

# Lawmakers lobby for Big 12

By **AUSTIN MEEK**

The battle for the Big 12 Conference has gone from the Wheat Belt to the Beltway.

Nebraska athletic director Tom Osborne already has received a call from U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., who urged his former congressional colleague to remain faithful to the Big 12.

And no, even the Kansas congressman couldn't get Osborne to tip his hand.

"He didn't commit to me in any way what the decision will be, but I wanted coach Osborne to know that there's a lot at stake here," Moran said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

Officials at Kansas and Kansas State have lobbied their counterparts at Nebraska and Missouri to spurn advances from the Big Ten and preserve the Big 12. Moran, who represents the 1st District, is one of several lawmakers now echoing the refrain.

"This matters athletically," Moran said, "but if there is a change in conference affiliation, that also has consequences to the universities — enrollment, prestige, those kinds of things. It matters to me a lot."

U.S. Sens. Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback, both K-State graduates, expressed similar sentiments in a joint statement Tues-

day. Brownback, a Topeka Republican, is considered the odds-on favorite in the November governor's race.

"We believe as charter members of the former Big Eight Conference and as current members of the Big 12 Conference, it is important Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska continue to partner with the Big 12 Conference," the statement read. "We remain hopeful the Nebraska Board of Regents will come to the same conclusion as the Kansas Board of Regents, that member institutions should join efforts to sustain and advance the Big 12."

The outpouring of political support can be traced to fears that a Big 12 breakup would leave the state's two flagship universities without a major-conference home.

The benefits of BCS affiliation are most evident in the world of athletics, but they extend to other areas of the university. K-State's status in the Big 12 helped the university land the \$650 million National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and Big 12 affiliations contributed to the creation of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor between Manhattan and Columbia, Mo.

"My impression is that the prestige brings fans and alumni to-

gether," Moran said. "It brings private financial support from Kansans to our universities. It brings students who have an interest in watching athletics. From an academic side, it seems like (Big 12 schools) have a lot in common in terms of who our students are, what degrees they pursue."

For those reasons, KU and K-State have a vested interest in preserving the Big 12. Moran said he spoke to K-State president Kirk Schulz and KU chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little earlier this week and pledged any support he could provide.

"My request of president Schulz and the chancellor of The

University of Kansas was, 'If you know of something I can do aside from weighing in with Tom Osborne, please let me know,'" Moran said.

The political influence applies mostly in the realm of old-fashioned diplomacy. The Big 12's future — and, by extension, the futures of KU and K-State — won't be determined with legislation, Moran said.

"It's not about introducing a piece of legislation," he said. "I do know that as a Kansan, this is an awfully important issue. We need to make sure the right decisions are made. In my opinion, that's certainly keeping the Big 12 together."

## STERLING COLLEGE SENIOR

# Kenyan, is summer intern at the Lyons News



GODFREY MIHESO

By **GODFREY MIHESO**  
**LYONS NEWS INTERN**

Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Godfrey Miheso and I was born in Nairobi, Kenya on March 25, 1982.

I am a twin brother to Wycliffe and brother to Suzan, Nesbitt, and Brenda, all children of a carpenter, Latan Miheso.

My mother, Margaret Nangila Miheso, a small scale-grocer, has been the greatest influence in my life. She's helped me develop into a God-fearing young man, soccer icon, role model and journalist.

Like most African children, I had an equal opportunity to socialize and grow through the tough economic status in urban Kenya.

At the age of 7, I was recruited as a sponsored child with Compassion International (CI) a journey that saw me grow to be a well-shaped Christian and dependable member of society.

CI project in Kibera had a program that was a good fit for children like me to allow growth with little or no vulnerability to drugs and other vices that include violence arising from political instability.

I joined Mbagathi Road Primary School with Wycliffe and Suzan and successfully made it to high school after eight years.

I've enjoyed playing soccer, and as a member of journalism club. My letters to the editor were often published, a move that encouraged me to venture in to writing human interest stories to local papers.

I was playing high school soccer to the national level in a country like Kenya, where 90 percent of the youngsters play the sport.

It was a big deal to debut at the sport's national level a couple of times with honors as top-scorer.

In 2002, I graduated from high school and did lots of community services with local community and soccer teams before joining Adagala Memorial College (AMEC) in 2005 for an associate's degree diploma.

During course of my study at AMEC, I wrote more and was inspired by Larry King's style of conducting and running his interviews.

After graduating from AMEC, I secured an internship as a reporter with the Kenya Times one of Kenya's top rated media houses.

Because of my love for people's welfare, I wrote human interest and sports articles until the heavens broke loose for me.

During research, I found an article on Compassion International's blog where the author was a Sterling, Kansas resident.

Sterling was a small Christian community with a college that had both a soccer and communications program.

These were the reasons why I decided to place an application through the admissions vice president Mr. Dennis Dutton. It was a long journey to get admitted at Sterling College.

Sterling College

men's soccer head Coach David Underwood played a role to make things fall into place.

I am a senior at Sterling College. I enjoy talking to people and learning people's way of life. As a journalist, I have my ears on the ground eyes on the horizon and feet off the fence.

Writing and media production are my major areas of interest.

*Godfrey Miheso is working as an intern for The Lyons News*

## Proclamation 07-2010

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 1990, President George H. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation established a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with Disabilities by reducing barriers and changing perceptions and increasing full participation in community life. However, the full promise of the ADA will only be reached if public entities remain committed in their efforts to fully implement the ADA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of Rice County Commissioners, of Rice County, Kansas that with the approaching 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we the Rice County Commission, celebrate and recognize the progress that has been made by reaffirming the principals of equality and inclusion and recommitting our efforts to reach full ADA compliance; and

**FURTHER**, that Rice County reaffirms its commitment to work toward full ADA compliance; and

**FURTHER**, that all Rice County citizens are urged to do the same so that there are no barriers and that perceptions are changed and those with disabilities can participate fully in community life.

Done this 7th day of June, 2010.

**Attest:**  
Alicia Showalter  
County Clerk

**Board of Rice County Commissioners**  
H. Derek McCloud, Chairman  
William D. Oswalt, Commissioner  
Jack Bray, Commissioner



# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual RELAY FOR LIFE

of Rice County  
*in honor of Rice County Cancer Survivors*

## June 25-26, 7pm to 7am

WORKMAN PARK | 200 BLOCK OF EAST MAIN | LYONS

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30-6:30 P.M.	Survivor Registration & Free Dinner in the Boy Scout Cabin (free to survivors)
6:00-9:00 P.M.	Moonwalk, Dunk Tank & Carnival Games (\$5 for game pass to 20 games All youth under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.)
7:00 P.M.	Opening Ceremonies & Introductions
7:30 P.M.	Survivor Lap & Balloon Release
7:45 P.M.	Teams First Lap
8:00 P.M.	Talent Show with Dr. Tom Simpson, Emcee
10:00 P.M.	Luminaria Ceremony
11 P.M. TO 5:30 A.M.	Fun, Games & Prizes
5:30 A.M.	Pick up Luminarias & Cleanup
6:00 A.M.	Closing Ceremony & Breakfast

For more information contact Debbie Konen at (620) 894-1197.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service. The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life gives everyone the opportunity to fight back and to make a difference in the battle against cancer.

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*The Lyons State Bank is honored to be a corporate sponsor of the 2010 Relay For Life.*

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To schedule an appointment or to receive an application by mail please call 866-442-6063.

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