

Sports

Small Lobo back gets long yardage

By Mike Reilley
Senior Reporter

Size and speed are precious commodities in college football, but New Mexico senior running back Willie Turrall has proven they aren't necessarily prerequisites for success.

Turrall at 5-11 and 185 pounds, said he wasn't recruited by many colleges because he was too small. He said New Mexico was the only school that offered him a scholarship to play after attending Godby High School in Tallahassee, Fla.

"Missouri and Florida wanted me to walk-on," he said. "I was only 5-10 and 180 pounds and they didn't think I could play running back in college so they didn't offer me a scholarship."

But the risk the Lobos took with Turrall four years ago has paid off. Last year, he rushed for 1,064 yards and, in doing so, became the school's first 1,000-yard rusher in six years. Turrall also earned a spot on the all-Western Athletic Conference team last year.

Turrall got off to a quick start this year when he gained 148 yards in the Lobos' 32-31 season-opening loss to Texas Tech. But he has only gained 100 yards total in games against New Mexico State and Air Force.

Turrall said the two offensive forma-

tions the Lobos have run since his freshman year helped him overcome his physical disadvantage. He said the veer offense, which the Lobos ran his freshman year, and the "run and shoot" punctuate his inside running and his ability to slip through tackles.

"I don't have the speed to run outside so I have to go straight ahead," said Turrall, who runs the 40 in 4.6 seconds. "I like to run from tackle to tackle and make as many moves as I can up the middle."

When the Lobos are in their "run and shoot" offense, Turrall lines up as the only running back in the backfield. The other back lines up as a receiver, which, Turrall said, "spreads out the defense."

"The 'run and shoot' is a big advantage because we spread the field out and I can run straight ahead," he said. "But when we're in our other offense it's tough (to run up the middle) because the line stacks up."

The "other offense" is the wishbone, which the Lobos run occasionally. Turrall said he isn't suited for the wishbone because it has a lot of outside running plays.

Turrall said the only disadvantage of playing in a "run and shoot" offense is

that he doesn't get as many carries as he does as a veer or wishbone back.

"Since we switched to the 'run and shoot' we've become more of a passing team than a running team," he said.

Switching to a passing game is characteristic of most teams that play in the WAC. Turrall said it's hard to get any exposure as a runner in a pass-oriented conference. He said Air Force and Wyoming are the only teams in the conference that run a lot.

Turrall, a human resource management major, said he is about two semesters away from graduating. He said he hasn't thought much about what he wants to do in the future.

One thing Turrall has thought a lot about lately is Saturday's game against Nebraska. He has watched all of the games Nebraska has played this year either on television or on game films. He said he is wary of the Huskers' defense, which has surrendered an average of 95 yards rushing in its first three games.

"They be big," he said.

Turrall said the Lobos are approaching the game with reckless, but positive attitude.

"Hey, we're 45-point underdogs," he said. "What have we got to lose?"



Photo courtesy New Mexico Sports Information Office
Willie Turrall

Heisman derby narrows

Bo Jackson front runner in trophy race

Analysis by
Bob Asmussen
Senior Editor

Remember these names? Napoleon McCallum, Reuben Mayes, Allen Pinkett and Kenneth Davis.

If you don't remember them don't feel bad, many of the Heisman Trophy voters in Nebraska don't remember them either.

McCallum, who is coming back from an 1984 injury, is playing for a 1-3 Navy team. His chances for the Heisman Trophy have been blown out of the window by his team's poor start and his own less-than-brilliant performance.

Reuben Mayes is part of Washington State University's famed RPM backfield named for quarterback Mark Rypien, fullback Kerry Porter and Mayes. So far the RPM has been driving in reverse. They lost three of five games, with the wins against weaklings California and Utah. Even with a good start, Mayes would have not been a very likely candidate because of his and the team's low profiles.

Pinkett is the star (?) running back for the Notre Dame Fighting (like Larry Holmes) Irish. The Golden Domers are

off to a hot 1-2 start and Pinkett looks like he's running in mud. Even if he finds a dry track, the negative publicity for Notre Dame and a horrible start doom Pinkett.

Kenneth Davis, what a sad story. If the Heisman were given for honesty, he might win, but the Heisman is given for yards gained and playing ability. Davis has a lot of the latter but hardly any of the former. The senior from Temple, Texas has been suspended from the Texas Christian University team because he accepted money illegally from a TCU booster. It's too bad the booster wasn't suspended and Davis allowed to keep playing. Davis gets an "A" for honesty but an "F" for timing.

What remains is a four-man race for the Heisman Trophy. The remaining candidates are: Keith Byars (just barely) Bo Jackson, Chuck Long and Robbie Bosco. It's funny how much the Heisman derby resembles a political party's nominating process.

Byars hasn't played in Ohio State University's first three games because of a broken foot. He is expected back for this week's game with Illinois.

Auburn University's Jackson went nuts the first two games, rushing for

more than 400 yards. But those two games were against Southwest Louisiana and Southern Mississippi, neither noted for their great defense. In his third game against Tennessee, Jackson was held to less than 100 yards and the Tigers were defeated by the Volunteers. Jackson is assured of playing against several tough defenses in conference play, including highly regarded Alabama.

Long has racked up a ton of yards against weaklings, but his team's No. 1 ranking helped thrust him into the limelight. Long is also getting praise because he decided to stay in college and play a fifth season.

Bosco was probably the leading quarterback candidate until BYU lost to UCLA. The team has gotten back on track with two straight wins and Bosco has been one of the top-rated college quarterbacks this season.

But what are the voters themselves thinking? The consensus among nine Nebraska-based Heisman voters is that Bo Jackson will be the 1985 Heisman Trophy winner and that Long will finish as runner-up. However, the voters said their votes are not etched in stone. The following are their votes and some comments.

Mike Babcock, Lincoln Journal and

Star: 1. Jackson; 2. Bosco; 3. Doug DuBose. "There seems to be a concerted effort on the part of Auburn to push him (Jackson) for the Heisman Trophy."

Babcock said he didn't think Kansas' Mike Norseth or Oklahoma State's Thurman Thomas had a chance at the award, despite outstanding starts. "I don't think a guy from Kansas is going to get it. Neither one of them had any kind of buildup."

Steve Riley, Grand Island Daily Independent: 1. Long; 2. Bosco; 3. Jackson. "I changed to Long because, number one, he's having a great year, albeit against some no-name Mother Hubbard teams. He's proven himself to be the best quarterback in college."

Riley mentioned several longshots including SMU's Reggie Dupard, Norseth and Oklahoma's Tony Casillas. Riley said, however, that he didn't think Casillas has a realistic chance of winning the award.

Mike Kelly, Omaha World-Herald: 1. Long; 2. Jackson; 3. Larry Station. "I think he's (Long) shown that he'll be the first pick of the quarterbacks in the pro draft. This could be the year when someone other than a quarterback or running back wins the Heisman. Station might be the very best player in the

country." Chuck Stevens, KFOR: 1. Bosco; 2. Long. "It's hard to pick anybody that's just a clear shot. I wouldn't know who to put third."

Ken Pavelka, KFAB: 1. Jackson; 2. Long. "I would guess if that nobody gets hurt among the top three that Jackson will probably win. Between Bosco, Long and Jackson I think Bosco and Long's chances are more inter-related with how their teams do."

John Knicely, KETV: 1. Jackson. "He didn't play well last weekend, which brought him closer to everyone."

Terry Yeager, KMTV: 1. Byars; 2. Jackson; 3. Long. "Even though he (Byars) hasn't played. He's so good and he's so fast."

Virgil Parker, Lincoln Journal and Star: 1. Jackson; 2. Long; 3. Doug Dubose. "He's (Jackson) gotten a lot of national ink. I'll be a patsy, I'll get on the bandwagon. I would think he's the front runner."

Brent Robinson, Kearney Daily Hub: 1. Bosco; 2. Jackson; 3. Thomas. "Keith Byars has dropped completely out of the picture. Kenneth Davis? Let's say he bought himself his own Heisman Trophy. Long? I'm not impressed with who they've played."

Slow pitch softball playoffs postponed

By Doug Carroll
Staff Reporter

Intramural men's slow pitch softball playoffs will start six days later than scheduled because bad weather forced cancelling of many games, said Bill Goa, UNL Assistant Intramural Director.

Playoffs will start Oct. 9. Rescheduled games will begin today. The intramural staff will try to reschedule regular season games so each team will have played at least four games, Goa said. Play will start Thursday. He said

this plan is the "fairest" thing to do since some leagues played once or twice this fall while others played their entire schedule. One league had not played a single game as of Monday.

According to Kenda Scheele, UNL's Intramural Coordinator, more than 150 softball games and many flag-football games were canceled this fall because of weather, but she said this fall is not much different than any other year.

"Every fall we get a week or so when it rains," Scheele said.

She also said it's better to get rain during the regular season because rescheduling games during playoffs is hard. Regular season games are canceled when the fields are unplayable and are not normally rescheduled.

Right now the fields are in fairly good shape, according to Scheele. She said people playing on the fields even when they are wet and when intramural games have been canceled are the biggest problems for the recreation office.

A four-person student grounds crew is in charge of preparing the fields for play. These students work on the fields between classes and after school. The grounds crew takes longer to get fields ready for play if people played on the wet fields, Scheele said. If someone wants to practice, she said they should use the outfields, which are in good shape, and stay off the diamonds.

A list of rescheduled games are posted in the recreation office. A team member should go to the recreation

office to find when their team plays if they have had games rescheduled. Rescheduled games count for seedings and forfeits, Goa said.

If it rains during playoffs, teams can call INFO-REC, 472-2692, to find if their game was canceled. This recording gives information about postponements because of poor weather or playing conditions. If playoff games are canceled, Goa said a team member should go check the revised playoff schedule at the rec office.