

xFor Immediate Release: April 10, 2018

Contacts:

**Dennis Cook, Tournament Director**

C: 785.565.1908

**Nancy Chartrand, Media Relations**

C: 816-674-4775

Nancy@ BesaPR.com

## **K-State Ed Chartrand Memorial Soccer Tournament to Celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary This Weekend**

*April 12-14 | K-State's Historic World War I Memorial Stadium*

**Manhattan, Kan.** – The year 1979 was a big year for firsts. The first Happy Meal was sold for \$1.10 at McDonalds; the first Walkman was sold by Sony for \$200; and the first K-State-Ed Chartrand Memorial Soccer Tournament was played for family and the love of soccer.

Forty years later, soccer teams from across the Midwest will once again gather, this weekend, April 12-14, on the K-State campus to continue the tradition at the 40th Annual K-State Ed Chartrand Memorial Soccer Tournament. All games are free and open to the public. Games will be played on campus at the WWI Memorial Stadium, tournament headquarters, and Frank Anneberg Park. Games begin Friday, April 12th at 5 pm and continue all day Saturday. Championship trophies will be presented after the Sunday 11:30 am women's championship, and 1:15 pm men's championship games at Memorial Stadium.

Men's teams competing this year include: K-State, University of Kansas, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Truman State University, Texas A & M University and Pittsburg State University.

Women's teams include: K-State, University of Kansas, Creighton University, Truman State University and Washington University. The tournament is a partnership between K-State, the Chartrand Charitable Foundation and the 1st Infantry, 5th Field Artillery Division of Ft. Riley.

"College students are great, but let me tell you it takes a special person to motivate a group of college guys on a club team to even consider starting their own soccer tournament, here at K-State in 1979, the person was Ed Chartrand," Dennis Cook, tournament director said.

From 1974 to 1978, Ed "Fast Eddy" Chartrand played left wing on the K-State Soccer Club. As a club sport in the 70's, well before soccer fever was still luke-warm in the United States, Chartrand dedicated himself to making sure soccer had its place on the K-State campus and

beyond. He painted posters to promote games, helped stage a 24-hour soccer marathon fundraiser and often lined the fields before each game using a bag of lime and a milk carton as a makeshift spreader. His dedication and hard work were only rivaled by his general likability and ability to motivate. The only thing that stopped him, was his sudden death at the age of twenty-two, just hours before his own commencement ceremonies at K-State.

“Ed Chartrand WAS the soccer program at K-State,” Cook said. “I have been tournament director for 39 years and I never even met Ed. That tells you something about Ed. I took a break from K-State his freshman year and didn’t return until the fall after he died. The guys who had played with Ed felt the type of void you generally only feel for a family member and that really moved me. They decided the best way to honor him would be to continue promoting soccer, so we held a tournament that fall. We only had three teams - K-State, Iowa State and Ft. Riley. It was a still a lot of work for a bunch of college guys so much, I thought it would be one and done. But with the support of the Chartrand family, generations of soccer players, and K-State, this year we celebrate forty years as one of the top tournaments in the region.”

Annually the Chartrand Foundation awards a \$500 scholarship to a member of the men’s and women’s K-State Soccer Clubs. Recipients of the 2019 scholarships are Jackson Ralston, senior from Overland Park studying Animal Science & Industry Pre-Vet and Morgan Strader, a junior from Olathe studying biology.

“It is our mission to expand the opportunities for young soccer players to play quality soccer and be afforded scholarships to assist them in pursuing their education,” Art Chartrand, president, Chartrand Charitable Foundation, said.

To view a game schedule please visit [www.chartrandsoccer.com/tournament/game-schedules/](http://www.chartrandsoccer.com/tournament/game-schedules/)  
Other tournament information and history is available at [www.chartrandsoccer.com](http://www.chartrandsoccer.com)