

## NEWS FROM THE KANSAS SHRINE BOWL

# Kansas Shrine Bowl

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## More Than Just a Game: Shriners, Boone gear up for 40<sup>th</sup> Kansas Shrine Bowl

It may be reaching 40, but unlike its human counterparts, the Kansas Shrine Bowl is showing no signs of slowing down.

In fact, the state's oldest annual all-star game of any sport may be picking up speed as it approaches the 40th renewal of the East vs. West Rivalry that marks the unofficial beginning of the football season in Kansas by showcasing the state's outstanding recently-graduated football talent. This year's game will be played in Topeka for the first time since the year 2000, and is set for kickoff at 7:00 pm on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at Washburn University's Yager Stadium.

Kansas Shrine Bowl Executive Director Jeff Boone says the event has become "more than just a game". "Shrine Bowl week encompasses an ever-expanding package of events that have become part of the Shrine Bowl experience", he says.

This year, a major highlight will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Kansas Shrine Bowl Motorcycle Bike Show, which will be held from 11 to 3 at Topeka Harley Davidson, just a few blocks from Washburn University. The event will include trophies in each bike class, with awards to be presented during halftime. The event is open to anyone who has a bike to display. More information is available on the Kansas Shrine Bowl web site,

[www.kansasshrinebowl.com](http://www.kansasshrinebowl.com).

For those who prefer “foot power” to “horse power”, there’s an open 2-mile road race that will be held in conjunction with the annual Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Cross-Country run. Road racers will be timed separately from the Cross Country participants, and will be given awards in 13 male and 13 female categories. The road race will begin shortly before the game and finish at Yager Stadium during the televised pregame show leading up to the game. Early finishers will be televised.

Other public events will include the annual Shrine Bowl Parade, the largest Shrine Parade in Kansas. This year’s parade will run some 13 blocks in downtown Topeka beginning at 10 am, and will feature Shrine parade units from across Kansas, the players and coaches, and the All-State Masonic Band, comprised of up to 200 of the state’s best high school musicians, who will also perform during pregame and at halftime of the Shrine Bowl later that day.

There’s even an event that enables budding football talent to receive evaluation of their skills and some expert instruction. The Kansas Shrine Bowl Combine and Clinic measures, times, and evaluates high school players, then posts the data on the Shrine Bowl website for use by their coaches, college recruiters, and the players themselves. The event will be conducted by Simoneau Sports Performance, a company run by former Shrine Bowl player and Kansas State University star Mark Simoneau, who had a 10-year NFL career. Players wishing to sign up for the combine can do so through the Shrine Bowl web site.

For Boone, who took over the Executive Director’s position in March, it’s been quite a learning curve to “get up to speed” on all of the Shrine Bowl activities. Boone was selected to lead the Shrine Bowl when former director Drew Gaschler resigned to accept a position in another state. “There are a lot of moving parts to the Shrine Bowl”, says Boone. “People think first and foremost of the game, but there’s a lot more than that. It’s been fun trying to get everything put together. It’s been a challenge, but a fun challenge.”

All Shrine Bowl events are produced and presented to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children [SHC]. SHC is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to the age of 18 are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

The 40<sup>th</sup> annual Kansas Shrine Bowl will be played Saturday, July 27th, 2012, in Topeka at Yager Stadium on the Washburn University campus. Kickoff will be at 7:00 pm. Tickets and additional information are available at [www.kansasshrinebowl.com](http://www.kansasshrinebowl.com) or by calling 800-530-5524.