

# KSU's QB one of nation's best

By **Jeremy Crabtree**  
The Kansas State Collegian

Last season, the quarterback job was the biggest question mark for Kansas State as the season opener neared.



Brian Kavanagh.

But the questions were answered when May captured the starting role and led Kansas State to its best season since 1910. By the end of the season, Wildcat fans were asking themselves, "Smargiasso who?"

May took the Big Eight Conference by storm as he passed for 2,682 yards and broke four conference records. May threw for more than 489 yards against Nebraska.

May nabbed first-team All-Big Eight honors from the coaches and second-team honors from the Associated Press. Then, after gaining Big Eight honors, May went out and led the Wildcats to their first bowl victory with a 52-17 win against Wyoming in the Copper Bowl.

Although May had a successful season, he said the first games as Kansas State's new quarterback were difficult.

"I think it was very important at first to win, especially after nobody had seen me around here," May said. "Everybody probably had their doubts, because they had someone else last season."

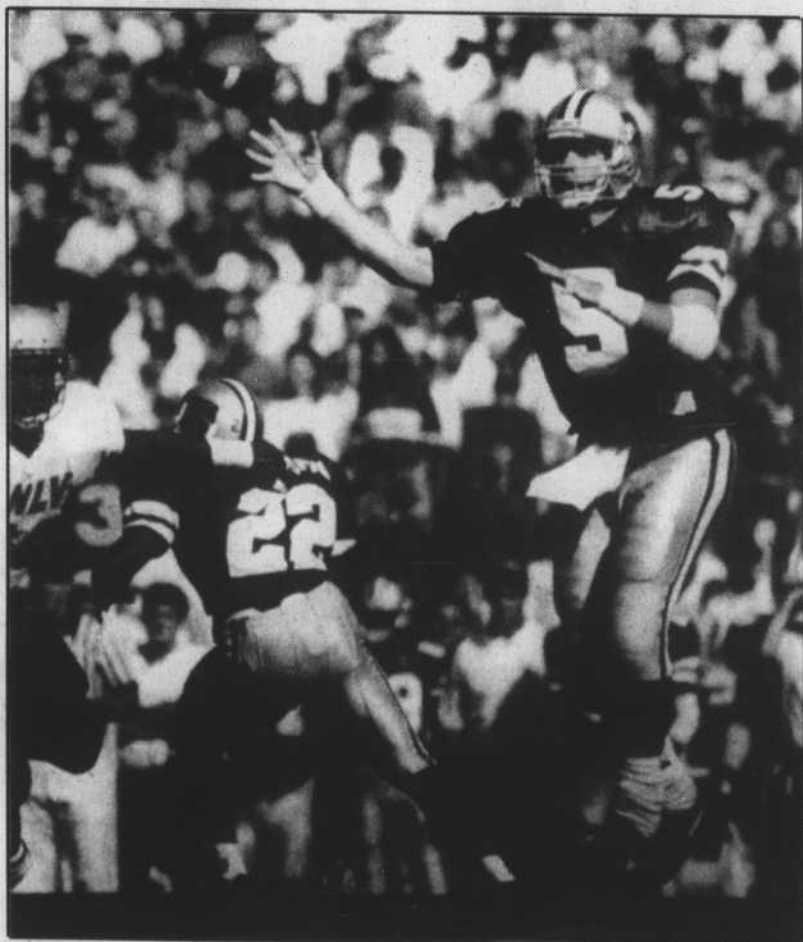
But May's on-field success didn't lead to a successful off-season. He ran into several incidents that caused his name to be an even more popular topic around Manhattan.

The first thing that happened was a football-related knee injury.

The knee injury caused May to miss all of Kansas State's spring drills. Eventually, he had to undergo arthroscopic surgery.

But as the Wildcats' season opener on Saturday against Southwestern Louisiana approaches, Snyder said

Quarterback Jason Smargiasso did not return to Manhattan, Kan., for fall practices. All Wildcat coach Bill Snyder had left was a Cal-State Fullerton transfer named Chad May and redshirt freshman



Courtesy of Kansas State University

**Kansas State quarterback Chad May, who threw for 489 yards last year against Nebraska, attempts a pass against UNLV last season. May comes into this season as one of the top quarterbacks in the country.**

May was back in top condition.

"He's running fine," Snyder said. "He's throwing fine, and he has been doing everything that we are asking of him."

Just when May was over his knee injury, he hit another roadblock—the police department.

In July, May was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and for making an unlawful U-turn.

At his arraignment, May pleaded innocent to the charges.

Then at the July 14 pretrial, a judge ruled that the U-turn was not unlawful according to a traffic ordinance. The evidence then was thrown out, as was the DUI charge.

The prosecution is seeking an appeal, but May said the media's pres-

sure from the case had not affected him.

"I put the pressure on myself," he said. "I don't let the media, alumni or the fans put any more pressure on me."

Despite the off-field controversy, National Football League scouts have May listed as a definite prospect.

"May is the second coming of Jim McMahon," one NFL draft report said. "Right now, he is the third best quarterback in the nation."

Maysaid he knew pro football could be in his future, but he also knew Snyder and the Wildcats were looking for him to lead the team.

"I know that I am the leader of this team," he said. "They look to me in the huddle, and I just hope that I have the ball when the game is on the line."

## Beck

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John Wooden's philosophy of mentality and team unity over the summer.

"We need to gain some leadership and look at the team's unity," she said. "That's the theme of the year. Our attitude wasn't what it could have been at the end of last year. We had some good people leave our program, and we're trying to replace them with unity and team togetherness."

Return starters Pyra Aarden, Kate Galligan and Lis Brenden will look for

support from three recruits.

Nebraska signed junior forward Roquella "Q" Brown, sister of former Husker Nafeesah Brown, out of Westark Junior College in Fort Smith, Ark.

Also added to Nebraska's roster were guards Anna DeForge from Niagara, Wis., and Jami Kubik of Cambridge.

"Brown's a good rebounder," Beck said. "She'll add to our spirit and spark our attack. DeForge is a good 3-point shooter, and we have two good 3-point shooters back in Galligan and Brenden. "I am really impressed with (Kubik).

She's smart, steady and catches on real easily .... We are going to need her to add some strength."

Beck said the recruits would have to expect to contribute right away.

"Technically, it isn't supposed to be our year," Beck said. "Everybody is going to have to shoulder some of the burden. We need to start back from the ground up. We're a pretty young team, and we have no true seniors. The newcomers will help."

For the remainder of the fall before practice begins, Beck said the Huskers would continue to concentrate on areas that went wrong last season.

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