

## Miller's chance to shine arrives at Kansas State

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

For Kansas State quarterback Matt Miller, the time has come.

It is finally his time to lead the Wildcats offense.

The past two seasons, Miller watched from the sidelines as quarterback Chad May threw for 5,063 yards.

That first season, Miller watched while sitting out a year as a transfer from Texas A&M. Last year, Miller played in eight games completing 4 of 12 passes for 37 yards.

Now the 6-foot-1, 250-pound senior will be the starting quarterback when Kansas State opens the season Sept. 2 in Manhattan against Temple.

Miller said he had a choice of what to do on the sidelines the last two seasons watching May.

"You can look at my situation two ways: You can stand there and say I want to be out there or you can sit on the sideline and learn something," Miller said, "that's the way I went after it."

What Miller learned may be the most important key in the success of the Wildcat offense.

"I learned how to keep my poise and how to be a good leader," Miller said. "He (May) taught me how to read some defenses, and how to be a confident quarterback."

The San Diego native may have learned something from May. Miller had a successful performance in the Kansas State spring game. He threw for 181 yards completing 15 of 24 passes and rushing seven times for 69 yards.

But Miller had a similar performance in the 1994 spring game. Filling in for an injured May, he completed 16 of 23 passes for 199 yards and two touchdowns.

Miller may be pushed this season by junior college transfer Cody Lee Smith. Smith, who was an All-American at Mount San Antonio, (Calif.) junior college, has been bothered by an assortment of injuries over the past few months.

But once he returns to full health, coach Bill Snyder said, Smith will be more than an adequate backup for Miller.

Miller said his more versatile game would give opponents trouble instead of having them focus on a dropback passer.

"It's a good combination to have," Miller said. "I'm pretty elusive, and that's good. I'll do anything I can to get that first down and get the job done."

Miller, who is also a catcher on the Wildcat baseball team, said he knew there would be a lot of pressure to fill May's successful shoes.

"I think any time you're in a Top 20 program there is going to be pressure on you," Miller said. "I think it's a good challenge."

# May-less K-State keeps confidence

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

Kansas State finally has reached a level of success, but the Wildcats don't want to become too complacent.

In 1989 when Bill Snyder took over the program, the Wildcats were coming off consecutive seasons without a victory. Since then, the Wildcats are 36-31-1 and have gone to two bowl games.

This year Kansas State wants to continue to improve on its 1993 and 1994 combined record of 18-5-1.

But quarterback Chad May is gone. Snyder said the loss of May would put pressure on new quarterback Matt Miller. Junior college transfer Cody Lee Smith was supposed to challenge Miller for playing time, but Smith is still suffering from a stomach illness that began in January.

"You don't really replace an individual like Chad," Snyder said. "Matt needs some game experience, and there is only one way to come by that, and that's why it will be so important in non-conference."

That non-conference schedule may not adequately prepare Miller for the tough Big Eight. The Wildcats play host to Temple, Akron and Northern Illinois and travel to Cincinnati.

Together those four teams combined for a record of 9-34-1 in 1994.

Although Snyder admitted the schedule was weak, he said it should help prepare his team before the Big Eight season starts.

"We always schedule in the best interest of our football team," Snyder said. "We're very difficult to schedule because a lot of teams don't want to come to Manhattan."

With a new quarterback, Snyder said, the defense may be called upon to keep the Wildcats close in games this season.

Kansas State returns eight starters, four of which are part of what could be

## Kansas State Wildcats

Offense			Defense		
WR 83 Kevin Lockett	6-0	175	DE 44 Nyle Wiren	6-1	245
LT 63 Chris Oltmanns	6-6	300	DT 92 Tim Colston	6-1	275
LG 68 Brian O'Neil	6-3	275	DT 98 Ray Eagle	6-2	275
C 64 Jason Johnson	6-3	270	DE 94 Dirk Ochs	6-4	250
RG 74 Kendyl Jacox	6-2	295	LB 50 Travis Ochs	6-3	215
RT 71 Scott Heun	6-4	295	LB 8 DeShawn Fogle	6-2	235
TE 80 Brian Lojka	6-7	260	LB 9 Percell Gaskins	6-1	215
WR 22 Jimmy Dean	5-10	190	CB 2 Chris Canty	5-10	190
QB 6 Matt Miller	6-1	205	FS 4 Mario Smith	6-0	185
RB 24 Eric Hickson	5-10	190	SS 21 Chuck Marlowe	6-1	190
WR 89 Mitch Running	6-0	185	CB 1 Joe Gordon	5-9	175
PK 39 Martin Gramatica	5-9	160	P 15 Scott Collins	5-8	180

## Kansas State Wildcats

### 1995 Schedule

Date:	Opponent
Sept. 2	Temple
Sept. 9	at Cincinnati
Sept. 23	Akron
Sept. 30	Northern Illinois
Oct. 7	Missouri
Oct. 14	at Oklahoma State
Oct. 21	at Nebraska
Oct. 28	Kansas
Nov. 4	Oklahoma
Nov. 11	at Iowa State
Nov. 18	Colorado

DN graphic

DN graphic

one of the best secondaries in the country.

Cornerbacks Joe Gordon and Big Eight defensive newcomer of the year Chris Canty return with free safety Mario Smith and All-Big Eight defensive back Chuck Marlowe.

That group led the Big Eight and was seventh in the nation, allowing 94.3 yards passing per game.

Three of four starters return on the defensive line with two first team All-Big Eight selections, Nyle Wiren and Tim Colston, leading the way. Joining them up front are Ray Eagle and Dirk Ochs.

The linebacker position could be the big question mark.

Only Percell Gaskins returns after starting the last two seasons. Joining him in the 4-3 defense will be junior DeShawn Fogle and redshirt freshman Travis Ochs.

Gaskins said he didn't agree with the idea that the defense may have to carry the offense.

"Our offense can carry its own weight," Gaskins said. "Whenever the defense has to go on the field, it's our

*"We're very difficult to schedule because a lot of teams don't want to come to Manhattan."*

**BILL SNYDER**

Kansas State football coach

job to take care of our business."

Snyder said the 1995 defense had the potential to be very good.

"We have a chance to be a pretty decent defensive football team," Snyder said. "However, depth can be an issue at some spots."

On offense seven starters return, three of whom are the top returning wide receivers in the big eight from 1994.

Kevin Lockett, Mitch Running and Tyson Schwiager all return after combining for 1,588 yards on 114 receptions for 12 touchdowns. Tight end Brian Lojka also returns.

On the offensive line three starters return. Ross Greenwood and Chris Oltmanns return to fill the left side

along with center Jason Johnson.

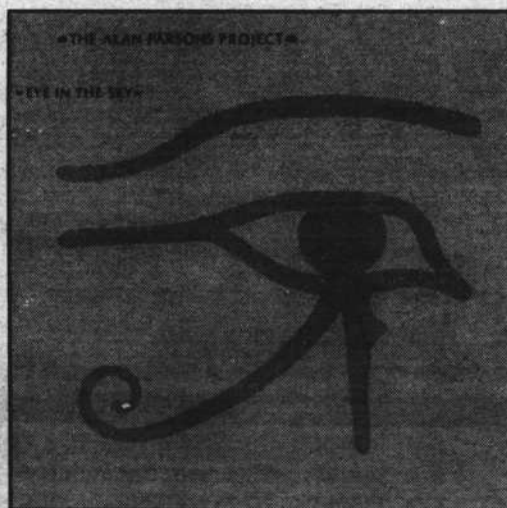
The right side of the line should include 1994 part-time starter Kendyl Jacox and senior Scott Heun, who has never started a game.

At running back three sophomores will try to replace J.J. Smith's 1,073 yards from a year ago. Mike Lawrence, Eric Hickson and Andre Anderson should all see playing time but lack experience with only 25 carriers between them.

Snyder said this team had the potential to reach the level of a Nebraska or Colorado this season.

"Every year is a different scenario and we haven't reached their level at this time," Snyder said. "I don't know when we will reach that level."

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