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K-State Ed Chartrand Memorial Soccer Tournament to Celebrate 41st Anniversary This Weekend

April 08-09 | at 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 three years later, soccer teams from across the Midwest will once again gather, this weekend, April 08-09, on the K-State campus to continue the tradition at the 41st 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 08 th at 6 pm and continue all day Saturday. A championship and awards party will be held at Tubby's Sports Bar in Aggieville Saturday night beginning at 7 PM for all teams and referees.

- Men's and women's college teams from K-State, Univ of Nebraska, Creighton, Mankato State, Truman State and Univ of Kansas all compete this year after two years off due to Covid restrictions. The tournament is a partnership between K-State, the Chartrand Charitable Foundation, Ft.Riley and local military groups .

“We have been playing this tournament to support students, college soccer and honor the memory of Ed Chartrand who played here back in the mid 1970's. A bunch college guys on a club team to even consider starting their own soccer tournament, here at K- State in 1979 was pretty ambitious. 43 years later we are still kicking” said Dennis Cook, tournament director.

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, soccer popularity was pretty scarce 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 often using no more than 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 43 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 three years as one of the top tournaments in the region.”

Annually the Chartrand Foundation awards scholarships to a member of both the men’s and women’s K-State Soccer Clubs. Recipients of the 2022 scholarships are **Payton DeMeyer from Buhler High School in Hutchinson Kansas**, a junior in Communications Sciences and **David Heating from Olathe Northwest High School**, a junior in Finance and Accounting.

“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,” said Art Chartrand, president of the Chartrand Charitable Foundation.

To view a game schedule and all other tournament information, go to www.chartrandsoccer.com