

KU official looks into possibility of hiring sports psychologist

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It's a good thing Monte Johnson is an organized fellow.

All summer long, the Kansas University athletic director has been busy flip-flopping to booster meetings across the state, while, at the same time, working on projects in Kansas University's athletic department.

What's been happening lately?

Well, the last of 21 booster meetings was held Wednesday night in Topeka. And, on the subject of upcoming projects . . .

KU is looking into the possibility of hiring Kansas City based Dr. Andrew Jacobs as a

sports psychologist. Johnson will meet with Jacobs when he returns to the area. Jacobs' work takes him across the country.

"Last year, some of the non-revenue sports people worked with him and had nothing but good things to report," said Johnson. "He did some work for us last year on both a volunteer and partly compensated basis.

"HE'S HELPED athletes in the area of concentration and self-esteem. He'd be available to all athletes," Johnson added.

"He'd have an office in the Fieldhouse or Sports Complex (new facility to be built) on campus and come in a couple times a week

to talk about anything.

"He's worked in Olympic camps with athletes and has a good reputation. When he gets back Sept. 5, we'll finalize arrangements."

Johnson said a sports psychologist might also work in discussions concerning the growing problem of drug use among athletes, most recently brought to light at the Pan American Games, where several athletes were caught using illegal drugs, such as steroids.

"That partly falls in the area of Dr. Jacobs and Mike Fisher (academic adviser). He (Fisher) has worked in the area of drug

counseling. Our work has been of a preventative nature in the area of drug counseling."

In other words, the Jayhawk athletic department has not tested athletes to determine whether they were using drugs. But would the department consider such tests, as the Olympic committee is proposing to do more of in the future?

"I think that would depend," Johnson said. "To my knowledge we have had no problems. If our sports medicine people, Dr. (David) Hiebert, Dean Nesmith and Lynn Bott (trainers) brought something to our attention, we would support them. We have a

competent medical team headed by Dr. Hiebert."

ON ONE other subject, it's full-steam ahead on the remodeling of the basketball dressing facility. Johnson did not wish to comment on the cost of the measure, but it's believed to be around \$75,000.

"This is something Ted (Owens) worked on a year or so ago, but because of other commitments it never got off the ground," Johnson said.

"We're going to finalize plans in the near future. It's needed — for both a psychological benefit and recruiting advantage. We have one person at this point willing to help with a donation."