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Kansas State Wildcats running back DJ Giddens warms up before last weekend's game against the Colorado Buffaloes at Folsom Field in Boulder, Colo.

Kansas State expects big weekend with DJ Giddens and Jacob Parrish at NFL Draft

BY KELLIS ROBINETT
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The 2025 NFL Draft promises to be an exciting event for Kansas State.

For the fourth straight year, the Wildcats are expected to produce multiple draft picks. And, for the third straight year, there is a chance three or more former K-State players will be selected by professional football teams.

Keeping those streaks alive is very important for K-State coach Chris Klieman as he continues to aim high on the recruiting trail and raise the overall level of talent in Manhattan.

The festivities begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday in Green Bay, Wisconsin. But the good vibes will most likely start for K-State on Friday: Running back DJ Giddens and cornerback Jacob Parrish are projected as mid-round picks who are hoping to hear their names called as early as the third round.

You can find Parrish predicted as high as the No. 84 pick on mock drafts. Some experts have Giddens going as early as No. 94.

They are both sure-fire draft picks now that their successful college careers at K-State have come to an end.

But there is also hope that defensive back Marquis Sigle will be selected in the late rounds. Mock drafts have him going in the seventh.

It's also possible that

former offensive lineman Easton Kilty, defensive back Jacob Parrish, kicker Chris Tennant and others could get a look in the final rounds or sign with teams as undrafted free agents.

In any case, it won't be a quiet draft weekend for the Wildcats.

EXPECT JACOB PARRISH TO BE KANSAS STATE'S FIRST NFL DRAFT PICK

Parrish should lead the charge.

The 5-foot-10 and 191-pound cornerback from Olathe has rocketed up draft boards ever since he decided to forgo his senior year of college football and declare for the NFL Draft.

He said he wanted to prove he had NFL speed, and he did exactly that by running the 40-yard dash in 4.35 seconds at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis.

Add that to a stellar career at K-State that featured 50 tackles and seven pass breakups as a junior, and he figures to be the Wildcats' best draft prospect in this class.

He recently said his goal was to be a second-round pick, but he will more likely have to wait until the third round. Either way, he should be set up for a nice start to his pro career.

DJ GIDDENS COULD HELP ANY TEAM THAT NEEDS A RUNNING BACK

What you saw from Giddens at K-State is like-

ly what you will continue seeing from him in the NFL.

The Junction City product had a brilliant three-year run with the Wildcats that featured 3,087 yards and 23 touchdowns as a rusher. He also added 58 catches for 679 yards and four scores as a receiver.

Giddens was best known for his durability and his bruising running style, but he showed off speed and elusiveness last season.

That could make him an ideal plug-and-play candidate in an NFL backfield.

He has come a long way since his teenage years, when he was an unknown recruit.

Giddens has no expectations for the NFL Draft, but teams will likely target him in the third or fourth round.

MARQUIS SIGLE CAN MAKE IT THREE K-STATE DRAFT PICKS

There is no guarantee that Sigle will hear his name called this weekend, but the former Kansas State safety has appeared on several mock drafts as seventh-round selection.

Sigle was a leader in K-State's secondary as both a junior and a senior. Then the 5-foot-11 defensive back put himself on the NFL radar by running the 40-yard dash in 4.37 seconds at the combine.

He could help any NFL team that is looking for help in the secondary in the final round.

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DALE ZANINE / USA TODAY Sports

Santos Laguna forward Santiago Muñoz (19) reacts after converting on a penalty kick against Atlanta United at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Aug. 4, 2024.

FROM PAGE 1B MUÑOZ

guna. The move from Sporting KC's side is intriguing. Sporting now has four strikers on the roster — Dejan Joveljic, William Agada, Mason Toye, and

Muñoz. Only Joveljic's contract is guaranteed beyond this season.

Agada has been the subject of transfer rumors, as Tom Bogert of the outlet Give Me Sport has

reported interest in Agada from a few different clubs.

Sporting also has other roster needs, particularly after scoring nine goals in the previous three matches.

It's the defense that has been leaky, giving up 19 goals in nine games so far. And center back Joaquin Fernandez was subbed off just before halftime of Sporting's 5-3 win over San Jose this weekend. Dany Rosero was also unavailable for the game due to injury, leaving three healthy center backs at the moment, one of whom is just 16 years old.

The MLS Primary Transfer Window closes at 5 p.m. Central on Wednesday, April 23, meaning Sporting has until then to sign a player from another club or make trades within the league. SKC is free, however, to add players out of contract at any time.

Sporting did have midfielder Dru Yearwood in on trial last week, but no contract followed.

Daniel Sperry covers soccer for *The Star*. He can be reached at sperry.danielkc@gmail.com.

FROM PAGE 1B

NFL DRAFT

All-America.

The numbers dropped to 61 receptions and 676 yards as a junior, but Burden added 115 rushing yards and two touchdowns on the ground. He figures to be part of the return game in the NFL.

"To have two guys like that, developed by our coaching staff, and for them to achieve their dreams, it's the best recruiting we can do," Drinkwitz said.

Other Missouri players who could hear their name called over the three-day, seven-round draft: wide receiver Theo Wease, quarterback Brady Cook and defensive end Johnny Walker Jr.

Missouri has had two first-round picks three times:

In 2011, defensive end Aldon Smith, who played at Raytown High, was taken seventh by the San Francisco 49ers, and quar-

terback Blaine Gabbert 10th by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

In 2009, wide receiver Jeremy Maclin was taken 19th by the Philadelphia Eagles, and defensive tackle Ziggy Hood 32nd by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In 1977, offensive tackle Morris Towns was selected 11th by the Houston Oilers, and quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz 19th by the St. Louis Cardinals.

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FROM PAGE 1B

CHIEFS

VAHE GREGORIAN: JOSH CONERLY JR., OREGON, OT

Bolstered by free agency, including adding Jaylon Moore at the neonglaring left tackle position, the Chiefs theoretically enter Thursday free to maximize their draft board for the most value at any given position.

And starting with a need for depth everywhere, there are fine reasons to suppose they might trade down out of the first round to add on to the eight picks they have.

But I can't get past the damage done last year through left tackle, which became a turnstile — both in the sense of the Chiefs desperately deploying four players there and opponents often whirling right on by. Combine that with the fact Moore has started just 12 games in four NFL seasons, and I think the Chiefs must strive to first do no more harm on Patrick Mahomes' blind side.

The price likely would be unpalatable to trade up for the top few LT pro-

spects, but just below that tier looms Oregon's intriguing Josh Conerly Jr. — who widely is expected to still be on the board when the Chiefs pick at 31.

BLAIR KERKHOFF: LUTHER BURDEN, MISSOURI, WR

The Chiefs have identified talented wide receivers at or near the top of their draft board the past two years, and I'd like to see the trend continue by selecting Missouri's Luther Burden III in the first round.

Getting the offense back to its 2018-2022 form takes adding weapons, and there could be game-breaking wide receivers available at No. 31. Burden is a yards-after-catch specialist with excellent speed and toughness.

I think if the Chiefs select a left tackle, they'll have traded up. If they take an edge or defensive tackle they'll find quality at their draft spot.

If they take Burden, they'll have landed one of the top wide receivers in

the draft.

JESSE NEWELL: DERRICK HARMON, OREGON, DT

Sometimes, a player checks too many boxes to ignore. And Harmon from Oregon certainly qualifies when potentially projecting him to the Chiefs in Round 1.

KC needs defensive linemen, and this is a deeper draft there, meaning Harmon could fall to the late first round in 2025 when he might not in other years.

Harmon reportedly met with the Chiefs at the NFL Combine. And though his recent stock has risen in the last week according to Grinding The Mocks, he still potentially could be in play for KC at 31 or also with a small trade-up.

The 6-foot-5, 310-pound Harmon is only 21 years old, which fits Veach's preference for younger players. Harmon also told NBC Sports at the combine that Jones is one of the players he'd most like to emulate in the pros.

Seems like he'd be a great fit next to Jones if he makes it to 31.

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Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVR) will receive sealed bids at 6545 W 151st St, Overland Park, KS 66223 for furnishing all new materials and labor for **Blue Valley Recreation Activity Center (151st St) Addition & Renovations**. The project consists of renovation of 13,430 SF and the addition of 14,654 SF. The work includes, but is not limited to the following, all per the drawings and specifications:

Demolition of existing structures, addition to and renovation of the existing building, re-grading, sitework and expansion of paving/parking areas as well as new storm shelter. **This work will need to be phased to allow for continuous use and full operations of the facility for the duration of the project.**

Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., local time, on Thursday, May 22nd, 2025**, at which time they will be opened and publicly read aloud. All bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, Attn: Jim Hook.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Bid Conferences on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 2pm local at, 6545 W 151st St, Overland Park, KS 66223**. Questions can be directed at Hollis + Miller Architects at 816-442-7700.

Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained from Drexel Technologies, <https://planroom.drexeltech.com/View/Default.aspx>, beginning at **5:00p.m. on Thursday, April 24th, 2025**.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or a bid bond payable to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid which may be retained by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission until a Contract for the project shall have been awarded and executed with the successful Bidder.

Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVR) reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and waive any informalities or irregularities as it determines to be in the best interest of Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVR).
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NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Liberty Public School District No. 53 will receive bid proposals for the following:

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Sealed bids must be submitted by 1:00 PM CST, Thursday, May 8, 2025 at which time all bid proposals received will be publicly opened.

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City of Kansas City, Missouri Advertisement for Aviation - 62240582 - MCI Terminal & RON Apron Lighting

The City of KCMO will receive sealed Bids until 2:00 PM, on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at the KCAD for Project: 62240582 - MCI Terminal & RON Apron Lighting. Please Log into the KCMO Planroom for more details at www.kcmoplanroom.org.
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