

# Former Viking continues to make a name for himself at Park University

From small-school stand-out to the national scene, Cody Hammond's rise has been nothing short of remarkable.

The Central Heights High School alum has taken his talents to Park University in Missouri, where he is now ranked No. 4 nationally in the 800 meters. Hammond clocked a blistering 1:50.75, shattering a 32-year-old Park indoor 800-meter school record by nearly two seconds.

But he didn't stop there. Hammond also owns the Pirates' indoor mile record, running 4:14.73 and breaking the previous mark by nearly four seconds. He's a key leg on Park's 4x800-meter relay team that set the



Hammond

school record at 7:39.44 and is currently ranked No. 6 in the nation. In addition, he sits No. 11 nationally in the 1,000 meters with a time of 2:27.61.

His dominance traces back to his high school days. At the 2025 Kansas state track meet, Hammond capped a legendary career by winning the 800m, 1600m and 4x800m relay, while placing third in the 3200m. He was a cornerstone of Central Heights' 2A state championship team — a tight-knit group of four athletes who powered the program to a title.

Cody Hammond is proof that elite talent can come from anywhere and he's just getting started.

## SITES...

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meeting in January the plan seemed to go awry due to complaints about some of those locations.

"So I'm just waiting and doing other things," Mills said.

Mills took the public's pulse on the pavilions more than a year ago and made five recommendations to city commissioners at that time, which were referred to the city planning commission. That board forwarded its recommendation of the three sites, which city commissioners adopted at their December 23 meeting, leaving contingencies for possible Federal Aviation Administration input on the airport site and admitting the purchase of the downtown site had not been closed. But following critics comments at the January 13 follow up meeting, commissioners Jody Cole and Nate Wiehl said

the pavilion siting had not been nailed down and that location options were still being considered.

City manager Travis Wilson confirmed to the Review Tuesday the siting appeared confirmed from the December 23 meeting.

"Looking back at the 12/23/2025 City Commission Meeting, a Plan Review was presented to the City Commissioners that was voted on and passed unanimously by the Governing Body," Wilson said. "The three (3) locations in that Plan Review were the Recreation Center, the Airport, and the Farmers Market location contingent upon the purchase of the lot." He said none of that site prep work had yet been started.

Mills told county commissioners a Patterson Foundation grant of \$250,000 for the reassembly of the pavilions would expire as of October 1 if requests for proposals were

not received and approved. Garnett obtained the structures for the cost of their relocation and transportation after Overland Park made plans for a new \$34 million farmers market

facility. Wilson said city labor was used primarily on already budgeted payroll, but additional cost figures for that relocation have not been released.

**Unequaled**

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