

Statistics could indicate long afternoon for Jayhawks

By Dennis Onnen

If statistics mean anything, the Kansas Jayhawks could be in for a long afternoon today.

After loosing such stars as quarterback Nolan Cromwell and halfback Laverne Smith to graduation, the Jayhawks have dipped to last in the Big 8 this year in passing offense (49.9 yards a game), total offense (264.2 yards a game) and scoring offense (11.1 points a game).

The only bright spot has been the rushing attack, led by fullback Norris Banks, who is averaging 58.8 yards a game and now stands fifth on the Kansas career rushing list.

Halfback Bill Campfield had the best individual effort for Kansas this year when he rushed for 128 yards against Oklahoma State, and his average of 8.1 yards a carry leads the team. At the other halfback is Max Ediger, who had a 71-yard touchdown run against Kansas State last week

and is tied with freshman split end David Verser for the team lead in receptions with seven.

Anchoring the offensive line is guard John Mascarello, a senior from Omaha Gross High School.

Quarterback has been an unsettled area for the Jayhawks. Mark Vicendese began fall camp in the top spot and had two touchdown passes before being switched to split end four games ago. Brian Bethke is now the starter and is backed up by freshmen Steve Smith and Jeff Hines.

Mike Hubach leads the Big 8 in punting with a 41.8-yard average and has been successful on all 12 extra point attempts this year.

On defense, the Jayhawks have had their problems, too. They rank sixth in the league in both total and scoring defense and have been particularly vulnerable against the run, giving up 248 yards a game.

Pacing the secondary is safety Tom Fitch, who leads

the league with five interceptions. In the 14-12 win over Washington State, he had two interceptions, returning one 75 yards for a touchdown and setting up the other Jayhawk score. Defensive end Tom Dinkel is the standout in the line.

Injuries and inexperience also have haunted the Jayhawks. Starters Franklin King at defensive tackle, Don Pile at linebacker and Greg Woods at offensive guard are all sidelined with knee injuries. The injuries have forced freshmen into prominent roles; 13 freshmen are now running on either the first or second team.

The Jayhawks stand seventh in the Big 8 with a 1-3-1 record and are 2-6-1 overall. They have beaten Washington State and Kansas State, tied Colorado and lost to Texas A&M, UCLA, Oklahoma, Miami (Fla.), Oklahoma State and Iowa State.

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