Tech, A&M battle to gain south control

By JAY SAUNDERS Staff Reporter

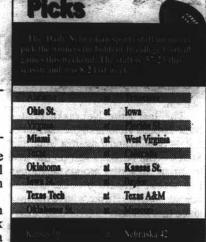
A pair of old Southwest Conference teams are looking to establish control in the new Big 12 Conference's South Division Saturday.

Texas Tech (4-3 overall and 3-2 in the conference) is hoping to get back on its horse after losing to Nebraska last Saturday.

1-2) are looking for their first divi- will have a very tough time beating sional victory.

Last year's contest was a nail-biting 14-7 Tech win in Lubbock. This whether the A&M defense can stop year, the game switches venues to College Station. Tech Coach Spike Dykes said his team will have its hands full on the road.

"They are a very good football team definitely one of the best."



The Texas A&M Aggies (3-4 and in College Station," Dykes said. "We them down there.

The game could come down to Tech tailback Byron Hanspard, who is the No. 2 rusher in the nation.

"Byron is an outstanding back," A&M Coach R.C. Slocum said. "He is



Strickland turns

Staff Reporter

ball player Erick Strickland how to overcome adversity.

Strickland survived a tumultuous senior season as a Cornhusker last year, and now as a free agent with the Dallas Mavericks, he is turning heads as the exhibition season nears an end.

Through the Mavericks' first five preseason games, Strickland is third on the team in scoring (9 point per game); he leads the team in 3-point percentage (.500); and he's making veteran Jimmy King and rookie Shawn Harvey worry about weather they'll have a job early next week.

"Erick's doing much better than expected," said Strickland's agent, Frank Martin. "He has outplayed a few guys charted ahead of him."

The 6-foot-3, 210-pound Strickland, who is playing point guard, looks to have joined the Mavericks at the right time. Injury-plagued Dallas is hoping to improve on last year's 26-56 record. Guards Troy Dumas, Jason Kidd, and Jimmy King have all been hit by injuries during the preseason.

"I have done all I can do to show them I can play in this league," Strickland said.

Strickland has had some help adjusting to the NBA game. Veteran Derek Harper has tutored Strickland. Harper's 10-plus years of NBA experience have helped Strickland, he said.

"Harper and I talk every day," Strickland said, "He tells me what to work and improve on. It's definitely a big help having a veteran like Derek Harper teaching you how to play and adjust.'

Strickland is not intimidated by the BA stars he had before seen only on coaches to think that I wasn't deditelevision.

"At first I was like, 'Dang. These are guys I used to 'watch,'" Strickland said. "I learned to not think about that. I had to change my thought process. I'm here in the NBA, and when the game starts, I have to compete.'

The Mavericks are a good fit for Strickland, First-year Dallas Coach Jim Clemmons plays an up-tempo game that focuses on a tough defense. Strickland, an All-Big Eight defensiveteam selection while at NU from 1992 through 1996, said he enjoys the Mavericks' style of basketball.

"This team has a lot of young players, young players that are up and coming NBA stars," Strickland said, "They're going to turn things around told me they'd give me an indication here.

It's tough to make it Don't tell former Nebraska basket- if you're not a name. Dallas likes Erick. Coach Clemmons likes Erick. It just depends on who he can beat out. I think Erick will make the team."

FRANK MARTIN Erick Strickland's agent

If cut from the Mavericks, Strickland said he will give basketball one more year. He has worked out for the Indiana Pacers and New Jersey Nets and several CBA teams have also inquired about him.

Strickland also still has ties to the Florida Marlins baseball organization, for which he played following his freshman year at Nebraska. As a August college graduate, Strickland said e is keeping his options open.

One of those options, however, is not football. Strickland entertained thoughts of playing for Nebraska this fall, but after one spring practice, he quit.

"It was a basketball decision," he said. "I was getting calls from NBA scouts and coaches saying this wasn't in my best interest. I didn't want cated.'

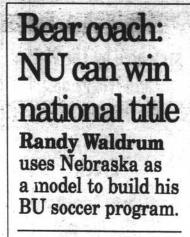
If Strickland is to make the Dallas team this fall, the Mavericks must find a way to work him into a team that already has 12 players on contract, the league limit.

With all the guaranteed contracts," he said, "it's a numbers game now."

Added Martin: "The NBA has a lot f young point guards. It's tough to make it if your not a name. Dallas likes Erick. Coach Clemmons likes Erick. It just depends on who he can beat out. I think Erick will make the team."

Strickland said he will probably by the next week if he's got a spot.

"We have two preseason games in Mexico this weekend," he said. "They then."



By PETER MARHOEFER Staff Reporter

Baylor Soccer Coach Randy Waldrum will not let his team's 12-1-1 record fool his first-year players when it comes to today's game against fifth-ranked Nebraska in Waco, Texas.

"We don't match up," Waldrum said. "Nebraska's physical, big, strong, talented, technically gifted, and have great one-on-one players."

Baylor's first-year success is the surprise of the Big 12 Conference. The Bears head into today's game with an outside chance of winning the conference title.

"We got real fortunate," Waldrum said. "We got two key recruits, and others fell into place. Our schedule isn't as strong as other teams, and we've had some good success."

Baylor is using Nebraska as a role model, Waldrum said. The Huskers' success in only their third year leaves the Bears with a blueprint to follow, he said.

"Nebraska's in a position to make a run for the national championship, and they are talented enough to do it," Waldrum said. "We have a lot of respect for Nebraska and what Coach John Walker has done with the program.'

The game today at 3 p.m. is the biggest in Baylor history, he said. A win over NU would give the Bears the respect they have lacked despite their early success.

"This is certainly a big game," Waldrum said. "There's no pressure on us to win. It's OK for us to lose this one."

Baylor forward Molly Cameron is leading the nation in scoring. Stopping her is a key to Husker victory.

"Regardless of what the score is, our kids will compete," he said. "We'll learn some lessons this weekend."

Kansas threatens NU league, home streaks you never quite know what is going to

KU from page 12

out of the end zone," Osborne said of last Saturday's 24-10 NU win. "You've got to give them a lot of credit, but at times we didn't cover people.'

Osborne is also concerned with the Huskers' offensive execution.

After turning the ball over only once in three games since losing to Arizona State, Nebraska had five turnovers against the Red Raiders, including an interception that was returned for Tech's only touchdown.

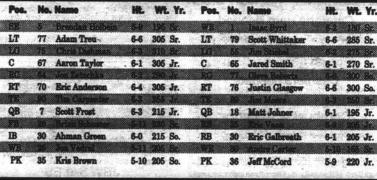
"When your execution is poor, everything looks bad," Osborne said. "It makes it look like nobody is trying and that nothing is working right. We just need to execute better.

that is interesting about coaching is that last.'

Starters Nebraska Offense Kansas Offense HL WL Yr. Pos. No. Na HE. WE. Yr. 6-6 305 Sr. LT 79 Scott Whittaker · 6-6 285 Sr. 6-1 305 Jr. C. 65 Jared Smith 6-1 270 Sr.

Kansas Defense

HL WL Yr.



happen." Osborne is also worried about injuries. Senior fullback Brian Schuster

practiced on Thursday, but he probably won't start because of a separated shoulder, Osborne said.

Offensive linemen Jon Zatechka and Eric Anderson, who are recovering from ankle injuries, also returned to practice Wednesday and should start Saturday.

Junior defensive tackle Jason Peter, who broke his hand against Texas Tech, was fitted with a cast and should start against the Jayhawks.

"I guess I don't feel real comfortable playing anybody right now," Osborne said. "Hopefully, we'll play a "The puzzling thing and the thing little better this week than we did the

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Yankees snag Series lead with 1-0 Game 5 victory

SERIES from page 12

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Nebraska Defense

Pos. No. Name

-where New York is just 2-4 dium --this October-with a chance to clinch defending champions.

Game 6 will be Saturday night, with Jimmy Key starting for New York against Greg Maddux.

"It's a game of inches," Atlanta Manager Bobby Cox said. "The breaks have not gone our way."

hits through the first eight innings.

Smoltz fell to 9-2 lifetime in the its record 23rd title and dethrone the defending champions. postseason despite not giving up an earned run. A miscommunication in the outfield caused a two-base error to be charged to Marquis Grissom in the fourth and set up an RBI double by Cecil Fielder. Smoltz struck out 10 in eight innings and permitted four hits, three by Fielder.

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played with the look of a first-year squad this fall.

Baylor carries a No. 6 central-re- played well.

gion ranking into today's game. The Bears still have an outside chance to Walker said. "They have two excellent win the Big 12 title and have sewn up strikers. They've scored a lot and a spot in the six-team Big 12 Tourna- haven't conceded a whole lot. It'll be ment, Nov. 7-10 in St. Louis.

The Bears' only loss came at the expense of eighth-ranked Texas A&M. fling defensive effort. The Huskers Baylor also tied Oklahoma State ear- blanked Kansas 2-0 Sunday, NU's lier this season. Freshman forward ninth shutout of the season. Molly Cameron leads the nation with

55 points.

"From what I hear, they're defi-Pettitte shut out the Braves on four nitely the best first-year program," Walker said. "They are a very solid team defensively and very well rounded."

Texas Tech is ranked seventh in the central region. Kristy Frantz leads the Baylor, in its first season, has not Red Raiders with 39 points on 16 goals. Amaris Weeks-Smith (22 points) and Kristi Patterson (21 points) have also

Cornhuskers can clinch Big 12

"They're very similar to Baylor," a tough road game."

Nebraska is coming off another sti-

Junior midfielder points on 16 goals.

"We're ready for better teams," said Uppinghouse, the nation's ninth-leading scorer. "We have to take them like

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they're as good as us."

As one of two undefeated teams left in Division I, Nebraska is now a

NU's marked foe, Uppinghouse said. "(Baylor and Tech) are looking for Kari these games," Uppinghouse said. Uppinghouse leads the way for Ne- "We're not taking them lightly. They're braska with a single-season record 41 looking to create an upset. We see our-

selves as the team people want to beat." After Sunday, NU plays Texas Christian and Southern Methodist before the league tournament.



Muscular Dystrophy Association