**PRESS RELEASE**



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**Banner Year! Relive 2021-22, the Kansas Jayhawks’ NCAA Championship Season**

The 2021-22 basketball season is one that Kansas Jayhawk fans will cherish for years to come. To commemorate KU’s run to the NCAA Championship, Kansas Athletics and Ascend Books of Overland Park, Kansas, announce the publication of ***Banner Year: The Championship Season of the 2021-22 Kansas Jayhawks.***

 This one-of-a-kind, hard-cover, coffee-table book is the only KU-officially licensed chronicle of the championship season***. Banner Year*** is a limited-edition, 8.5-inch-by-10.5-inch, 160-page collector’s item that covers the entire 2021-22 season in unique ways no non-licensed book can. To make it truly unique, Kansas Athletics asked Brian Hanni, the “Voice of the Jayhawks,” to pen a rhythmic script based on the original poem he delivers at basketball’s annual season-ending banquet. Kansas also asked KU’s Hall of Fame Coach Bill Self to write the book’s foreword, and star forward David McCormack penned the afterword, a personal reflection on his four-year career as a Jayhawk.

Each copy of ***Banner Year*** is individually numbered in a limited edition of 10,000 copies. The book is packed with over 300 exclusive, dynamic, never-before-published photos by Kansas Athletics’ own photography staff, printed on 100# archival paper. The book also includes photos from the NCAA’s 2022 Final Four archives. The cover has an embossed, replica image of the 2022 NCAA Championship Banner which now hangs at Allen Fieldhouse.

“This book represents Kansas Basketball’s desire to create for its fans an official journal of a very special championship season,” Hanni said. “This is the only book where fans can read the thoughts of KU’s players and coaches describing not only what winning the NCAA championship meant to them but also their favorite moments of the season.

“You can feel the emotion – the pride – in the heartfelt comments of the players, coaches and staff as they recount what it meant to them to hang another National Championship banner in Allen Fieldhouse,” Hanni continued. “In reality this book contains a permanent record of what they accomplished in the 2021-22 season – in their own words.”

A sampling of player and staff quotes:

*Our guys left this program better than they found it. They’ll now be celebrated as one of*

*the most beloved teams in our program’s history. They were also the closest-knit group.*

*We’ve had some great teams, but I don’t think we’ve ever had a team closer than this team.*

 – Head Coach Bill Self

*I came back for this. To be on this stage in this moment. To lead my team to a win. That’s why I chose to come back.* – Consensus All-American Ochai Agbaji

*That was the most fun I’ve had in my life. I think I was born for that.* – Christian Braun, All-Big 12 Second Team

*Getting to add to the KU tradition is surreal. All the great players and teams that have come*

*through and left their mark – to be a part of that brotherhood is a real honor.* – Remy Martin, NCAA Midwest Regional MOP

About the Authors:

**Brian Hanni** is a sportscaster and writer in Lawrence, KS., where he broadcasts radio play-byplay of athletics events for his alma mater, the University of Kansas. In his sixth season as the “Voice of the Jayhawks,” Hanni had the privilege of calling KU’s 2022 National Championship run; his annual poetic season recap was the initial inspiration for this book. ***Banner Year*** is Hanni’s second book. It follows ***Game Maker***, a children’s book that delivers the inspiring true story of James Naismith as an ambitious and creative child who grew into the inventor of Basketball. While Hanni’s first love will always be behind the mic, he’s enjoyed crossing over into the written word as his story-telling style evolves.

**Bill Self** is one of the most accomplished coaches in the history of college basketball. A first-ballot inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, he has led Kansas to two NCAA National Championships, nine Elite Eights and four Final Fours. He has led Kansas to 16 Big 12 Conference regular-season titles, including an NCAA-record 14-straight between 2005 and 2018.

**David McCormack** is a two-time All-Big 12 selection who earned all-tournament honors at the Final Four and at the NCAA Midwest Regional. McCormack played in 132 games at KU, starting in 96 of them. He ended his career 46th on KU’s all-time scoring list with 1,145 career points. He finished 19th on the KU career rebound list with 681. McCormack is the 2022 Big 12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year (for all sports) and a three-time Academic All-Big 12 First Team honoree. He graduated from Kansas in three years with a Communications Studies degree in May 2021 and is near completion of his master’s degree in digital content strategy.

Title: ***Banner Year The Championship Season of the 2021-22 Kansas Jayhawks***

Author: Brian Hanni

Foreword: Kansas Head Coach Bill Self

Afterword: Kansas star forward David McCormack

Hardcover, 160 pages, 8.5 x 10.5 inches

ISBN: 979-8-9863584-1-3

***Banner Year*** is available at [www.kubanneryear.com](http://www.kubanneryear.com) and at many local retailers, including Rally House, Made in Kansas City, The University of Kansas Bookstore, The Raven Bookstore, Barnes & Noble, Rainy Day Books, The Green Door Bookstore, Books-A-Million at Legends, and Watermark Books (Wichita). Online retailers include Amazon (amazon.com) and Barnes & Noble (bn.com).

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