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**BILL SNYDER, CHAIR**

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## **Kansas undefeated for fifth year in Coaches' Mentoring Challenge**

*State recruits more than 4,000 new mentors*

TOPEKA, KS – Kansas' mentoring efforts were celebrated this week as the state was announced the winner of the 2012 Coaches' Mentoring Challenge, recruiting 4,385 new mentors.

The Coaches' Mentoring Challenge is intended to promote and encourage Kansans to become mentors, amongst the spirit of the college football season and neighborly state competition. Over the past five years, Kansas has recruited more than 23,000 new mentors during the Coaches' Challenge competitions.

In this year's Challenge, close to 7,500 new mentors were recruited across Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa - helping to close the mentoring gap in all three states. "Mentoring really can change lives," said University of Kansas Football Coach Charlie Weis. "The reality is that youth waiting for mentors will greatly benefit from having an adult, other than their parent, be a positive influence and role model."

"Mentoring is a cost-effective and proven intervention that not only provides a safe and positive role model for our youth, but gives individuals in our communities a way to support their young people," said Kansas State Football Coach Bill Snyder. "I want to thank the thousands of individuals who signed up to become a mentor and also the mentoring programs that work tirelessly to serve our youth."

Kansas Mentors, coordinator of the Challenge in Kansas, is partnered with more than 175 mentoring programs throughout the state. To view a list of programs or to sign up to mentor, visit the Kansas Mentors website at [www.kansasmentors.org](http://www.kansasmentors.org) or call 785-368-6211.

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