



MATT MILLER/DN

CHRIS CANTY, a junior KSU cornerback, leads a defense that ranks third in the nation against the pass.

## Wildcat secondary excited

By PETER MARHOEFER  
Staff Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. — In this sequel, you don't see Mel Gibson or Danny Glover, but the Kansas State secondary easily could be deemed "Lethal Weapon Three."

Nebraska's offense will encounter its toughest challenge of the year on Saturday, facing the three-headed monster known as the Kansas State secondary.

Junior cornerback Chris Canty, senior cornerback Joe Gordon, and senior free safety Mario Smith are



Gordon

being touted as the Big 12's best defensive backs.

All have received postseason honors; all are nominated for awards this year; and all are coming into this game as a part of the nation's third-best defense against the pass.

And all would give up everything for a victory against Nebraska.

"I want to be able to say that I was part of the Kansas State football team to beat Nebraska," Gordon said.

Gordon has been sidelined all season with a broken leg but is excited to be back this week.

"Our expectation is to win," Gordon said. "We are not going to get caught up in all the hype this year."

The KSU defense is taking a mature approach to this year's game. A year ago, Gordon said, the

Wildcats were overwhelmed by the aura surrounding Nebraska football and Memorial Stadium.

"We have guys here now who are ready to handle the big-game type of situation," he said.

Canty, an All-American as a sophomore last season, said the Wildcats are ready to face any challenge. And having two weeks to prepare for the Huskers, Canty said, gives Kansas State an advantage.

However, Canty said he knows the Cats must be prepared for NU's rushing attack.

"Being a defensive back is not all about the pass," Canty said. "You have to be able to give run support and cover the pass."

Because of Gordon's injury, freshman Lamar Chapman has been thrust into a starting role.

"It makes our team stronger," Gordon said. "We had some young guys step up and fill in well."

## Fans say this is the year for Wildcat victory

By PETER MARHOEFER  
Staff Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. — For 28 years, Kansas State football fans have been clicking their heels three times, begging for a win against Nebraska.

This year, confident Wildcat fans want the seventh-ranked Cornhuskers to know "there's no place like home."

More than 43,000 fans will fill KSU Stadium for Saturday's showdown with the Huskers. "Paint It Purple" signs are posted everywhere on the Kansas State campus.

Wildcat fans think this is the year. "Nebraska is going downhill," said Monica Sneed, a sophomore at Kansas State. "K-State will win the next few years."

Some Wildcat fans question the ability of Nebraska's first-year quar-

terback, Scott Frost, and the rest of the Husker offense.

"You guys need a quarterback," KSU junior Phil Freeland said. "That Frost guy sucks. The win Saturday is the first step to our national title."

Sam Hancy, manager of the Last Chance Saloon near the KSU campus, said, "Nebraska doesn't have No. 15 anymore. If K-State doesn't make stupid mistakes, they're going to win."

Kansas State alumnus Diane Gonzales, a founder of Nebraskans for K-State, said, "I hope K-State scores first. NU doesn't seem to play well when they are behind."

Gonzales, who is Gov. Ben Nelson's public affairs director, said she is hanging a Wildcat flag in her office at the Capitol this week.

"I used to leave (Manhattan) when Nebraska or Oklahoma came to town," Gonzales said. "The football players

wouldn't even wear their letter jackets, because we were so bad."

Husker fans may notice a few changes to the Wildcats' home field. A Sony Jubotron replay screen has been added to the stadium, high above the east end zone.

The 2:30 p.m. game is sold out and tickets are going for \$75 to \$100, KSU fans said.

Despite the Wildcats' 4-0 start, some fans aren't so confident.

"K-State can't win," KSU student Mark Keogh said. "Our offensive line is not that good. Nebraska is unstoppable."

Some Manhattan residents, however, are looking forward to the Big Red invasion.

"Nebraska fans spend money just the same," Felix Seja, a Last Chance bartender, said. "They're welcome, as long as they tip well."

## Tauke triggers NU defense to hot start

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hit it over the net," Tauke said. "She used to set me once in awhile, but now she is setting me with a lot more confidence."

Coach Terry Pettit said he wants Nepo to get both Korver and Tauke more attacks.

Tauke and Korver and getting the ball about 20 percent of time, Pettit said, and they need to get it about 35 to 40 percent of the time for the NU offense to run at its best.

"(Tauke) probably right now is the most effective attacker we have on the team," Pettit said. "We need to get her the ball more. Down the road when she has the opportunity to work with the strength program, she's going to be even more impressive."

"She's a player."

In the last two weeks, Tauke has had to step up even more.

Lisa Avery, who played sparingly in six matches this season, is out for at least six weeks with a stress fracture in her left femur; and middle blocker Stacie Maser plays a limited role, still hampered by a knee injury she suffered two years ago.

Tauke said she and Avery learned a lot from each other in practice.

"It's a lot different in practice without Lisa," Tauke said. "Megan was up with the setter all the time, and while coach was busy helping Lisa with something, I learned by listening to what he had to say to her."

"If you can't have fun, why play the game of volleyball?"

TONIA TAUKE  
NU middle blocker

Tauke has compared her play to former Husker Peggy Meyer. Meyer was a middle blocker on Nebraska's 1994 team that finished the year 31-1, one match shy of the Final Four.

Meyer, who wore the same number as Tauke's 22, hit .385 — second best on the team behind then-freshman Lisa Reitsma — as a senior.

Coming to Lincoln was the right choice for her because the fans care about her performance, Tauke said.

"I like playing, and I like having somebody care about what I do as much as I do," Tauke said. "You don't think about that much when you are being recruited."

At Nebraska — unlike many other schools — she said the fan support never dwindles.

"When you put so much time and effort into something and there is no one there to watch, it hurts."

## Braves take game one, Yankees, Orioles win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — John Smoltz took care of the Los Angeles Dodgers for the first nine innings Wednesday. His catcher finished them off in the 10th.

Smoltz, who led the major leagues in wins and strikeouts this season, allowed only four hits and Javier Lopez homered to start the 10th as the Atlanta Braves beat the Dodgers 2-1 in the opener of their National League playoff series.

Smoltz, 24-8 this year, retired his final 13 batters in a dominating performance. He struck out seven, walked two and threw strikes on his last 17 pitches. He improved to 6-1 in postseason play.

Mark Wohlers, who had a club-record 39 saves, worked around a one-out single by Greg Gagne to preserve the victory for the defending World Series champions.

In Baltimore, Cal Ripken scored the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning, and the Orioles beat the Cleveland Indians 7-4 to take a 2-0 lead in their best-of-five AL playoff series.

### Major League Playoffs

In the bottom of the eighth inning with the game tied at four, Baltimore's B.J. Surhoff hit a bouncer back to the mound. Cleveland's Paul Assenmacher threw home to force out Ripken, but the throw got away from Indian catcher Sandy Alomar to give the Orioles a 5-4 lead.

Indian manager Mike Hargrove disputed the call, arguing that Surhoff was in the base line and blocked the throw home.

Baltimore moved within one win of becoming the first wild-card team ever to advance and pushed the defending American League champions to the brink of elimination. Game three will be Friday in Cleveland.

The New York Yankees defeated the Texas Rangers 5-4 in 12 innings Wednesday night at Yankee Stadium in New York.

The San Diego Padres will play at St. Louis today. The Cardinals lead the series 1-0.



MATT MILLER/DN

MANY KANSAS STATE fans, shown here during a KSU win over Texas Tech, think the Wildcats will beat Nebraska for the first time since 1968.