



For Immediate Release: April 11, 2016

Nancy Besa, Besa Public Relations
816-674-4775 Nancy@BesaPR.com

**Men and Women compete April 15-17
at 37th Annual K-State Ed Chartrand Memorial Soccer Tournament**

Organizers continue to focus on significance of World War I Memorial Stadium and efforts to rededicate it to fallen K-State soldiers.

(Manhattan, Kans.) --- College soccer teams from across the Midwest will compete in the 37th Annual K-State Ed Chartrand Memorial Soccer Tournament, April 15-17 in Manhattan, KS.

Kansas State University's WWI Memorial Stadium will serve as headquarters for the tournament with games being played there as well as Anneberg Park. 2016 marks the first year to feature exhibition games by K-State's new varsity women's team under Coach Mike Dibbini.

Other teams competing this year include both men and women from Kansas State, Truman State University, Ball State, Sam Houston University, University of Kansas, Creighton University, Texas Tech University, Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, Central Michigan State, St. Louis University and University of Illinois. Games begin Friday night at 5:00 PM and continue all day Saturday and Sunday. You may view the final schedule as well as updates at www.chartrandsoccer.com

The games are a partnership between K-State, the Chartrand Charitable Foundation [see www.chartrandfoundation.org] and the 1st Infantry, 5th Field Artillery Division of Ft. Riley. Memorial Stadium was constructed in the 1920's and dedicated in 1929 in honor the "48 Fallen" K-State students who sacrificed their lives World War I. The Chartrand Charitable Foundation, based in Lenexa, Kans., provides sports equipment to underserved programs and organizations serving youth not only in Kansas, but also throughout the world.

“We are one of the finest and longest athletic traditions at K-State and in the Midwest,” Art Chartrand, president of the Chartrand Charitable Foundation, said. “The tournament showcases not only incredible soccer action, but a chance to honor the WWI Memorial where we are fortunate to play. Additionally, we are excited to be working with the University and new student leadership in order to rededicate the stadium in honor the students it was built by and for and solidify it as home to K-State soccer.”

The proud partnership between the military and the tournament began in 1979 when a team of soldiers from Ft. Riley competed in the inaugural, Ed Chartrand Tournament. Several years ago, they engaged again and are very invested in the tournament’s continued success.

“The tournament itself is an ambitious learning program for students to be involved in event management and sports development,” Dennis Cook, tournament director said. “Andrew Franchett, a K-State senior and team president deserves great credit for leading the program.”

The Chartrand Charitable Foundation annually awards a scholarship to a member of both the men and women’s K-State Clubs each at the tournament. Last year marked the inaugural *Dennis Cook MVP Award*. The highly coveted award recognizes Cook, a Manhattan resident and K-State graduate, who has served as tournament director for 36 years.

The tournament is held in memory of Ed “Fast Eddy” Chartrand, a former K-State soccer player from Leawood, Kans. who died suddenly at the age of twenty-two the night before his graduation in 1979. The Chartrand Charitable Foundation and private donors primarily fund the K-State Ed Chartrand Memorial Tournament and its scholarship program.

For more information on the tournament, pictures, rules and history, visit www.chartrandsoccer.com or follow us on Facebook at K-State Ed Chartrand Memorial Soccer Tournament.