

KSU draws difficult task

By Mike Kluck
First Down Reporter

Kansas State coach Stan Parrish said his team has drawn one of the toughest assignments in college football this weekend.

Parrish's Wildcats lost to No. 1 Oklahoma 59-10 last Saturday. And if that assignment wasn't enough, the Wildcats face No. 2 Nebraska today.

Kansas State enters the game with an 0-6 record overall and an 0-2 record in the Big Eight.

"We have to prepare for one game at a time while making sure our team continues to improve," Parrish said. "I think overall we have been improving throughout the season."

The Wildcats offense has been hampered this season with an injury to tailback Tony Jordan. Jordan, a 6-foot-3 senior, rushed for 738 yards last season on 202 carries and was fifth in the Big Eight in rushing. Jordan was a second team United Press International and The Associated Press all-Big Eight selection in 1986.

Jordan rushed for 45 yards on 25 carries against Nebraska last year.

Jordan is joined in the backfield by senior fullback Ray Wilson of McPherson, Kan. Wilson missed the entire spring football season recovering from leg surgery. He was the third leading rusher for the Wildcats last year with 254 yards on 76 attempts and caught six passes for 49 yards.

Senior Rick Lewis has challenged Wilson at fullback this season. Lewis played nose guard last year for the Wildcats, but returned to fullback this year after having a strong spring practice. In the Wildcat spring varsity-alumni game, he was the second-

leading rusher with 38 yards on five carries.

Gary Swim is the Wildcats' starting quarterback. A 6-foot-3 junior from Vernal, Utah, Swim has become the starting quarterback after transferring from Snow Community College in Ephraim, Utah. Swim earned the starting position in the Wildcat spring game by completing 10 of 14 passes for 87 yards. He had an 81-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver John Williams last Saturday against Oklahoma.

Swim finished eighth in the country among junior college quarterbacks in both passing and total offense in 1986. His backup at quarterback is senior Tim Hanson, who was the Wildcats' starter last season.

The Kansas State receiving corps is lead by senior tight end Kent Dean. Dean had a limited role last year as a reserve player, but has been playing more this year.

Against Oklahoma, he had four receptions for 38 yards. In 1984, he caught a 28-yard touchdown pass against the Huskers.

Also returning for the Wildcats is senior wide receiver John Williams, whose 10.45-second clocking in the 100-meter dash makes him one of the fastest players in the conference.

The offensive line for the Wildcats lost three seniors last year but senior Matt Garver and junior Rob Goode have taken over the leadership responsibilities.

The Kansas State defense has been the most disappointing aspect for Parrish so far this year.

"Our defense hasn't played well all year," Parrish said.

One of this year's brighter aspects is freshman defensive lineman Bobby Lawrence, who had five assisted tackles against Oklahoma.

Junior nose guard Jim Oehm returned this season after having 53 tackles last year. He also recorded five tackles against the Sooners. John Crawford and Tim MacDonald also return to the Wildcats' line.

Senior Grady Newton returns as a starting linebacker. Newton had knee surgery last fall after recording 51 tackles last season.

Senior David Wallace also returns at linebacker. Wallace was hindered last season with a knee injury but still had 48 tackles.

The Kansas State defensive secondary is a young but experienced squad. Sophomore strong safety Erick Harper returns as the top tackler in the secondary with 54 tackles last year. Also returning at defensive back is Tyreese Herds, who earned his starting position last year against Nebraska. Senior Brad Lambert also returns this year after a knee injury last year.

Punters Shane Pouch and Ken Olson have been competing this year to fill the punter spot for the Wildcats.

On the cover

Nebraska I-back Keith Jones cuts through an opening of the Oklahoma State defensive line last Saturday during the Cornhuskers 35-0 win. Jones, a senior from Omaha, rushed for 115 yards on 21 carries to out-duel Heisman Trophy candidate Thurman Thomas. Thomas was limited to seven yards.

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Scouting Report



COACH: Stan Parrish, who is in his second year at Kansas State.

RETURNING STARTERS: 10; five on offense, five on defense.

BASIC OFFENSE: multiple

BASIC DEFENSE: 50

SERIES RECORD AGAINST NEBRASKA: 10-59-2

LAST TIME THE TWO TEAMS FACED EACH OTHER: The Nebraska defense held the Wildcats to

106 yards of total offense and shut Kansas State out 38-0 last season.