

## STADIUM STOP #9

October 28, 2011

### Manhattan 28, Junction City 20

First, I just want to thank (if anyone) has been reading these Stadium Stops throughout the season, I've really enjoyed being able to travel and see different setups and share what I've noticed throughout the season. Also, would like to thank Tim McGonagle, of Scott City, voice of the Scott City Beavers, but also creator and owner of [www.kansasprepfootball.com](http://www.kansasprepfootball.com) for allowing me to do write articles and games of the week. We definitely need more people like Tim throughout the state.



Junction City offense lines up against the Manhattan High defense.

The Home Crowd at Bishop Stadium in Cinco Park.

When people think of great rivalries in high school as large schools, where I grew up I think of the Great Bend-Hays High games hearing all of the things high school students would either do or attempt to do to their opponent s school. While I've been a student at Kansas State I haven't had a chance to attend a Manhattan High-Junction City game, until now. This game is arguable one of the greatest rivalries in the state, the battle for the Silver Trophy.

I visited with Melissa Sharp, FSA principal at Junction City High School as she was telling me how the Athletic Directors of Manhattan High and Junction city High called each other all week joking about what pranks they said their kids had done at the school and what are you wanting me to do about it? Quiet silence, I'm just kidding with you. (haha) Educators are great people and they too need to have fun with things like this, much like high schoolers to. Melissa went on to tell me about the competition between Booster Clubs of Manhattan and Junction City in the Battle of the Silver Cup. Each school would design a shirt and go around selling it to local businesses or sponsors to raise money to give to what charity they wanted to. Manhattan won the Silver Cup, by selling 100 more shirts than Junction, but everyone is a winner as all proceeds go to charities. Melissa went on to inform that Junction City's proceeds are going to Officials against Cancer, which was started by Melissa's last husband Perry, former official, but also a great husband, father, and friend. Perry passed away from a Chronic Myelogenous

Leukemia in 2009. There is now a Perry Sharp Memorial Scholarship which is available for any Junction City High Student whom is continuing in a post-secondary education. The Officials against Cancer organization also does a benefit golf tournament, can get proceeds from the Wichita Wild and also any open will donations. For more info visit [www.officialsagaincancer.org](http://www.officialsagaincancer.org). This is for a great cause and an outstanding committee on this board and scholarship fund.

In Class 6A, District 5 was a very solid, competitive district with Junction City, Manhattan, Topeka-Washburn Rural, and Topeka High. Coming into district play, the records were 6-0, 5-1, 5-1, and 3-3. This was an extremely competitive district with Centennial League opponents. Manhattan 6-0, who has been ranked top 5, in Class 6A throughout the season; Washburn Rural and Junction City who both only have one loss, Rural losing to 4A and league power Hayden, by a touchdown and Junction City getting upended by a pesky, very solid Emporia team. Topeka High would find themselves at the bottom of the barrel with competitive losses Holton, Topeka-Seamen, and yet again Hayden. So these were all pretty even teams coming into playoffs. Manhattan would find them a top after sweating bullets in close calls against Washburn Rural and a shootout with the improved Trojans. Washburn Rural would open district with a 21-point victory on the road at JC. So everyone with me so far MHS 1-0; WRHS 1-0; JCHS 0-1; THS 0-1; In Week 8, Junction City would rattle off a 44-13 victory over Topeka High; While Indians of Manhattan High would clutch a 3-point victory over WRHS. After Week 7 standings: MHS 2-0; JCHS 1-1; WRHS; THS 0-2. And the Grand Finale, of this impressive, crazy district consisted of two rivalry games. Topeka High vs. Washburn Rural, which was an amazing shootout from what I heard on the news with Topeka High winning 54-53 in Double OT with a Trojan blocking the extra point to keep the game going. Finally with the Manhattan-Junction City game (which I don't believe has a catchy nickname for the show down so I'll there are the options of the K-18 shoot out, Kansas River Rivalry, Fort Riley-Little Apple Cup, I-70 Battle or HAT-JC.) This game is found to be competitive year in and year out and usually attracts great crowds at the school respective venues.

I got there a little after kickoff and you could hear the cheer of the crowds, it gave me goose bumps. It was a great evening for football, a little chilly, but not too cold... This was a televised game that could be on Kansas Channel 22, so had the "college implications" for a little bit with it being televised. I think we will see more high school football game become televised just for the demand of it. The Kansas State High School Activities Association has actually launched their network and I believe it was made available last week for the State Volleyball Sites, which could be streamed right to your computer!

Bishop Stadium is in a very discrete, hidden area, but it can be found on a Friday night with the sounds and lights. It's located at Cinco Park only about 3 miles west from Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Cinco Park has several softball fields and is also home to the Riley County Fair. There is a large grandstand for the home, as the field is built down in a hole. The Manhattan High Seniors numbers were painted on the north hillside along with the scoreboard.

This game was enjoyable to watch these two great teams and two great cities to support these outstanding school systems. The one thing that stuck out to me was the Pep Bands and Student Pep Clubs, they were great sports, always doing group cheers singing to their marching band. They were also

often times singing to popular pep band songs and the best part, the student sections were great sports abiding to the KSHSAA's Rule 52 very well.

The one thing that these two communities that divide it is, The Big Red 1, "Fort Riley" which is the First Infantry Division of the United States and also the oldest division in the U.S. Army. For those unfamiliar with Fort Riley, this is basically the "big dog" of the United States and dates back to 1917. The Fort itself was built in 1853. If there was ever any war fought most likely the Big Red 1 was most likely there: World War I, World War II, Cold War, Vietnam War, and the Gulf War are all big parts of history, and Fort Riley has a part in there as well. During the day time hours, the fort has about 25,000 soldiers among the base. It's a huge facility that stretches into two counties and covers over 100,000 acres. A special thanks to those who serve and continue to serve to protect our country!

It's hard to believe the high school football season is about to wrap up, but one thing for sure there were plenty memories made and there will be more made next season. The game is much more about winning or losing, but it definitely the memories made and the commitment to teamwork and how to work together. I can remember my playing days and there isn't a day that goes by, that I can't relate to the lessons learned through athletics and the work of a team.



Blue Jays offense stalls as the Indian Defense steps it up in the red zone.

JCHS Pep Band and Student Section finds their groove during a timeout.

MHS lines up in their Wildcat formation.

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