

News Page Design

2011 KSPA State Competition

Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's The Star. Your newspaper is a biweekly with the next edition to come out May 20. Your editor has asked you to design page five, where you feature your in-depth stories.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School
Location: Aspera, Kansas
Mascot: Box Turtles
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)
School Colors: Green & Gold
Yearbook: The Honeybee
Newspaper: The Star

Contest Info

This is a **carry-in** contest.

Please attach **your assigned contest number** in the upper right-hand corner on the back of your entry.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

Assignment

You will find a story on the following pages and on the Web.

It is a long story about parental behavior at football games at Ad Astra. You may edit it down slightly if you need it to fit a space, but you should use at least 75 percent of the story. That means it should be a major part of your layout.

The photos and other elements that you choose to add (including headlines) should work to complement each other in a cohesive single-issue layout. Good luck.

* For story and photo download instructions see page 3.

Specifications

Using the available story and photos (see download instructions on Web site), design page 5, where you always place special issue-oriented features. You may design a special page-header (such as "INDEEP" or "THE STAR REPORT") that would indicate that this is a standing feature. The page should include folio information as well as the stories and corresponding photo(s) you see fit to include. Designers may add illustrative art, mug shots or other graphics not included among the available photos to enhance overall design. You will have to write your own headlines for the stories.

The newspaper must be designed as a tabloid, 17 inches deep by 11 inches wide. The designer may determine the number of columns. Entries must be computer-generated and may be submitted in color, or black and white. Entries must be printed on a single 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper, reduced to fit.

Other Specifications

Photos should be cropped, cut out, and enlarged or reduced to fit the design plan.

You may edit stories down slightly if you need it to fit a space, but you should use at least 75 percent of each.

The headline and other subheadlines (internal and/or atop the story) should suggest the content of the story and should be designed in exactly the size, style and location you want.

You may use the cutlines provided on page 2 of these instructions.



Analysis by Bud Tuglee Star Sports Editor

Last year following Ad Astra's football game against John Brown, some parents waited patiently outside the locker room, waiting to see AAHS head coach Rowdy Wichman. They wanted to ask him some questions about his substitution patterns, this just minutes after the Box Turtles had lost 21-20 to JBHS.

The parents finally got their wish as Wichman slowly and sheepishly came out of the locker room. Lonnie Johnson, father of backup quarterback David Johnson, asked him a quick and pointed question.

"Why didn't you put my son in the game?" Johnson asked. "It was obvious the offense was going nowhere with the regular quarterback."

Wichman tipped his cap to the crowd and started to back away.

"I'm asking you a question," Johnson said. "Are you going to answer it or not?"

The exchange lasted another few minutes with Wichman saying that he'd be happy to talk at another time, in another place, when the heat of the moment had passed. He absorbed some crushing comments, then ducked into his car and drove home.

A week later, I was at another game, in another town, waiting to talk to a coach who had just won a huge game.

I waited, and finally, an assistant coach's spouse came up to me and said, "Coach isn't coming out until they leave."

He pointed at a group of 12 to 15 parents and students, who were huddled near the entrance to the locker room.

"I'll go see if the locker room is clear, and let (Coach) know you're here."

I was soon waved into the locker room and the coach said, "I can't deal with those parents right now. I'll stay in here all night if I have to."

Over a two-week period I witnessed the ugly side of high school sports. And to quote former Ad Astra High School football and softball coach and activities director Jim Croneberger, "The inmates are finally running the asylum, and I am so glad I don't have to deal with it anymore."

The two coaches referred to are among the most respected in the state. They have developed Division I players, shown nothing but class and a love of the kids they work with, and they have

been reduced to hiding in their offices to avoid confrontations with parents.

As we wind down this school year, it will be just a few months before football season starts again, and with it, the attendant problems of pressure from parents. At both Ad Astra and John Brown, administrators have put together a panel to address rowdy behavior at football games, both by students and parents, and the alleged bullying of coaches by parents.

While football coach Rowdy Wichman said he would address the issue off the record – he did say, "I just hope the parents don't run the good coaches off" – AAHS athletic director Derrick Holmes was eager to take a stand and talk about the good, the bad and the ugly of high school parents.

"When I get an e-mail or a call from a parent – and they come frequently and on a daily basis – I think as a coach and administrator you have to sort through the emotion when you deal with an issue with a parent," said Holmes, a graduate of AAHS. "My responsibility – our responsibility – is to get the issue resolved. If there is a problem, you can't assume that some crazy parent has a problem with a coach and just blow it off.

"That doesn't help anything. If a parent feels there is a concern and they take the time to write or call me, I will deal with it. I want to be accountable, and I want our coaches to be accountable.

"That is very important to our programs, whether they be sports, or other activities at our high school."

While Holmes deals with many parental issues, he is quick to point out that the total number of parents who complain about a coach is miniscule.

"I don't know, maybe 3 to 5 percent of the parents," he said. "We couldn't exist without our parents. We have done something interesting with our booster club, where we include all activities under one umbrella.

"Sports, prom committee, Project Grad, debate – the hospitality room at the district basketball tournament – they were all part of our booster club and our parents did a wonderful job. On a daily basis, our parents show a willingness and time commitment to help their children and the students at this school.

"Their kids attend this school, and they have

every right to be as much a part of it as possible. But, there must be boundaries.”

I attended one AAHS football game where a group of vocal fans let it be known that they were not happy with coach Wichman and his players. And that is where Holmes draws the line. That’s where the boundaries come into play.

“When stuff happens, you deal with it, and my pet peeve is anyone who would come to a sporting event and yell at a coach, official or – and this is my biggest peeve – a student-athlete,” Holmes said.

“I don’t have parents come in my office and yell at me while I am doing my job. I hope they don’t come to your office and yell at you while you write a story. But they believe it is their right to come into a gym and yell at a coach and his team or the officiating crew.

“Rowdy has a wife, children, family members, and it’s not fair for him, or them, to come and endure what he had to endure at some games this season. You wouldn’t believe the lengths some coaches go to protect their families at games.” I didn’t attend every AAHS football game last season, but I did not see Wichman’s wife at any game I did attend.

“People say, ‘It’s part of the game. Accept it.’ Really? Accept that type of behavior? Should we really?” Holmes added.

“I can somewhat understand that type of behavior at a professional game, because they are pros. I can understand it to some extent at the collegiate level, although that is still part of the educational process.

“At the high school level, I do not understand it, and I will not tolerate it.”

At that moment, I wanted to stop the interview and give Holmes a one-man standing ovation.

I saw him escort more than one unruly fan out of Box Turtle Stadium this season, and I respect a man who backs his words with action.

Thirteen years ago, Salina West coach Sheri Rehmer walked away from a basketball job she loved because of parental interference.

Just a few years back, another Salina West coach – soccer coach Steve Bettlach – was attacked by a parent and needed 12 stitches in his mouth following the encounter.

So this ugly side of prep sports is nothing new.

Just because someone pays \$5 to get into a high school stadium or gym doesn’t give them the right to verbally assault a coach or a 16-year-old player.

Just because your son or daughter plays for a high school coach doesn’t give a parent the right to punch him in the mouth.

I am amazed that good men and women put up with this type of grief to coach teenagers on the high school level. They make relatively little money.

Many coaches ask their husbands or wives to stay home so they are not verbally accosted, and when a player is hearing one thing from a mom or dad and the exact opposite from a coach, tension is going to build in the locker room until a team implodes.

We’re just lucky to have good men like Derrick Holmes and other area administrators who do the right thing – even if the end result is another nasty (and always anonymous) email, a verbal mugging or punch in the nose.

For two years, I have witnessed some of the most memorable and exciting moments of my life while covering AAHS sporting events, including Mitchell Morris’ golden performance in his final appearance at state track, which he turned into his own personal highlight reel.

I’ve marveled at the brilliance AAHS football players, how Wichman and his staff breathed new life into a comatose squad, and I have envied the spirit and love of the game personified by student-athletes like Stinson Dean, Will Palmer, Claire Coggins and Samantha Nightingale.

I’ve flossed enough sand and grit from between my teeth during windblown baseball or softball games that I could fill the Grand Canyon, and I’ve waded through ankle-deep water on the sidelines of football games.

And I have loved every minute of it. But I don’t love a disturbing trend that seems to be escalating at an alarming rate.

Let’s hope the blue-ribbon panels at both AAHS and JBHS can address the problem of parental rowdiness at football games before it gets out of hand and drives good coaches out of town.

Photo Captions

Photo #1: CROWD SHOT

Students from John Brown High School cheer on the Crusading Tigers at a football game last year. John Brown and AAHS are both considering stricter fan behavior rules for next year.

Photo #2: CROWD SHOT TWO

Ad Astra fans celebrate a touchdown by the Box Turtles during last year's game against John Brown. AAHS lost the game 21-20, and it was marred after by a shouting match between AAHS coach Rowdy Wichman and parents who complained about Wichman's coaching decisions.

Photo #3: FLAG FOOTBALL

John Brown flag waver Jimmy Smitts leads the Crusading Tigers out onto the field before last year's JBHS-Ad Astra football game.

Photo #4: MASCOT

Salina West mascot Bobby Hill looks into the stands to lead cheers in West's game last year against Ad Astra.

Photo #5: PARENTS

Marlene Johnson and her husband, Lonnie Johnson, look forward to meeting with Ad Astra coach Rowdy Wichman after last year's game against John Browne. The Johnsons are the parents of AAHS backup quarterback David Johnson, and they wanted to speak with Wichman about the coach's substitution patterns. The Johnsons' questions soon led to a heated discussion about coaching strategy between several parents and Wichman.

Photo #6: REGIONAL FOOTBALL

John Brown Crusading Tiger football players react to the game-winning play in last year's JBHS victory over Ad Astra.

Instructions for Downloading Contest Photos and Stories

1. Go to the following address: <http://www.kspaonline.org/state/carry-ins/>
2. Scroll down to find the section designated for Newspaper Design Photos and Stories. There are two stories in Word document format and four photos.
3. Click and download the Word files by clicking on the links Main Story and Sidebar.
4. Click on a photo thumbnail to open the full-size image.
5. If you use a PC, RIGHT CLICK on the photo and then SAVE PICTURE AS . . . (or) If you use a MAC, hold the CONTROL button while you click on the photo, then SAVE IMAGE AS.
6. Repeat steps 3-4 until all appropriate photos have been saved to your computer.