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The Plague wins softball final 7-6

By Brian Keenan
 Staff Reporter

It wasn't the World Series, and the teams could hardly be mistaken for the Kansas City Royals and the St. Louis Cardinals, but the All-University Intramural Softball final still proved exciting. In the final, The Plague defeated the Kitty Mutilation Squad 7-6.

"We lost to them 13-0 in the Independent A finals," The Plague manager Kent Vossler said. "We didn't play that well that game, and we knew that we could play with them."

The road to the final was difficult for both teams. The Plague came back from an early 2-1 deficit to beat Alpha Tau Omega 9-6 in one semifinal. In the other semifinal, the Kitty Mutilation Squad won a seesaw battle with Delta Tau Delta. After spotting the Delts an

early 7-1 lead, the Squad built a 14-11 lead going into the seventh. The Delts tied the game in the top of the seventh, but the Squad won it in the bottom of the seventh when, with runners on first and second and two outs, the Delts' right fielder slipped and fell on a routine fly ball, allowing the winning run to score and setting up an all-independent final.

In the final, the Squad jumped out to an early lead in the top of the first. The Plague's Jeff Coefal then hit a single, moved to third on another single and came home on a Bruce Karnatz single.

After another Squad run in the second, the Plague scored three in the pivotal third inning. After a two-out walk to Coefal, Vossler tripled in a run and scored on another Karnatz single. Gregg Oberg singled Karnatz to third and Mark Nieveen drove in the third


run of the inning. The Plague scored two more in the fourth on singles by Jeff Schoch and Terry Chadek, a sacrifice fly by Bill Riecken, and a single by Coefal.

The Squad recovered from the 6-2 deficit with three runs in the top of the sixth, but the Plague answered with three consecutive singles by Tim Lorenz, Schoch and Riecken. The Squad rallied in the top of the seventh for one run, but their effort fell just short, and the final was 7-6.

"The key to our team is defense," Vossler said. "We're not really a very good hitting team, but we know that if we can play good defense, we can always pick up a few runs, here and there. We're mainly a defensive team."

The Plague ended the season at 7-3, while the Kitty Mutilation Squad ended the season at 8-2.

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Wildcat's defensive end Welch will move to quarterback Saturday

By Mike Reilley
 Senior Reporter

When John Welch played in Kansas State University's 62-14 loss to Nebraska last year in Lincoln he wasn't a starter. Instead he backed up Grady Newton at defensive end.

Saturday when the Wildcats take to the field against the Cornhuskers in Manhattan, Kan., Welch will start, but

at a different position.

Welch, a junior from Cedar Vale, Kan., probably will be the Wildcat's starting quarterback, Coach Lee Moon said.

The quarterback position is nothing new to Welch, though. He played quarterback in high school and one year at Southwestern college, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school. He led southwestern to a 10-1 record and a bowl bid.

Last week he started against Missouri. Trailing 7-6, Welch tossed two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to lift the Wildcats to their first victory of the season. Their record is 1-6.

Welch's first scoring strike came on a 41-yard throw to split end Gerald Alphin early in the quarter. The game-winning pass came with 1:14 remaining. He threw to Todd Elder for a 10-yard touchdown.

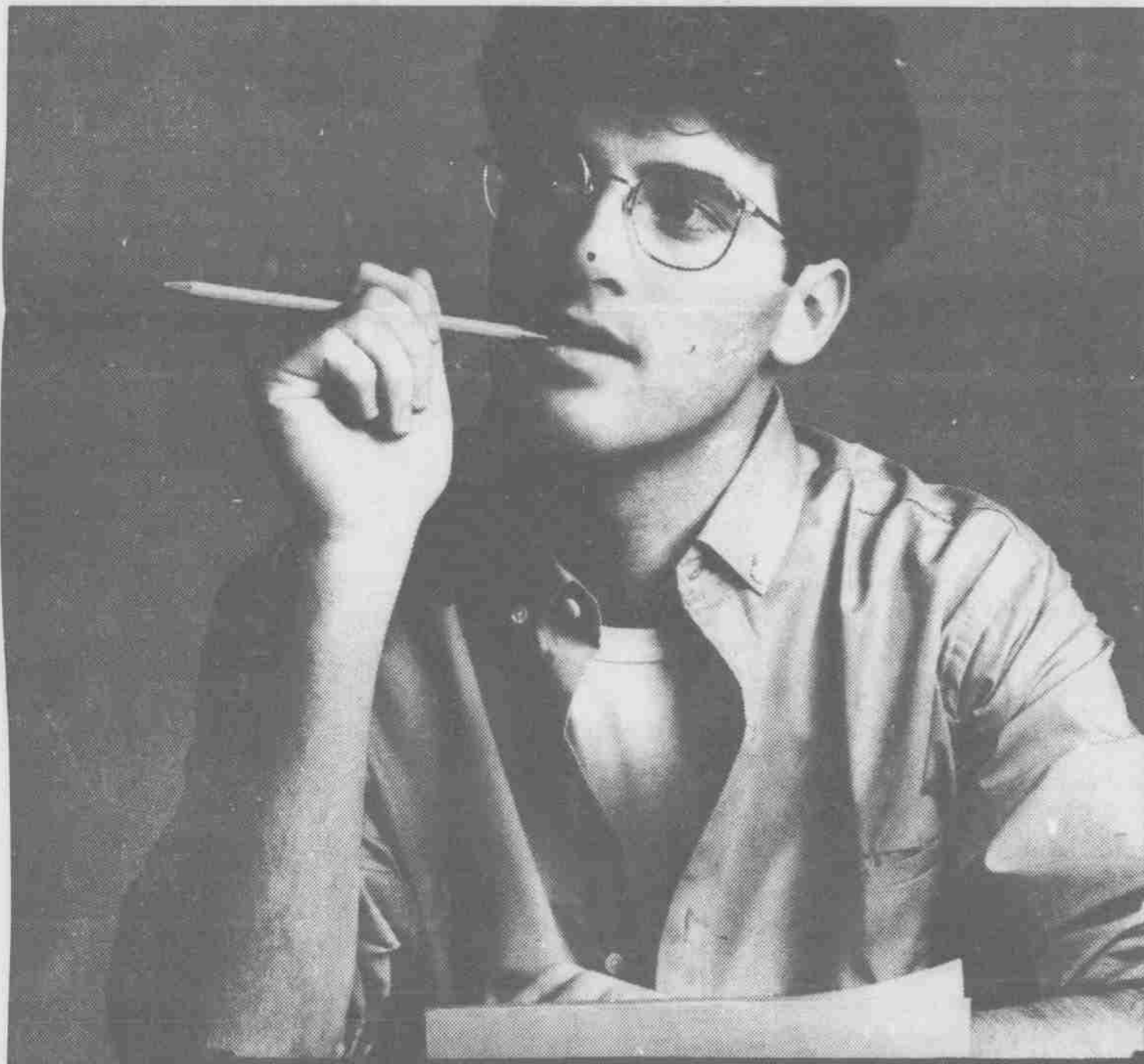
Moon, who took over the team after

Jim Dickey resigned early in the season, said Welch will "likely" start again this week against the Huskers. Welch got the nod when two-year starter Randy Williams was sidelined with a leg injury earlier in the year. Moon said Williams is recovering but "is still limited in what he can do."

Williams started last year's game against the Huskers when starter Stan Weber was injured.

Quarterback isn't the only position where the Wildcats are hurting. Linebacker David Wallace underwent surgery this week to repair a broken bone in his wrist. He will miss the remainder of the season.

One bright spot for the Wildcats is at linebacker. Matt Wallerstedt, a sophomore, is listed at "full strength" for the Nebraska game. He missed the Oklahoma and Kansas games with injuries and played sparingly against Missouri.



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