134	Ron Hughes	(1961)
1124	Bruce Rose	(1970)
1114	Brandon Wood	(2007)
1076	Brad Sebree	(1990)
1056	Geoff Shuck	(1971)



In the Past

GIRLS TENNIS

April 14, 2011

The Lady Wildkats girls' tennis team opened their 2011 campaign with a 4-1 win over Twin Lakes.

Morgan Mohr was the #1 singles player for the Kats, and she had a solid performance, giving up just two games. Kasie Hellmann and Madi Waltemath played #1 Doubles for Kokomo, and the duo scored an impressive victory by giving up just one game to the Indians. Also yielding a single game was #3 Singles, Eileen Oaks, who was playing in her first varsity match at the position.

Jacy Rush and Hannah Werner, two other newcomers to the team, were Kokomo's #2 Doubles team, and they dropped their first set to their Twin Lakes opponents before coming back to win the next two and earn another point for the team. Allison Wray fought hard at #2 singles, but dropped a three-set match.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Jaylin Waldon

Senior track member

My favorite subject area: **Math**

My biggest NCC rival: **Muncie Central**

My favorite fruit: **Cherries**

My favorite color: **Red**

My favorite super power: **Ability to fly**

My favorite in-state school: **Indiana**

My favorite kind of PopTart: **Strawberry**

Country I would most like to visit: **France**

Favorite Elementary Teacher: **Mrs. Kring**

Favorite Cartoon as a kid: **Power Rangers**

Favorite Phone App: **Twidroyd**

Celebrity Crush: **Halle Berry**

Best Sport Memory: **State last year for basketball and track**



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Damon Prater

Senior baseball player

My favorite subject area: **Math**

My biggest NCC rival: **Huntington North**

My favorite fruit: **Grapes**

My favorite color: **Blue**

My favorite M&M: **Peanut**

My favorite super power: **Ability to fly**

My favorite in-state school: **Indiana**

My favorite kind of PopTart: **Strawberry**

Country I would most like to visit: **France**

Favorite Elementary Teacher: **Mr. Hahn**

Favorite Cartoon as a kid: **Tom and Jerry**

Favorite Phone App: **Twitter**

Best Sport Memory: **Throwing two no-hitters in Little League and making the Kokomo Varsity and the Kokomo Post 6 team.**



You Make the Call

What Major League baseball team is the defending World Series champion?

- A. New York Yankees
- B. New York Mets
- C. St. Louis Cardinals
- D. Texas Rangers
- E. San Francisco Giants
- F. Philadelphia Phillies
- G. Boston Red Sox
- H. Kentucky Wildcats

Answer appears at the bottom of the page.

KHS Sports Term of the Day

FAULT – in tennis, a violation of service rules. Two consecutive faults result in loss of a point but not loss of service.

WILDKAT TRIVIA

Name the only Lady Wildkat that holds an NCC record in girls' track.

Answer will appear in the next Kat Chatter.

Answer to the last Wildkat Trivia

Name the former KHS boys' golfer who was the NCC medalist in the 2002 season.

Jeff Moulder

You Make the Call Answer: C

This Week in Wildkat Country

Thursday, April 12

5:00PM Boys Freshman Baseball Cancelled– Lafayette CC Away

5:00PM Girls Varsity Tennis Twin Lakes Away

Friday, April 13

6:00PM Boys Varsity Baseball Frankfort Away

6:00PM Boys JV Baseball Lafayette Jeff Away

Saturday, April 14

11:00AM Boys Varsity Baseball Harrison (DH) Home

11:00AM Boys Varsity Track Marion Relays Away

11:00AM Girls Varsity Track Marion Relays Away

GO
KATS!!

N.C.C. Student-Athlete of the Week

TONY MOSES

Tony, a senior, captured three first place ribbons in the opening outdoor track meet of the season against Anderson and Western. Moses won the 100-meter in a time of :12.08, the 400-meter in :51.09, and the 200 in :24.03.



KHS Web Favorites

Kokomo High School Athletics

www.kokomohighschoolsports.com

North Central Conference Sports

<http://www.ihigh.com/northcentralconference/>

Kokomo Tribune

<http://www.kokomotribune.com/>

Sports Journal of Central Indiana

www.indianasportsjournal.com

WIOU – Radio broadcasts

www.ihigh.com/wiousports

Kokomo Perspective

WWW.KOKOMOPERSPECTIVE.COM

Kat Chatter Archives

<http://www.kokomoschools.com/Khssc/athletic/KC/KatChatter.htm>

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

<http://www.nccsports.org/Directions/Directions.htm>