

Cowboys lead Big Eight winners

By Jim Rasmussen
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska opened the 1984 football season in fine fashion Saturday, as Big Eight teams won four and lost four games.

Big Eight Preview

Oklahoma State pulled the biggest surprise, blasting Arizona State 45-3 in Tempe to give new coach Pat Jones a successful debut.

The Cowboys thoroughly dominated the Sun Devils, who were ranked 12th in the nation before the game. The OSU offense rolled for 475 yards while holding Arizona State to just 214. The Cowboys host Bowling Green Saturday.

In other games, Oklahoma whipped Stanford 19-7, Kansas walloped Wichita State 31-7 and Nebraska downed Wyoming 42-7.

On the losing side for the Big Eight were Missouri, which fell 30-24 at Illinois; Colorado, which lost to Michigan State 24-21 at Boulder; Iowa State, a 59-21 loser at Iowa and Kansas State, which lost to Vanderbilt 26-14.

Mike Norseth threw two touchdown passes and Roger Mimbs rushed for 150 yards to lead

Kansas. The Jayhawks surprised Wichita State by lining up in either a four- or five-man front on defense. Coach Mike Gottfried had said he would stay with the wide-tackle six defense the team used last year. The Jayhawks will host Florida State Saturday.

Oklahoma's defense shut down Stanford passer John Paye, holding the highly touted quarterback to just 180 yards in the air. Oklahoma will play at Pittsburgh Saturday.

Missouri almost pulled the game out of the fire against Illinois after trailing 30-10 in the fourth quarter. Tiger quarterback Marlon Adler hit running back George Shorthouse with a 40-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 30-24 late in the game. But Illinois held off a late Missouri drive, sacking Adler as he attempted a last-ditch touchdown pass.

Missouri hosts Wisconsin this Saturday. Missouri and Nebraska will try to get revenge on the Big Ten, whose teams went 3-0 against Big Eight teams last week. Nebraska plays host to Minnesota, who beat Rice 31-24 in Lou Holtz's first game as coach.

Michigan State squeaked out the win at Boulder, as Colorado kicker Larry Eckel missed a 32-yard field goal as time ran out. Eckel also missed another medium-range field goal earlier in the fourth quarter. Buffalo quarterback Steve Vogel brought his team back from a 24-0 deficit after

three quarters. Vogel threw three touchdown passes and finished with 344 yards through the air. Colorado will travel to Oregon this Saturday.

Kansas State came back from an early 14-3 deficit to tie the score at 14 against Vanderbilt early in the second half. But the Wildcats had trouble stopping Vanderbilt's offense, and the Commodores scored two more touchdowns to pull away for the win.

Freshman cornerback Brad Lambert came up with the big play for KSU, returning an interception 25 yards for the Wildcats' only touchdown. Kansas State lost the yardage battle, 325-246. KSU is scheduled to open its home schedule against Tennessee Tech Saturday.

Turnovers plagued Iowa State, as Iowa capitalized on eight Cyclone miscues to take an easy victory at Iowa City. The Iowa defense turned in a great performance, intercepting five passes and recovering three fumbles.

By capitalizing on the turnovers, Iowa took a 35-0 lead in the second quarter, although the Hawkeyes had been held to minus 3 yards rushing at the time.

On the bright side for Iowa State, transfer Alex Espinoza played well at quarterback after replacing starter Alan Hood. Espinoza flipped three touchdown passes. And Tracy Henderson, ISU's outstanding wide receiver, caught 9 passes for 175 yards, including a 45-yard touchdown.

ISU Coach Jim Criner said his team is better than the lopsided score would indicate.

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Netters win, but coach says tourney team poses challenge

Nebraska's 2-0 volleyball team defeated the Iowa Hawkeyes in pretty easy fashion last Saturday, but coach Terry Pettit said some things will have to improve if the Huskers hope to win the first Husker Classic this Friday and Saturday at the Coliseum.

"We're not getting in position to make the best possible pass to the setter. That's the No. 1 problem right now," Pettit said. "Also, our blocks have been adequate, but when the ball hits our hands, it's staying in play instead of being blocked to the floor."

Despite those problems, the Huskers, No. 5 in the NCAA rankings this week, have yet to play a single close set this season. Iowa, 2-0 going into the match, made the first game stretch before losing 15-9. Nebraska won the next two games 15-6 and 15-4.

"Early in the match we were disorganized," he said.

"We weren't handling the ball well, and we were making the setters pass from six to eight feet out. We were basically out of control."

But setter Mary Buysse consistently split the Hawkeye block with her sets, Pettit said, and outside hitter Julie Hermann, who recorded 17 kills for the second straight match, consistently put the ball down against the Iowa defense.

Hermann, a senior from Nebraska City, is hitting close to 60

percent through the two games.

Pettit said the first-time Husker Classic, which gives Nebraska its second home invitational for the season, will be a stronger test for his team than either of the first two games.

"Iowa has a respectable team, but every team in the tournament has a stronger team than Iowa does," Pettit said.

Northwestern, the defending Big Ten Champion, is 7-0 this season and will be coming off a trip to California. U.S. International, the only non-ranked team invited, will have something to prove, Pettit said. Louisiana State, the favorite in the Southeastern Conference, is a "physically imposing team," he said.

They also will have a score to settle with Nebraska, since the Huskers won the Louisiana State Invitational last season in Baton Rouge, La.


"Most of the teams we play here are not as physical as we are, but LSU is typified by big, quick, very athletic teams. They are one team that will equal us in athletic ability."

"It also should be exciting for fans because their transition game is as quick as ours. Usually, we're much faster than the other team."


LSU's top players, setter Lea Bennett and outside hitter Wendy Stammer, were teammates of Nebraska's Cathy Noth and Karen Dahlgren on the junior national team that toured Europe this summer.

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