

Small town athlete becomes nationally known

By Ron Wilson

**Director
Huck Boyd National Institute
for Rural Development
at Kansas State University**
“The center of it all.” It’s fun being in the middle of things, but in football, playing the position of center doesn’t necessarily mean you are the center of attention. In fact, when things are going well, the center usually doesn’t get much recognition. Today we’ll learn about a young man who came from rural Kansas and became a center on a nationally-recognized football team.

B.J. Finney is the starting center on the Kansas State University football team. He is one of those typical Bill Snyder success stories: A small-town Kansas kid who flew under the

radar, didn’t get many accolades from the recruiting gurus, and is now making his mark on the national scene. (For more examples of this formula, see NFL stars Terence Newman, Jon McGraw and Super Bowl Champion Jordy Nelson.)

B.J. Finney grew up at Andale in south central Kansas outside of Wichita. He was an outstanding athlete in high school, and not only in football.

In fact, it was in wrestling that he won the state championship as a senior. As an offensive lineman in football, he lettered three seasons and was named the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail Offensive Most Valuable Player in 2009.

But when it came to moving up to the next level, he suffered the

fate of too many small town Kansas players, in my opinion: Benign ignorance by the national media. Nobody paid much attention to the big kid from Andale. He received two stars out of five from Rivals.com and had mild interest from several smaller schools and community colleges.

According to a report from the Big 12 Conference, B.J. had only one scholarship offer and that was from out of state.

“I had an offer from Ohio University and that was kind of a crazy situation,” B.J. said. “I told them that I wanted to check out their campus before I made a commitment. But I got a call that Wednesday saying that they had run out of scholarships before I left on Friday.”

So B.J. was left high and dry. But then he had a visit from Kansas State defensive end coach Joe Bob Clements, himself a former walk-on from rural Kansas. In the end, B.J. chose to walk on at Kansas State, meaning that he received no scholarship and had to pay his own way.

But B.J. seized that opportunity with a passion, just like he grabs the football while preparing to snap it. He redshirted his first year and earned the team’s Red Raider Award for being the top contributor on the scout team in 2010. Then he earned a scholarship offer and a starting position, starting at center for the last 12 games of the 2011 season.

When the season was over, he was named a First Team Freshman All-Big 12 performer and First

Team Freshman All-American by Rivals.com.

Still, it is the nature of offensive linemen that they tend to labor in obscurity, while quarterbacks, running backs and receivers get the glory. But Kansas State quarterback Collin Klein has great appreciation for his center. In fact, the two were roommates until Klein got married last summer. B.J. even served as a groomsman in Klein’s wedding.

On the field, it is Finney who anchors the center of the Kansas State offensive line. The big lineman is 6’4” and 303 pounds.

He was voted a team co-captain by his teammates for 2012, making him the youngest offensive player to hold the title in the Bill Snyder era at Kansas State. He is now an All-Big

12 candidate and on the watch list for the Rimington Trophy, awarded to the nation’s most outstanding center.

Not bad for a former walk-on from the rural community of Andale, population 982 people. Now, that’s rural.

“The center of it all.” Yes, the center on a football team may be in the middle of things, but he’s not usually the center of attention.

That’s just fine with B.J. Finney, who is making a difference with his rural values of hard work, commitment to team values and unselfishness. I think his attitude is very well-centered.

Insurance department gets settlement, deposits

A total of \$107,546 in insurance settlement money paid to the Kansas Insurance Department will be deposited into the state’s general fund, Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance, announced today.



sandy praeger

• insurance comm.

The settlement money comes from John Hancock Life Insurance Co. as a result of an examination by insurance regulators in 20 states. The examination found concerns about John Hancock’s practices in notifying beneficiaries of death benefits in life insurance policies.

By Kansas statutory law, insurance settlement money is regularly

returned to the state general fund.

“This multi-state settlement is the latest example of consumer protections in life insurance,” said Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance. “John Hancock is one of many companies who are changing their business policies for the benefit of consumers as the result of good regulatory oversight.”

The regulatory settlement totals \$13.3 million for the states that are part of the settlement. The alloca-

tion was based on the company’s percentage of life premiums for each state.

The settlement included an agreement with insurance regulators that

John Hancock would change its business practices to include using the Social Security Administration’s Death Master File for locating beneficiaries in order to make more

timely payments to them.

The Kansas Insurance Department, a fee-funded agency, contributed nearly \$143 million to the state general fund last year from premium

fees and taxes paid by insurance companies. The department’s annual operating budget also comes from insurance company fees and taxes.

Some like to irrigate before planting

Some irrigators with medium- to fine-textured soils like to make use of their available water supplies during the off-season by making an irrigation application before the crop is planted. This allows them to make sure the soil water profile is in good shape before the growing season begins, in hopes that this will help their irrigation system better keep up with crop demand during the growing season. In this way, “off-season” irrigation applications can be a form of insurance. This does not apply to sandier soils with low water-holding capacity, however.



jeanne falk

• extension district

Off-season irrigation applications are almost always less efficient than in-season irrigation applications, but that’s a tradeoff that some irrigators are willing to accept. Water applied during the off-season can be lost due to drainage from the soil profile or through evaporation. This applied water may also become unnecessary if there is an unusually heavy amount of precipitation during the spring that would have filled the profile even without the off-season irrigation.

It’s not possible to completely eliminate any risk of inefficiency from off-season irrigation. The question is, how inefficient is off-season irrigation likely to be under various situations? And how can producers maximize the efficiency of these applications?

There are three main factors that

determine the efficiency of off-season irrigation on medium- to fine-textured soils: 1. The amount of precipitation that falls between the time of the off-season irrigation application and the time of use by the crop, 2. The amount of time between the off-season application and the time of use, 3. The amount of water in the soil profile at the time of the off-season application.

The greatest effect on storage efficiency of water applied during the off-season, however, is the amount of available water in the soil at the time of the off-season application. Efficiency begins to drop off dramatically when the percent available water in the soil profile is greater than 60 percent at the time of application. If the soil profile is at 70-80 percent of available soil water, irrigators would want to seriously consider whether an off-season application is wise, especially in the fall. The efficiency of such an application under those conditions is very low.

It should be repeated that in-season irrigation applications are always the more efficient. Off-season irrigation, even at its most efficient, should be considered only if it is likely that in-season irrigation won’t be able to keep up with crop needs.

matters of record

Real estate

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman County register of deeds.

First National Bank, Goodland, Trustee of the Richard A. Nelson Trust dated November 29, 2011, to Richard A. Nelson, Lots 22, 23 and 24, Block 11, Second Addition to City of Goodland.

Danny McCurry and Julia McCurry quit claim to Julius C. Lillich Trust, Gary A. Lillich Trustee with Jil Lillich as successor trustee, Lots 13 and 14, Block 9, Second Addition to City of Goodland, AKA 320 W. 3rd.

Virginia L. Smiley, Elizabeth G. Philbrick and Charles R. Philbrick, Margaret Lynn Smiley and Peter H. Gilligan, William A. Smiley and Christine Smiley, all convey and warrant to Roger W. Crotinger and Vickie J. Crotinger, Lot 6, Block 2, Eastridge Subdivision of Academy Addition to City of Goodland.

James Dean Oharah and Daylene Gail Oharah, to Ted Lee Dimmick and Linda S. Dimmick, Lots 10

and 11, Block 4, Original Town of Kanorado.

David J. Daniels and Judith Daniels, to Paul A. Medrano, the N10’ of Lot 22, all of Lots 23 and 24, Block 20, Second Addition to City of Goodland.

Clemence J. Reitmayer, Trustee of the Clemence J. Reitmayer Revocable Trust dated November 2, 1990, conveys and warrants to Reitmayer Farms, LLC, the W/2 of SW/4 of Sec.34, T8S, R41W, except a tract.

Clemence J. Reitmayer, Trustee of the Clemence J. Reitmayer Revocable Trust dated November 2, 1990, conveys and warrants to Reitmayer Farms, LLC, the SE/4 of Sec.1, T7S, R42W, containing 160 acres more or less.

Clemence J. Reitmayer, Trustee of the Clemence J. Reitmayer Revocable Trust dated November 2, 1990, conveys and warrants to Reitmayer Farms, LLC, the NE/4 of Sec.33, T7S, R41W.

Worship warms the heart

<p>Calvary Gospel Church Lead Pastors: Randy and Mary Payne Assistant Pastors: Jacob and Ramie Soyez Fourth & College • 890-3605 Sunday: Kid’s Church: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Morning Service: 8:30 and 10:30 am Youth @ the Rock House, Sixth & Caldwell: 6:30 p.m. Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. except last Sunday of the month Wednesday: Kids 4 Christ 6:30 p.m. during school year Life Groups - See website website: www.calvarygospel.net email: info@calvarygospel.net or see us on Facebook</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Celebrant: Father Norbert Dlabal 307 W. 13th • 890-7205 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment Mass Schedule: Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am Spanish Mass: Sunday: 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Promiseland Baptist Church Pastor: Rick Holmes • 890-7082 225 W. 16th (785) 890-7944 Sunday: Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Morning Service: 11:30 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m.</p>	
<p>Goodland United Methodist Church 1116 Sherman 899-3631 Pastors: Dustin and Shelly Petz Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper “Free will Offering 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages</p>	<p>Pleasant Home Church Serving the rural community Celebrating 125 years of God’s gracious blessings! Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70 (785) 694-2807 Pastor: Perry Baird Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Iglesia Del Dios Vivo La Luz Del Mundo Spanish Speaking Church - translation available Minister: Jose S. Lopez 1601 Texas • 899-5275 Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m. Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.</p>	
<p>Bible Baptist Church Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks Fifth & Broadway 890-7368 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Morning Service: 10 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984 Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.</p>	<p>Kanorado United Methodist Church Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.</p>	
<p>United Methodist Church Brewster: Pastor: Mike Baughn Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST Winona: Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pastor: Rev. Carol Edling Jolly Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233 Sunday: Church School - All ages 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: weekly Jr./Sr. High groups Thursday: Prayer Class - Noon Pastor Carol’s Class Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. www.goodlandfccdoc.org</p>	<p>Goodland Bible Church 109 Willow Road • 899-6400 Pastor: Chad DeJong Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. 6 p.m. AWANA during school Evening Worship: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday: 6:30 youth group Growth groups call for information www.goodlandbible.org</p>	
<p>Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797 Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Celebrant: Father Don Martin 13th & Center Church 890-2115 or 890-7245 Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening Bible Study: 4 p.m. the first and third Saturday of the month</p>	<p>Harvest Evangelical Free Church 521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423 Pastor: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Senior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church Junior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church www.goodlandefree.com</p>	
<p>First Baptist Church Pastor: Travis Blake 1121 Main 890-3450 Sunday: Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>H2O Church.TV Pastor: Craig Groeschel 109 E. 17th (785) 728-0123 Experience Time Sunday: 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ 401 Caldwell 890-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	
<p>Seventh Day Adventist Church 1160 Cattletrail Pastor: Jim McCurdy Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Emmanuel Lutheran Church 13th & Sherman • 890-6161 Pastor: Darian Hybl Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Goodland Star-News 1205 Main St.</p>	
<p>The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:</p>			<p>Good Samaritan Center 208 W. 2nd</p>
<p>Short & Son Trucking Hwy. 24</p>	<p>Goodland Star-News 1205 Main St.</p>	<p>KLOE/KKCE/JKWGB 3023 W. 31</p>	