

Big 12 Notebook

Texas running back Ricky Williams passed Houston's Roman Anderson as college football's all-time career scoring leader.

Williams has scored 428 points in 42 games. Anderson's record was 423 points in 44 games.

This record is just one of many for Williams. He also holds the career touchdown mark with 67.

Baylor Coach Dave Roberts will have a homecoming this week when the Bears travel to Notre Dame. Roberts was the offensive coordinator at Notre Dame until 1996.

"It will be fun and exciting," Roberts said. "It will be a good experience for our kids to see the campus and 'Touchdown Jesus.'"

When Kansas and Kansas State play Saturday, it will be the fifth in-state rivalry game in the Big 12 Conference this year. Last weekend, Oklahoma State beat Oklahoma and Texas A&M nearly got upset by Texas Tech.

"Any time you play an in-state rival, the game goes back and forth," OSU Coach Bob Simmons said. "The team that makes the fewest mistakes comes up victorious."

The Big 12 offensive player of the week is Kansas' David Winbush. Winbush ripped through the Colorado defense for 268 yards rushing Saturday in the Jayhawks' 33-17 upset of the Buffaloes.

Winbush's previous career high was 99 yards rushing.

Kansas also has the defensive player of the week. Linebacker Steve Bratton earned the honor.

The special teams player of the week is Texas A&M punter Shane Lechler.

Against Texas Tech, Lechler punted six times for a 42-yard average. The senior also had an 8-yard touchdown pass on a fake field goal.

"It was a short field goal, and I thought they were going to kick it," Texas Tech Coach Spike Dykes said. "It was a great play on their part."

The first bowl championship series standings were released Monday. Those standings included Kansas State, but KSU Coach Bill Snyder said those results really don't mean much to him.

"I don't care officially where we stand," Snyder said. "All I know is that we have to beat Kansas, and that is not an easy task."

The Big 12 is down to five teams ranked in The Associated Press Top 25. Texas Tech dropped out of the polls after its 17-10 loss to Texas A&M.

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff writer Jay Saunders



NU JUNIOR MIDDLE BLOCKER Tonia Tauke fights her nerves every day on the court and in the classroom, but that hasn't prevented her from becoming one of the best percentage hitters in the Big 12 Conference. MATT MILLER/ DN

Knowledge key to Tauke's success

Junior middle blocker fights nerves throughout match

BY ANDREW STRNAD
Staff writer

Secret informants normally inform their sources on a need-to-know basis only.

In that case, it's a good thing Nebraska Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit doesn't work for the CIA, because junior middle blocker Tonia Tauke needs to know everything.

It's always been that way for the 6-foot-3 Tauke. Whether she's on the court or in the classroom, Tauke's quest for knowledge never ends.

"I have to know everything," Tauke said. "I get really nervous for tests and volleyball, and unless I know every little detail, I won't be able to function properly."

Known by fans and teammates as an animated player who has played with endless emotion during her first two years with the Cornhuskers,

Tauke has found that having a mastery of the game plan has helped her develop into a more mature volleyball player.

"I over-study for everything, and I think I over-study for volleyball, too," Tauke said. "Having an idea of what to expect on the court has a cooling effect and helps me relax on the court."

Despite high nerves and constant tension, Tauke has developed statistically into one of the most successful hitters in the Big 12 Conference.

Tauke is hitting .360 on the year, which places her second in the conference, behind fellow middle blocker, senior Megan Korver (.423) and ahead of senior outside hitter Jaime Kronak (.312).

The Council Bluffs, Iowa, native is also among the conference leaders in blocks, averaging 1.35 blocks per game.

Tauke played a big part in NU's two victories last weekend, by slam-

ming 12 kills against Oklahoma and coming back with 11 kills and eight block assists against Kansas.

While her numbers are starting to form a foundation that establishes yet another strong force in the middle for the Huskers, a leadership role has been created thanks in part to her obsession with preparation.

"When Coach says something in practice, I'll remember it," Tauke said.

"Then when somebody comes into the game, I just get everyone oriented so they know what's going on and what rotation the other team is in."

The only thing in Tauke's way in her search for knowledge is her nervousness, which has been with her for her entire life.

Tauke's nervous nature is unknown to most of her teammates. Junior outside hitter Mandy Monson wouldn't have guessed her former roommate was the anxious type.

"I never thought of her as super-nervous," Monson said. "She's always looking for what's going on, and she always looks like she's in control."

While her nerves have gotten in the way many times before, Tauke has found ways to channel her nervousness to help her get through high-pressure situations.

"I remember in seventh grade I had to give a speech in front of 60 people and I just stared down at the floor, and I had it all memorized," Tauke said.

"As I got older I think I found ways to talk my way out of it, and that has made it easier to relax on the court, but I still get nervous."

As she nears the end of her third season as a Husker, the broadcasting major is on schedule to graduate next May and plans to get her master's in journalism with an emphasis in sports marketing and communication by December 2000.

Backup quarterbacks' play is vital

Four starting Big 12 signal callers fail to finish because of injuries

JAMES NICAS
Staff writer

In college football, the starting quarterback is often the focal point of the offense.

Last week in the Big 12 Conference, it was the backup quarterback who ran the show.

The backup quarterback took center stage in the conference as four starting quarterbacks were unable to finish games because of



Neuheisel

injuries. "It's a physical league, and things like this are going to happen," said Kansas Coach Terry Allen, who lost starting quarterback Zac Wegner to a concussion on the Jayhawks' first possession in their 33-17 victory over Colorado. "We do expose those guys and injuries will catch up with teams later in the year."

Quarterback injuries were not only relegated to Kansas in its game. Colorado quarterback Mike Moschetti suffered a concussion in the third quarter.

Backup quarterback Adam

Please see BACKUPS on 8

Big 12 report card

Rising	Comment	Week grade
Texas A&M	A&M got lucky, but it still won.	B+
Kansas St.	Throttled Iowa State. Not a hard task, though.	B+
Nebraska	Defense stood tall against Missouri throughout.	B+
Kansas	KU won against better-than-average Colorado team.	B+
Oklahoma St.	Finally got a win after a brutal schedule.	B
Texas	Ricky Williams is a god. He comes to Lincoln on Saturday.	B
Stable		
Texas Tech	Couldn't win against Texas A&M. Fake field goal killed them.	C
Missouri	Offense choked against Nebraska. Defense played well, though.	C
Baylor	Ricky Williams ran over the Bears. Next, Notre Dame.	C
Colorado	Upset by Kansas. Adam Bledsoe is woeful backup.	C
Falling		
Oklahoma	John Blake, please quit. Please quit now.	F
Iowa State	Got throttled by Kansas State. Not a hard task, though.	F

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