

MULES FACE RUGGED NON-CONFERENCE BASKETBALL SLATE

WARRENSBURG, MO (June 19, 2002) – A meeting with Division I powerhouse Kansas highlights the Central Missouri State men’s 2002-2003 basketball schedule released today. The Mules will face the Jayhawks at historic Allen Field House in Lawrence on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m. Kansas was 33-4 last season and reached The Final Four before falling to Maryland in the national semi-finals. The Dec. 4 game will count as a regular-season contest for both schools. It will be the Mules’ first against a Division I foe since the 1993-94 season, when they pushed Missouri to the wire before falling 69-66 at Columbia. The last time the Mules faced Kansas was in the 1991-92 season, with the Jayhawks winning 83-54 at Lawrence.

The Mules will make their season debut under first-year coach Kim Anderson at home on Saturday, Nov. 23 against Division III Monmouth (Ill.). In addition to the daunting task of facing Kansas, the Mules will play two games at the St. Mary’s Classic Nov. 29-30 in San Antonio, Texas, and two games at the High Desert Classic Dec. 14-15 in Las Vegas. The Mules’ other non-conference games will be Nov. 25 at home against Westminster, Dec. 7 at Lincoln and Dec. 18 at home against Rockhurst.

The rugged 18-game MIAA portion of the season gets started earlier than usual, with a Dec. 30 MIAA opener at home against Truman State. The MIAA Postseason Tournament also will take on a new look, with the eight qualifying teams all playing at Kansas City’s Municipal Auditorium Mar. 6-9 rather than the previous format of playing at campus sites.

“In addition to the extremely tough MIAA schedule, we feel like we’ve assembled a non-conference slate that’s one of the toughest in Division II,” Anderson said. “You get better by playing good teams and we want to build a program our fans and the university are proud of.”