

# Voters can send Overbook native to Super Bowl

**Daniel Davis**  
For The Republican

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — As the Kansas City Chiefs pulled off a record-breaking comeback Sunday, Janel Carbajo and her family were watching from the same Arrowhead seats they have every year. The Overbook native and season ticket holder is so enthusiastic for her team that she was nominated by Chiefs Hall-of-Famer Will Shields for the Ford Hall of Fans. The competition, which runs until Jan. 27, will send three of six contestants to the 2020 Super Bowl Feb. 2. in Miami.

Carbajo also stands to win the grand prize of Super Bowl tickets plus a trip to Canton, Ohio, at the end of July for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Week.

Carbajo and her husband, Tom, have been Chiefs fans since before they were married 32 years ago. Both are retired schoolteachers from Spring Hill Unified School District 230.

"The year before we got married, we found an ad in the Kansas City Star for two tickets," Carbajo said. "When we started having kids, we just acquired more tickets."

This season, stardom struck. She was notified she had been nominated for the competition and was asked if judges could visit her home for the preliminary round.

"They were here for about eight minutes then they asked if they could come back around 8 a.m. the next morning," Carbajo said. When they returned, they surprised her with a "huge camera and Will Shields" himself.

For Carbajo, it is an unimaginable achievement. As a young girl, she grew up watching Chiefs games with her father during the era of Len Dawson and Otis Taylor. Her favor-



Photo submitted  
The Carbajos support the Kansas City Chiefs during a divisional matchup against the Oakland Raiders. Janel Carbajo was nominated for the Ford Hall of Fans and has a chance to attend the Super Bowl. The Carbajos include, from left, Kaden, Janel, Kelsey, Macy and Tom.

ite Chief, however, was Jan Stenerud, kicker. Although Carbajo watched them win the 1970 Super Bowl, she has remained loyal even when times have not been as great.

Rain or shine, come Sunday she will be at Arrowhead, in Section 116. Since Shields nominated her, she has enjoyed stardom within the Chiefs community. Between asking strangers at the grocery store for votes, to fielding calls for interviews, little could have prepared her for the opportunity before her now.

"I thought 'Oh my gosh, I'm representing Chiefs fans everywhere,'" Carbajo said. "It didn't really hit me until about three or four weeks ago. I had a guy, he's a PR guy from New York call me. He's trying to set up all these interviews for me."

She attributed her newfound notoriety to longevity, advantageous seating and her puppets.

Her family's seats often lead to the Carbajos being featured

on the jumbotron. She began taking puppets to the games almost as soon as she had season tickets. It started with her putting a Chiefs mini helmet on a Sylvester Stallone boxing puppet that Tom brought her to occupy her then 2-year-old daughter, but evolved into something more.

"Then I realized we got on the big screen with this and my husband got another," Carbajo recalled. "I thought it would be fun with an opposing helmet. The puppet thing is just amusing."

At the divisional round playoff game Sunday versus the Texans, Carbajo said she cried three times.

"I was just so sick to think this is how we're going to finish," she said, recalling the 21-point first-quarter deficit. "That was the first time, then during the comeback, and finally when I stood, someone hit my chair and I thought I was going to fall."

Carbajo blamed the Chiefs' bye week on the slow start and suggested the timing looked off. She will remember the comeback, however, and how the Chiefs gave her a chance to see another championship game at Arrowhead.

"We didn't really know what hit us," she said, of the Chiefs' rally past Houston.

She said the experience of courting votes for the Ford Hall of Fans is exhausting at times.

"I could never be a politician — the campaign trail is rough."

Voting for the Ford Hall of Fans ends Jan. 27 and the three finalists will be announced Jan. 28 to prepare for a trip to the Super Bowl. By that time, she will know if the Chiefs are going, too (Carbajo predicts they will defeat the Titans 31-24 Jan. 19). To help send Carbajo, visit [fordhalloffans.com/football](http://fordhalloffans.com/football).

## Christian's CORNER

STATS FROM  
JANUARY 6-12

Games this past week:

Jan. 8: 79-53 win @ Iowa St.

24 minutes, 9 points, 3-6 FGs (3-4 on 3s), 0-0 FTs, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 0 steals, 0 blocks, 1 foul, and 0 turnovers

Jan. 11: 67-55 loss against Baylor

22 minutes, 4 points, 0-2 FGs (0-0 on 3s), 4-4 FTs, 2 rebounds, 0 assists, 0 steals, 0 blocks, 2 fouls, and 0 turnovers

Watch for updates each week.

Season averages:

14.4 MIN, 4.1 PT, 43% FGs, 41% 3s, 50% FTs, 2.4 REB, .6 AST, .2 BLK, .6 STL, 1.1 PF, & .4 TO



## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

### Burlington defeats Santa Fe Trail, Council Grove on Pack the House Night

BURLINGTON — The Burlington High School wrestling team hosted Santa Fe Trail and Council Grove for a double dual Thursday, Jan. 9. The event served as the team's annual Pack the House Night, and each varsity wrestler selected an honorary coach to sit matside with the team's coaches and provide them support during their matches.

The varsity boys' team wrestled a dual against each of the visiting teams. The Wildcats defeated Santa Fe Trail 41-27, winning eight of the dual's 14 matches, and Council Grove 47-30, winning nine of the dual's 14 matches.

Individually, Tucker Williams, Mitch Broyles, Caedon Berkenmeier, Collin Birk, Damon Hoback and Cael Johnson all went 2-0 on the night. Owen McManus, Johnathon Williams, TT Totty, Eli Crutchfield and Brock Zimmerman all went 1-1. Wayne Rohrer, Shawn Crouch and Sam Griffin each went 0-2.

Girls' and junior varsity matches were also held. In the girls' matches, Burlington wrestlers won five of the eight matches in which they competed. Carlee Broyles went 2-0. M.J. Huff, E'owynn Codney and Matti Huff each went 1-0 and Kamron Clay, Mikayla Meierhoff and Chrissy Hall each went 0-1.

In JV matches, Burlington wrestlers won seven of the

15 matches in which they competed. Tristan Devening, Jaden Majors, Tyler Kirkby, Derek Jesse and Taven Clay each went 1-0. Gage Shetler and Shalonn Wright each went 1-1 and Javier Malumbres, Tremaine Boyle, Daniel Bartley, Alex Edwards, Garreth Palmer and Shawn Crouch each went 0-1.

The varsity, girls' and JV teams were all in action at Fort Scott Tuesday, Jan. 14. All will be back in action Thursday, Jan. 16, when they host Chanute for matches beginning at 5:30 p.m.

#### Burlington Double Dual

**Burlington 41, Santa Fe Trail 27**  
106 — Tucker Williams (BHS) over Ian Meisbach (SFTS), Fall 2:42; 113 — Owen McManus (BHS) over Cody Black (SFTS), Fall 3:57; 120 — Mitch Broyles (BHS) over Robbie Page (SFTS), Fall 2:33; 126 — Johnathon Williams (BHS) over Alex Conus (SFTS), Dec 14-9; 132 — Christian Rowe (SFTS) over TT Totty (BHS), Dec 4-0; 138 — Caedon Berkenmeier (BHS) over Chris Meyer (SFTS), Fall 0:16; 145 — Collin Birk (BHS) over Noah Claycomb (SFTS), Fall 0:19; 152 — Damon Hoback (BHS) over Zach Jaannerette (SFTS), Dec 8-3; 160 — Cael Johnson (BHS) over Stephan Roberts (SFTS), T-Fall 15:0; 170 — Dakota Garrison (SFTS) over Eli Crutchfield (BHS), Dec 6-2; 182 — Mason Shore (SFTS) over Brock Zimmerman (BHS), Dec 9-7; 195 — Wyatt Rogers (SFTS) over Wayne Rohrer (BHS), Fall 0:33; 220 — Raedon Ard (SFTS) over Shawn Crouch (BHS), Fall 0:47; 285 — Evan Dean (SFTS) over Sam Griffin (BHS), Fall 1:21.

#### Burlington 47, Council Grove 30

106 — Tucker Williams (BHS) over Tyler Rodgers (CGHS), Dec 11-4; 113 — Jesse Rodgers (CGHS) over Owen McManus (BHS), Fall 1:16; 120 — Mitch Broyles (BHS) over Jacob Goodman (CGHS), Dec 4-3; 126 — Wyatt Johnson (CGHS) over Johnathon Williams

(BHS), Fall 3:22; 132 — TT Totty (BHS) over Isaiah Smith (CGHS), Fall 1:10; 138 — Caedon Berkenmeier (BHS) over Collan Tiffany (CGHS), Fall 2:54; 145 — Collin Birk (BHS) over Zac Mccra (CGHS), Fall 0:12; 152 — Damon Hoback (BHS) over Christian Linares (CGHS), Fall 0:27; 160 — Cael Johnson (BHS) over Korbin White (CGHS), Fall 0:09; 170 — Eli Crutchfield (BHS) over Jolie Ziegler (CGHS), Fall 0:09; 182 — Brock Zimmerman (BHS) over Ethan Craigie (CGHS), T-Fall 18-2; 195 — Matthew Maxson (CGHS) over Wayne Rohrer (BHS), Fall 0:28; 220 — Garrett Gordon (CGHS) over Shawn Crouch (BHS), Fall 5:13; 285 — Hunter Marsh (CGHS) over Sam Griffin (BHS), Fall 0:59.

#### Girls' Matches

106 — M.J. Huff (BHS) over Hayvn Thornhill (CGHS), Fall 0:26; 113 — E'owynn Codney (BHS) over Haley Somchay (SFTS), Fall 4:27; 113 — Carlee Broyles (BHS) over Marcie Wells (CGHS), Fall 0:45; 113 — Carlee Broyles (BHS) over Abby Allen (CGHS), Fall 3:03; 132 — Matti Huff (BHS) over Alyssa Winsler (SFTS), Fall 1:47; 138 — Alyssa Winsler (SFTS) over Kamron Clay (BHS), Fall 6:06; 145 — Kilee Waters (SFTS) over Mikayla Meierhoff (BHS), Fall 0:50; 170 — Zolie Ziegler (CGHS) over Chrissy Hall (BHS), Fall 0:24.

#### JV Matches

113 — Joey Andres (CGHS) over Javier Malumbres (BHS), Fall 0:56; 113 — Joey Andres (CGHS) over Tremaine Boyle (BHS), Fall 0:32; 120 — Tristan Devening (BHS) over Joey Andres (CGHS), Fall 1:32; 126 — Chance Corgill (CGHS) over Gage Shetler (BHS), Fall 5:27; 126 — Gage Shetler (BHS) over Bradley Eldridge (CGHS), Fall 1:22; 138 — Colton Bacon (CGHS) over Daniel Bartley (BHS), Fall 1:18; 152 — Jaden Majors (BHS) over Thomas Baughman (SFTS), Fall 2:15; 152 — Tyler Kirkby (BHS) over Thomas Baughman (SFTS), Fall 0:44; 152 — Derek Jesse (BHS) over Thomas Baughman (SFTS), Fall 0:26; 160 — Shalonn Wright (BHS) over Aiden Slavin (SFTS), Dec 7-3; 160 — Aiden Slavin (SFTS) over Alex Edwards (BHS), Fall 0:22; 160 — Austin Michalis (SFTS) over Shalonn Wright (BHS), Fall 1:41; 170 — Aiden Slavin (SFTS) over Garreth Palmer (BHS), Fall 1:14; 220 — Toby Cobb (CGHS) over Shawn Crouch (BHS), Fall 1:33; 285 — Taven Clay (BHS) over Toby Cobb (CGHS), Fall 1:48.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

### Wildcats, Lady Cats edged by Eureka

EUREKA — The Burlington High School basketball teams traveled to Eureka to take on their former Tri-Valley League rivals, the Eureka High School Tornadoes, in basketball action Tuesday, Jan. 7. Both the girls' and boys' games were also a rematch of the 2019 Class 3A substitute championship games. Those games were also held in Eureka, with the host team winning the girls' game by three points, 52-49, and the boys' by six, 64-58. On Jan. 7, the host team again won both games, but both were much closer, with Eureka winning by just one point.

In the girls' game, the Lady Wildcats had a one-point lead after the first quarter, but Eureka erased it in the second quarter, putting up 12 points to Burlington's 10. The Lady Wildcats were on the lower end of a 20-19 score at halftime. A sluggish third quarter saw Burlington outscored 16-5.

"We have been striving for consistency this year," Burlington coach Doug Stewart said. "We have played well in most of our games but seem to have a letdown at some point. Tuesday night, it was the third quarter. We got out early and played well. Our lead was as many as eight in the first quarter. They closed the gap, and at the start of the third quarter, we had trouble getting into our offense. Our defense continued to be good enough to keep them from getting too big of a lead, but we struggled scoring. I think the lead got up to around 14 at one point.

The Lady Wildcats battled their way back in the final quarter, topping Eureka 17-6, but came up just short of the win, 42-41.

"Our run started with a Myka Watkins three-point play," Stewart said. "That seemed to get us going. Harlee Young hit a couple of big threes, and our press started turning them over. We had the ball with seven seconds and got a pretty good look inside that just didn't roll our way. Our defense was solid all night. We rebounded well and didn't turn it over much versus their press. We were only three of 11 from the free throw line and that ended up being the difference."

As a team, the Lady Wildcats bucketed 18 field goals, two of them treys, for 38 points. Eureka hit 15 field goals, five of them threes, for 35 points. However, while Burlington went three for 11 at the free throw line, Eureka went seven for 11.

Individually, Burlington was led by Caydence Doebele with 15 points. Young finished just shy of double digits with nine points and Watkins added five.

"I'm really proud of the grit we showed," Stewart said. "These kids will not give up, and consistency is not far away for this group. Eureka is a very good ball team, and we had our chances."

In other stats, Doebele led on the boards and recorded a double-double with 11 rebounds. Watkins pulled down five rebounds and Abby Dunn and Josie Fejfar each caught three. Watkins led in assists with five, followed by Fejfar with three and Grace Hess with two. Watkins and Doebele each made two steals and Hess and Dunn each made one. Dunn and Young each had a block.

The Wildcats and Tornadoes traded points in the first quarter of the boys' game and were tied, 11-11, going into the

second. Burlington claimed the lead and was on top, 23-18, at the half. In the second half, Eureka started to chip away at Burlington's lead, outscoring the Wildcats 13-10 in the third quarter. The Wildcats held a 33-31 lead at the beginning of the final quarter. However, they were unable to hold on to it, as Eureka again put up 13 points to Burlington's 10. The Wildcats took the narrow loss, 44-43.

Brennan Brown led the Wildcats' attack, finishing with 14 points. Noah Smith was just behind him with 13. Trevr Bahr and Andrew Haselhuhn each added five.

Burlington's Pioneer League games against Santa Fe Trail, originally scheduled for Friday, Jan. 10, were postponed due to weather and will now be played 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at Carbondale. The Wildcats and Lady Wildcats also played home games against Osawatomie Tuesday, Jan. 14. Following the games against Santa Fe Trail, the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats will return home to host the Burlington Invitational Tournament, with games to be held Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, January 21, 24 and 25.

#### Eureka 42, Burlington 41

Eureka 8 12 16 6-42  
Burlington 9 10 5 17-41  
Eureka — Ch. Ptacek 5 (4) 3-3 17, Perrier 4 3-4 11, B. Ptacek 4 0-2 8, Miller 1 (1) 1-2 4, Escareno 1 0-0 2. Totals 15 (5) 7-11 42.  
Burlington — Doebele 7 1-4 15, Young 3 (2) 1-1 9, Watkins 2 1-3 5, Dunn 2 0-0 4, Fejfar 2 0-0 4, Hess 2 0-3 4. Totals 18 (2) 3-11 41.

#### Eureka 44, Burlington 43

Eureka 11 7 13 13-44  
Burlington 11 12 10 10-43  
Eureka — Brooks 6 3-3 15, Koehler 4 (1) 2-3 11, Crisswell 3 4-6 10, Mead 3 0-0 6, Rucker 1 0-0 2. Totals 17 (1) 9-12 44.  
Burlington — Brown 6 (2) 0-0 14, N. Smith 4 (3) 2-3 13, Bahr 2 1-5 5, Haselhuhn 2 (1) 0-0 5, Sloyer 2 0-1 4, Payer 1 0-0 2. Totals 17 (6) 3-9 43.

We will be closed Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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