

# Kansas Hoping That Combs Can Help Shore Up Defense

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Marquel Combs didn't plan on any of this happening.

He didn't plan on becoming one of the nation's top junior college prospects, or having to decide among 50 scholarship offers. He certainly didn't plan on choosing Kansas.

Up until his senior year of high school, Combs didn't even plan on playing football.

"My uncle was like, 'Dude, you're getting too big to be sitting on the couch,'" he explained with his usual good-natured sense of humor. "I'm like, 'What do you mean? I'm just chilling, enjoying myself.' He was like, 'No, I want you to get out and play football.'"

Nothing like brutal honesty from the family to get in shape.

Combs eventually was persuaded to give football a shot. He signed up for the team at Hamilton High School in Memphis, Tenn., but

found the first weeks to be exactly what he had dreaded.

"I was getting drilled around," he said. "I'm talking about bad. I'm talking about real bad."

When he first met Combs, Hamilton coach DeCory Hampton wasn't sure how serious the pudgy senior-to-be was about playing football. After all, Combs was about 255 pounds — decent size for a defensive tackle, assuming any of it was muscle. Very little of it was.

Hampton needed Combs, though. He was in his first year coaching at the school, and the team was coming off a winless season. Big bodies in the trenches were at a premium.

"It was an 0-12 team," said Hampton, who eventually settled on Combs at nose tackle. "He started that first game. I can't remember what his grade was but he did a pretty good job."

In fact, Hampton was so im-

pressed by Combs that he made him a team leader even before the first game. Eight ninth-graders received playing time that season, and Hampton needed seniors to take charge.

Combs seized upon the opportunity and finished the season on the all-Metro team. He realized football might be an avenue for him, and spent a year at a prep school before a short stint at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas, where he met current Jayhawks Kevin Short and Rodriguez Coleman.

Combs moved on to Pierce College in California, where he learned how to properly lift weights for the first time. He started to garner some attention, and some scouting agencies rated him the top junior college prospect in the nation. The scholarship offers started to arrive during the winter and last spring, and Combs originally committed to Mississippi.

That failed to work out because of academic issues, so Combs took a visit to Kansas with his Pierce teammate Marcus Jenkins-Moore. But while Jenkins-Moore had already committed to Kansas, Combs hopped on a plane to Lawrence without knowing anything about Jayhawks coach Charlie Weis.

"I'm like, 'Coach Weis? Who is Coach Weis?'" Combs said. "(Jenkins-Moore) was like, 'He won four Super Bowl rings.' I'm like, 'With who? With the Patriots?' Then I did my research on Google, found out everything, and I was like, 'Oh, snap!'"

It's that kind of exuberance that has already endeared Combs to his teammates.

"Off the field he's going to joke with you, he's going to give you a hard time, but as soon as we step in between the lines he goes to work," Jayhawks defensive lineman Keon Stowers said. "He's one of the most

serious guys on the field, on the D-line."

Combs said it was the chance to help elevate a suffering program — Kansas went 1-11 last season — back to respectability that made him ultimately choose Kansas. He told coaches he wanted to be the reason a program started winning again, even joking he would kick field goals if needed.

Combs shifted from nose guard to defensive end for his junior year, and he was already topping the depth chart as fall practice began. The Jayhawks are counting on him to help shore up a unit that ranked 113th out of 120 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision last year in total defense.

"Did I imagine that he would be what he is now?" asked Hampton, his former high school coach, almost marveling at how far Combs has come. "I can't lie to you. I did not."

## 'His Enthusiasm Was Contagious'



P&D FILE PHOTO

Dale "Ole" Hansen, center, gets a laugh prior to the Roger Haas Alumni Game, held in conjunction with the 2010 and 20th annual Roger Haas Youth Basketball Tournament. Hansen, one of the original organizers of the tournament and a volunteer and organizer with several other youth activities in Yankton, passed away on Monday at the age of 59.

# Hansen Leaves Legacy Of Selfless Volunteering For Yankton's Youth

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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From being at the ground level of youth programs in both basketball and football in Yankton, or coaching his own children in sports, Dale "Ole" Hansen brought a tireless dedication to whatever he put himself in.



Hansen

On early Monday morning, the "Energizer Bunny" of Yankton youth activities passed away at the age of 59.

Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. today (Wednesday) at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory in Yankton, with a rosary at 7 p.m., followed by a video tribute and a Scripture service. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church.

There will also be an event hon-

**"His enthusiasm was contagious. What a great person to have on your side. You'd look at all the energy he spent on what he believed in, and how could you not be motivated to do the best you could as well."**

**CHUCK IVERSON, MMC AD, FORMER YBI BOARD MEMBER ON DALE 'OLE' HANSEN**

oring Hansen at the Yankton Bucks' second home football game of the season, Sept. 13 against Brandon Valley. More information on that event will be released prior to the event.

Hansen helped build the framework of the Jaycees' Junior Leader football program, then was a founding member of the Roger Haas Youth Basketball Tournament. Besides his involvement with the Jaycees and Yankton Basketball, Inc., the group that runs the Haas Tournament, he

was also a member of the Optimist Club, the Yankton High School Adult Athletic Booster Club and Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

"We called him the 'Energizer Bunny.' He would just go and go," said Tom Stotz, who served on several committees with Hansen. "He always had the kids in mind, and not only his own kids. After his kids were graduated, he continued to be a force for youth sports in Yankton."

The 1972 Hurley High School graduate had a "nervous energy,"

which he focused on helping others, said fellow Jaycee and longtime friend Dick Kulbel.

"Ole lived for volunteering," he said. "He always had to be doing something."

The Jaycees also connected Hansen with another longtime friend, Doug Nelson. Not long after, the two helped start what would turn into one of the largest youth events in Yankton, the Roger Haas Tournament. Early on in that process, they connected with Milo "Buddy" Hovland, an Optimist member who was new to Yankton at the time.

"They needed help with insurance for the tournament, and I was appointed to meet with Ole and Doug," Hovland said. "I got to know both of them that night, and it escalated from there. That first year turned into 23 years of doing the tournament."

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## Marathon Responders, War Vets Play At Fenway

BOSTON (AP) — Josh Wege stepped into the pitch and smacked the neon yellow softball off the Green Monster, churning his carbon fiber prosthetic legs as he rounded first base and headed for second. Eight-year-old Shaun McLaughlin, with an artificial leg of his own, ran out to retrieve the bat.

One night after the Red Sox and Yankees played another of their four-hour grudge matches, Fenway Park was friendly again, hosting a softball game between the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team and a group of Boston Marathon first responders to raise money for victims of the April 15 attacks.

"When we heard about what happened, we just knew it was the right match," said David Van Sleet, an army veteran who is the founder and general manager of the team. "We get a lot of attention, but this is something special we can do for them."

About 700 people, many of them wearing "Boston Strong" T-shirts, showed up on a night the Red Sox were on the road to hang out in baseball's oldest ballpark. The event raised \$4,001 in cash donations stuffed into boxes at the gates; it will go to The One Fund, the charity established to help victims of the Boston Marathon bombing.

The team of military veterans received a two-minute standing ovation when they were honored before Sunday night's game between Boston and New York. The first responders included five police officers, five firefighters and five members of the Emergency Medical Services.

McLaughlin, who was born without his right leg, served as the Wounded Warriors bat boy.

"At this age, I don't think he understands," said his mother, Sara, "that these are the true heroes, not the Red Sox and Yankees."

Pitcher Todd Reed, 52, a native of Newton, Mass., who stepped on a land mine while on patrol in northern Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, sported a Red Sox logo on his prosthetic right leg. Everyone else on the team is younger and enlisted after the Sept. 11 attacks.

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## Knights Sweep Yankton In Opener

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Gazelles girls' softball team opened the 2013 season with a pair of losses to Sioux Falls O'Gorman on Monday at Sherman Park.

Jaelyn Arens had a hit and a RBI, and Heather Hauer had a hit and a run scored for Yankton in the opener, a 3-1 decision. Bailey Kortan had the other Yankton hit.

Arens took the loss, allowing three earned runs on six hits.

In the nightcap, a 14-2 O'Gorman win, Brooke Loecker led Yankton with a triple and a RBI. Kalyn Peterka posted a double and a RBI. Hauer and Andi Sprakel added hits.

Peterka took the loss, with Madison Dangler pitching in relief.

## JV: Yankton 12-11, Washington 8-6

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Gazelles JV softball team scored 23 runs in a doubleheader sweep of Sioux Falls Washington on Monday.

In the opener, a 12-8 Yankton win, Lexie McCorkell had two hits, including a triple, and Maddie Henrickson had two hits and a RBI to lead Yankton. Alisa Ruzicka had a hit and a RBI. Bailey Peterka, Elizabeth Suing, Merlye Mason and Danielle Dvorak also had hits. Savannah Steffen drove in a run in the win.

Peterka struck out two batters and McCorkell one batter, each pitching two innings.

In Yankton's 11-6 nightcap victory, Suing and Dvorak each had a double, a single and two RBI to lead the way. McCorkell and Ruzicka each had a hit and a RBI. Mason had a hit and Alix Peterka added a RBI in the victory.

Bailey Peterka struck out three batters in two innings of work. McCorkell also pitched two innings.

## Bucks Bounce Lynx 3-1 To Stay Unbeaten

The Yankton Bucks scored two second-half goals to down Brandon Valley 3-1 in boys' soccer action on Tuesday at the Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex in Yankton.

Yankton took an early lead on an Osmar Pacheco goal, the lone score of the first half for either team.

Brandon Valley tied the match at one when Jordan Henderson scored off a corner kick, 15 minutes into the second half. Five minutes later, Yankton's Dylan Becker put the Bucks ahead for good. Treyson Slate iced the victory with a goal off a Pacheco pass late in the match.

Landon Breen stopped two shots in goal for Yankton, which had a 20-2 edge in shots on goal.

The Bucks host Sioux Falls Roosevelt on Saturday. Start time for the varsity match is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Lewis & Clark.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton's Chipper Granfiaten, left, rockets a shot between Brandon Valley defenders Riley Swenson, center, and Brock Hanson during their boys' soccer match Tuesday night at Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex. Yankton beat the Lynx 3-1 to improve to 2-0 on the season.

## Ex-Players Suing NFL Films

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Five Hall of Famers have filed a class-action suit to reclaim payment from the NFL and NFL Films for the use of their names, likenesses and images without the players' consent.

The case was filed in U.S. District Court in New Jersey on Tuesday on behalf of a group that includes Dave Casper, Curley Culp, Tom Mack, John

Riggins and Ron Yary.

The complaint contends that NFL Films has been the "backbone" of the league's NFL Network and that the league and its production arm have been using footage of past games without the consent of the players. They also claim that the NFL sells hundreds of different NFL Films promotional materials at retail outlets, in catalogs and online.