

Ottawa basketball player All-Big 12

By Ron Wilson

Director
Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University
First Team All-Big 12. Achieving such an honor is a tremendous accomplishment for any athlete. Today we'll meet a Big 12 athlete who made the First Team with his achievements in the classroom, while contributing on the basketball court and the campus. His leadership extends all the way from rural Kansas to the Big 12 Conference.

Victor Ojeleye is a senior on the Kansas State basketball team. As his last name suggests, he has international roots. Victor was born in Nigeria where his family originates. When he was two years old, he moved to Kansas where his father was studying medicine.

The family eventually moved to Ottawa, where his father, Dr. Ernest Ojeleye, became a family physician. Victor's mother,

Joy, is trained as a nurse and is active in community projects. Victor went through Ottawa schools. The Ojeleyes also bought land on the south side of Ottawa, in the direction of the rural community of Princeton, population 315 people. Now, that's rural.

This small-town Kansas upbringing would have an influence on Victor. "It taught me values," Victor said. "We've learned to value the things we've been given."

"I learned to work hard. My parents taught me that work ethic," he said. "We have a lot of hard-working people in Kansas."

It also taught Victor to have high aspirations. "All our elementary schools in Ottawa had names of presidents, like Eisenhower and Lincoln," he said. He learned the importance of study, faith, and community service. And of course, he loved basketball.

Victor was a four-year letterman at Ottawa High School, setting new school scoring and rebounding records while becoming valedictorian of his senior class. After a year

at the Patterson School in North Carolina, he enrolled at Kansas State and joined the basketball team where he has been a key reserve player ever since.

Victor is one of only two seniors on the roster. He has already completed his required credits and will go through graduation in spring 2012.

On the basketball court, Victor has seen action in almost every game this season. He scored a season-high eight points against Texas Tech and grabbed 10 rebounds against Iowa State. But when the coaches talk about Victor, they talk about the intrinsic values of discipline, toughness, energy, and selflessness. He lives the team concept.

One assistant coach commented that Victor might have been MVP of the team a year ago, in the sense of providing leadership when the team faced adversity.

Victor also gives leadership in other ways. He leads a Bible study for players on the team and is active in student-athlete organizations.

"I got involved in the student-athlete advisory committee at K-State," Victor said. "Two to three representatives from each school were sent to a Big 12 leadership conference."

Ultimately, Victor was elected by his peers to serve as vice-chair of the Big 12 Student-Athlete Advisory Council during the 2011-12 athletic season. "This council is intended to speak up for the welfare of student-athletes," Victor said. "We serve to bridge the gap between administration and the athletes."

The term "student-athlete" really applies in Victor's case. In addition to his contributions on the basketball court, his accomplishments in the classroom are remarkable. While maintaining the hectic schedule of a Big 12 athlete, he earned the conference's inaugural Dr. Gerald Lage Award, which is the Big 12's highest academic honor. Victor has consistently been on the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll.

In fact, Victor made the Big 12 Confer-

ence Academic All-Big 12 Men's Basketball First Team - not once, not twice, but three years in a row. He is only the seventh player in school history to be a three-time recipient, and the first since the year 2000. He has done so while earning a double major in accounting and finance.

More information is available at: <http://www.kstatesports.com/sports/m-baskbl/spec-rel/021612aaa.html>.

First Team All-Big 12. That's a remarkable achievement. Victor Ojeleye has earned these accolades in the classroom. We commend Victor for making a difference by earning those grades and encouraging his teammates, while serving in a supportive leadership role for athletes in all sports across the conference. He has become First Team with an attitude of putting the "team first."

Editor's note: Victor Ojeleye played on Ottawa teams that played in the Topside Tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Girl Scouts are prepared; are you prepared?

By James Feyerherm

Social Security
District Manager in Hays
March 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

It was on March 9, 1912, that Juliette Gordon Low made a phone call to her cousin and said, "I've got something for the girls and we're going to start it tonight." A few days later, on March 12, she organized the first U.S. "Girl Guide" troop in

Savannah, Ga., with 18 members in two patrols. Today, there are more than three million Girl Scouts. The organization's motto is "Be prepared."

That same advice can help your retirement savings to grow as plentiful as the Girl Scouts have over the last 100 years.

The best way for you to "be prepared" when it comes to retirement planning is to visit our online *Retire-*

ment Estimator. The *Estimator* can give you an instant, personalized picture of your future retirement benefits from Social Security. Enter different scenarios (such as different future earnings amounts or dates of retirement) to find out how that will change the benefit amount you can expect to receive. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Knowing how much you can

expect to receive from Social Security, coupled with any retirement plans you may have through your employer, will help you figure out how much you need to save for your retirement.

Looking for more tips on planning for the future? Pay a visit to our *Benefits Planners* as well. You can use the planners to help you better understand your Social Security protection as you plan for your fi-

nancial future. Get started at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners.

Another great source of help is the *Ballpark E\$timate*. It includes a two-page worksheet that helps you quickly identify approximately how much you need to save to fund a comfortable retirement. The *Ballpark E\$timate* takes issues like projected Social Security benefits and earnings assumptions on savings, and turns them into language

and mathematics that are easy to understand. You can find it at www.choosetosave.org/ballpark.

You don't have to be a Girl Scout to be prepared. Sit down at your computer - perhaps with a box of Girl Scout cookies - and plan for your future. You could be celebrating your own 100th year one day; you might as well do it comfortably.

Check your insurance coverage before storms

During 2011, Kansans suffered a record \$1.095 billion in estimated property damage because of severe weather. Most of that storm damage occurred during April, May and June of last year, according to Kansas Insurance Department reports.

With spring almost upon us, Kansans should begin taking precautions for bad weather, especially since storms, Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the central and eastern parts of the state began the season earlier than usual. Part of that preparation involves reviewing homeowners and auto insurance. The following ideas are ones that you and your local agent could consider.

Ask yourself these questions: Do you have the right insurance? Do you know what your policy covers? Is the amount of coverage adequate? Does it cover new additions or recent remodeling?

Check all limits, including coverage for contents. Keep your agent's name and number available and easy to find, and periodically discuss coverage options with him or her.



sandy praeger

• insurance comm.

Know your policy coverage exclusions

Not all policies cover the following: Water damage, including flood and surface damage, whether driven by wind or not; backup of sewer or drains; and sump pump failure. These are the most common exclusions.

Also, check your auto policy. Comprehensive coverage (other than collision) usually pays if damage is caused by wind, hail and/or flood.

Inventory your personal property

Kansas Insurance Department can provide you with a "Personal Home Inventory" booklet to help you list the contents of your home. Go online at www.ksinsurance.org, under "Publications," to print off a personal copy. We also have avail-

able the "Homeowners and renters Insurance and Shopper's Guide" and the "Auto Insurance and Shopper's Guide" for printing.

Keep a copy of the inventory, sales receipts and video or photographs of your personal property in a secure place outside of your home.

Recovering after the storm
If you suffer loss or damage because of windstorm or hail, follow these tips:

• Contact your agent and/or insurance company immediately.

• Keep a record of conversations with your agent or company. Write down the date and time, the person's name and a summary of the call.

• Make a list of all damaged property, and take photographs/video of it.

• Get instructions from your company's adjuster before calling anyone to repair or replace damaged property. Your insurer's visual inspection of your loss may be required before claims are paid.

Keep your accounts simple and concise

After being thrown off course by a sudden windstorm, a hot air balloonist yelled to a man on the ground, "Where am I?" The man yelled back, "In a hot air balloon in the sky." While the information was correct, it was not helpful to the balloonist for decision making.

Is this true about your profit and loss statement - correct information but not very helpful? Your chart of accounts should be kept simple and concise. It's hard to see trends if you continually add new accounts. If you want to track locations or departments in your business, you should use classes instead of adding 20 different telephone expense accounts. By using class tracking, you can see how each location or



jamie morphew

• business tips

segment of your business is doing in a side-by-side format.

To turn on classes in QuickBooks, click on the Edit menu then Preferences. Select the Accounting preference and the Company tab. Put a check in the box to Use class tracking. Set up your classes by clicking on the Lists menu then Class List. You should also add an Other or Admin class for those things that don't fit into your defined classes.

By keeping your chart of accounts concise and using class tracking, you can see trends and determine which areas of your business are profitable and which are not.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting, sponsored in part by Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties.

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at #620-874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

• Keep a list of all damaged property with the date, price and place of purchase for the adjuster. Make a copy of the list and all insurance forms you fill out for your own records.

Settling your claim
If a windstorm or hail disaster occurs, adjusters will handle the largest losses first, but they should work to handle all claims as quickly as possible. Remember the following:

• Be present when your adjuster inspects your property.

• Insurance companies will have

their own company or hired adjusters who should have appropriate employee identification. Be leery of any public adjuster who would charge you a percentage of your claim amount. Public adjusters in Kansas are not permitted to adjust personal homeowner losses.

• Beware of questionable or unfamiliar contractors in obtaining repair estimates. If possible, get more than one written estimate and hire only local, reputable contractors to make the repairs once you get a written settlement from your insurance company.

• If you experience problems with your adjustment, you may file a written complaint with Kansas Insurance Department for assistance.

Get help if you need it
For more assistance you may call the consumer assistance hotline (in Kansas) (800) 432-2484.

I believe that a little preparation and information about insurance before a problem occurs is a great way to gain some peace of mind - and keep your focus on your family's immediate needs during an emergency.



what can a cookie do?



MMMMMM...
the possibilities!



Girl Scout cookies are here!

Pay for a subscription and receive Girl Scout cookies!

\$81.00

1 year subscription,
2 boxes of cookies.

\$46.00

6 month subscription,
1 box of cookies.

The
Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, Goodland • 785-899-2338

NOTICE OF HEARING ON AMENDING THE 2011-12 BUDGET

The governing body of Unified School District 352 will meet on the 26th day of March, 2012 at 7:00 PM, at 1312 Main, Goodland, Kansas 67735 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds.

Detailed budget information is available at 1312 Main, Goodland, Kansas 67735 and will be available at this hearing.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Fund	Adopted Budget 2011-12			Proposed Amendment 2011-12 Budget
	Actual Tax Rate	Amount of Tax to be Levied	Expenditures and Transfers	Expenditures and Transfers
General			6,378,372	6,758,262
At Risk			675,353	774,522

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, March 2, 2012.

/s/ Mark Scheopner
Board Clerk