

Infographics

2011 KSPA Regional Competition

Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's The Star. Your newspaper is a monthly with the next edition to come out March 17. Your editor has asked you to create an infographic for the attached story, using charts, graphs or other visual elements to tell the story presented by the data you gather.

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 photo.

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

Using the information provided in the attached story, design an infographic that is 5 inches wide by any depth. Entries should be computer-generated and may incorporate graphics to enhance the design. The graphic may be submitted in color or black and white, and should be printed on 8.5 x 11-inch paper.



Talented players, good coaching and administrative support are the main ingredients behind a winning high school football program, a survey of Kansas' head football coaches showed.

More than 90 percent of the 147 coaches who responded to a questionnaire compiled by The Ad Astra Star listed one of those three components as the most important asset to winning.

Much less significant — and cited by fewer than 10 percent as the most important — were facilities, money, community and parental support, feeder programs and enrollment size. Only 12 of the 147 coaches listed any of those factors.

The most valuable ingredient was not easy to decipher: It depended on who was asked, and how the coach was asked.

"Depends on how truthful we want to be, but I think we're only as good as our players," said John Brown's Joseph Ironside, whose team upset reigning Class 5A champion Eisenhower County in the second round of the playoffs this year. "We can kid ourselves and pretend, but if our kids are not as good as the other guy's, we're going to struggle."

Sandy Bottom's Chip Chung agreed with that assessment.

"Players on the field can make up for me busting a call or checking to the wrong defense," said Walker, whose team won its first state title in 2009.

State Line's Steve Hoisington, however, was among 32 percent who said coaching was the most important asset. Hoisington's teams are 73-16 in seven seasons, though only seven of his former players are on college rosters today.

"The players, the students, the children, they're all the same," Hoisington said. "What makes the difference are those who work with those children."

He believes the continuity of a quality staff — and his seven coaches have been together for seven seasons — has made a bigger difference.

"We don't have world-beater athletes down here like some of the people we're playing, but if you've still got a foundation that's consistent, it

gives you a chance," Hoisington said.

Twenty-three percent of the coaches said they would rather have the support of their principal and administration over anything else.

"With that, you can take care of the rest," St. Pius X coach Pablo Sandoval said.

"Without it, it is almost impossible to run a program," Plains County coach Wade Deep said.

The results took another turn when the question was asked differently.

More than 70 percent of the coaches said a good staff was mandatory and a program "can't win unless this area is strong." Thirty-eight percent of the coaches believed athleticism and talent were mandatory to winning. Just 23 percent of the coaches cited administrative support as mandatory.

The ready explanation for ranking talent behind coaching was this: While coaches were more likely to rate a staff as more important when using a 1-5 scale, they picked talent when forced to choose between assets they initially rated equally using the scale.

For example, 26 percent of the coaches listed both staff and talent as "mandatory" to winning on the 1-5 scale. When asked which was the most important asset overall, they were six times more likely to list talent over the coaching staff.

When coaches were asked which ingredient was most lacking at their school, there was no consensus.

Atop the wish list was better facilities, cited by 17 percent of the coaches. More athleticism and talent (15 percent) came next.

Community/parental support (14 percent) and financial support (13 percent), which go hand in hand, accounted for 27 percent of the responses.

Sandy Bottom's Chung said all ingredients were important for a successful program.

"To win at the highest level, you've got to have it all," Chung said. "Look at the big names: Plains County, North Side, Burford. There are places like that in every class now that have it, so if you don't you may not be able to accomplish that goal. That's just how competitive it is in Kansas."