

By EARL WATT

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For 25 years, Brett Erkenbrack has been coaching one of the premier teams in the Jayhawk West at Cloud County. During that time, he has won a national championship and competed for the Jayhawk West title year in and year out.

And he believes the Jayhawk Conference has room for improvement starting with the new format of two home games in the Region 6 tournament before heading to Wichita.

“I don’t like that,” Erkenbrack said. “The two home games, I didn’t think it worked very well last year. It puts too much of an advantage into a team’s hands.”

The new tournament format allows the top four teams in the West to host the bottom four teams in the East, and the highest remaining seeds then host a second round game leaving only a final four to head to Wichita for the Region 6 finals.

Erkenbrack also didn’t believe that driving five hours one way on a school night was beneficial to the conference, either.

“We have a lot of things wrong with the conference and the region, and I’m not sure it is entirely fixable,” he said. “I am totally opposed to the idea of Cloud County having to travel to Liberal on a school night and have to play a 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. double header. I think that is completely ridiculous. None of it is about the student athlete at all.”

Erkenbrack: Jayhawk has some problems

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