

Baylor seeks to prove it belongs with Big 12 powers

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Before the Big 12 Conference began competition, Baylor had to overcome many obstacles just to join the league.

Many of the league's administrators questioned what a small private school in Waco, Texas, could bring to a conference with national powers like Texas, Texas A&M and Nebraska.

In addition, the Southwest Conference had teams with more lucrative markets in Houston and Dallas.

But as the Big 12 opens its first season, Baylor has proven it's a team to be reckoned with on the football field.

"The league is going to be very competitive, and we're going to be right there in the middle of it," fourth-year head coach Chuck Reedy said. "Overall, our football team has gotten better and better over the last three years."

Baylor opens its season against Louisiana Tech Saturday in Shreveport, La. After playing Louisville, Oregon State and Texas Tech, the Bears travel to Lincoln for an Oct. 12 meeting with No. 1 Nebraska.

Reedy said the Bears will be competitive this season because they will return seven offensive starters. Baylor

would have returned eight, but senior offensive tackle David Davis, who was injured in a car accident this summer, will redshirt.

One of Baylor's strongest returners is junior tailback Jerod Douglas. Before an injury last season, Douglas had 1,114 rushing yards, which was the second most in school history.

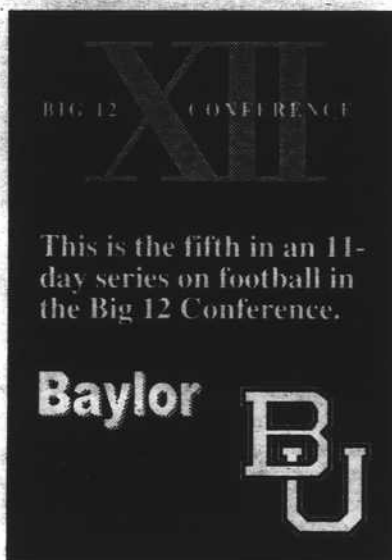
And even though the Big 12 is loaded with talented running backs, Reedy expects Douglas—last season's all-conference tailback and kick returner—to be near the top of the new conference.

"There are probably more good running backs in the Big 12 than in the rest of the country combined," Reedy said. "Jerod needs to stay healthy. If we get the ball to him 20 to 25 times, I won't have to do anything. He will get his yards."

Senior Kalief Muhammad also returns for the Bears at wide receiver. Reedy said he expects Muhammad to have a good year, and by the end of the season to become the first Baylor player with 1,000 yards receiving and 1,000 yards rushing in his career.

"The strength of our offense is that we have guys with the ability to make the plays," Reedy said. "We've got three or four real quality tailbacks."

"We've got guys in those positions who can do a good job at making the



plays, and we just have to get the ball to them."

Reedy's biggest concern for his team is lack of senior leadership. The Bears start only four seniors and have just 12 seniors returning this season.

"Our No. 1 concern for me is we're a very, very young football team even though we've got guys who have played," Reedy said.

"We played a lot of guys who were true freshmen and we'll only start four seniors. From that standpoint we don't have a lot of senior maturity, but young is not necessarily bad either."

Texas Tech comeback surprises KSU coach

By TREVOR PARKS
Senior Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. — After three quarters it looked as though the Big 12's first conference game between Kansas State and Texas Tech was going to be a snoozer.

Trailing 21-3, the Red Raiders awoke, scoring 11 points in the fourth quarter before losing 21-14 making the inaugural game one to remember.

The comeback began, with a 14-yard touchdown reception by Matt DuBuc, capping off a 20-play, 80-yard drive that took 6 minutes and 12 seconds off the clock. After the two-point conversion, Texas Tech trailed 21-11.

Kansas State went three-and-out on its next series, and the Red Raiders pulled within a touchdown, 21-14, on Jaret Greaser's second 53-yard field goal of the game with 2:26 left.

"A lot of people didn't think we had a chance to win that ball game in the fourth quarter," Texas Tech Coach Spike Dykes said. "I told my team not to give up, and sure enough, we had a chance to win."

After the Red Raiders' unsuccessful onside kick, KSU's Brian Kavanagh fumbled, and Tech's Robert Johnson pounced on the ball, giving it back to the Red Raiders at midfield with 2:18 remaining.

Texas Tech eventually had a first down on the Wildcat 13-yard line with 1:19 left but could not produce

On fourth-and-18 from the 21, Lethridge zipped a pass to Donnie Hart at the Wildcat 3-yard line. Hart would have picked up the first down, but Kansas State's Mario Smith and Lamar Chapman knocked the ball out of his hands to preserve the Kansas State win.

KSU Coach Bill Snyder said his team's performance, which included a minus-12-yard-rushing total and 160 yards of total offense, was less than he expected.

In other Big 12 action last weekend, Texas beat Missouri 40-10 in a game that was delayed 45 minutes by severe rain and lightning.

Fifth-ranked Colorado beat Washington State 39-17. Oklahoma State beat Division I-AA Southwest Missouri State in the first tie-breaker game in college football. The Cowboys won 23-20 when David Thompson's touchdown answered a Bear field goal.

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coverage and be allowed to participate in debates.

• **Shorter campaign season.** Two months for parties to choose their candidates and two months for the general election. In the time before the two month primary the candidate should hit the streets and countryside to talk with and get to know the people he or she will represent. Infomercials should be restricted to the last four months of the campaign.

• **Limit campaign spending.** 90% of all campaigns are won by the candidate who spends the most. We should greatly limit the amount a candidate can spend on his or her campaign so that a candidate cannot spend their way to victory.

With these changes every American will be placed on an equal basis with incumbents and millionaires. We will not need term limits, for the voice of the common citizen will be heard, and not just the voice of those who spend the most money.

Recently I have been informed by several sponsors of the senatorial debates that I will not be allowed to participate. There were many different reasons given but the underlying reason was that they just want to support the two major parties.

Does the media have the right to decide which candidates and which political points of view the public should hear? I believe not. In the Constitution our founding fathers secured the freedom of the press so that they could keep the public informed—not so that they could keep them in the dark about new ideas.

We have allowed our electoral process to degrade to the point that the average citizen no longer has access to the political system. Candidates without considerable personal wealth or financial backing are excluded from public debate and media exposure regardless of the quality of their ideas.

It is this kind of special interest control of the election process that I want to end. I need your help to accomplish it.

As an American citizen who has worked hard to achieve ballot access and who is campaigning full time, I have earned the right to equal media coverage and complete participation in all the debates.

If you agree with me, please write to the sponsors of the debates — Omaha - World-Herald, WOWT, KETV, KMTV, KPTM-FOX 42—and tell them you have the right to hear the views of every candidate who is on the ballot.

Almost every Nebraskan I've met wants to end the special interest control of government yet most believe it's not possible. I want to tell you it is possible. During the six years I lived in Germany serving in the military and as a teacher, not a single German believed the Berlin Wall would come down in their lifetime—yet a few years later it came down overnight because the people, not the government, put an end to it.

I know that the power to change our government lies in the people and not in the politicians in Washington. And I am determined to do everything in my power to inspire you to action. The situation in this country is very critical and we can no longer afford to sit back and watch it deteriorate further.

We must act now!

• If you want to put an end to the special interest control of our government and society—I ask you to support me.

• If you agree with these campaign and election reforms—I ask you to support me.

• If you want to restore the government back to the people—I ask you to support me.

I am putting all my energies and resources into accomplishing this task and I ask you to help me. Together we can restore our government to the kind of government our founding fathers envisioned.

Please write for my platform and to send donations to:

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