

Big 12 Notebook

If Colorado can pull off a victory over Missouri this weekend, the Buffaloes will become the 16th school in NCAA history to win 600 games.

Although Iowa State has struggled this year, the offensive line has held strong for quarterback Todd Bandhauer. Bandhauer suffered his first sack of the season after 256 attempts in the second quarter of ISU's 17-14 loss to Oklahoma.

The Cyclones' loss to the Sooners extended its streak of conference losses on the road. ISU's last conference road victory was a 23-22 victory over Missouri in Columbia in 1991.

Texas running back Ricky Williams needs 294 yards in his final three games to break Tony Dorsett's NCAA career rushing record of 6,082 yards.

For the second time in as many weeks, Kansas quarterback Zac Wegner had to leave the game with a concussion.

Kansas State kicker Martin Gramatica connected for field goals on 30, 45, 36 and 26 yards to set a school single-game mark.

This is the first year since 1980 that Missouri has been 6-2 to start the season.

After Oklahoma State's 17-6 loss to No. 8 Texas A&M, OSU has now lost 23 consecutive games to top-25 teams. The last Cowboy victory was a 21-14 win over No. 7 South Carolina in the 1984 Gator Bowl.

With a 12-tackle performance, Texas A&M linebacker Dat Nguyen now reigns as the Aggies' all-time tackle leader with 460. Nguyen broke Johnny Holland's team record of 455, set from 1983 to 1986.

Kansas State quarterback Michael Bishop was named this week's Big 12 offensive player of the week. Oklahoma cornerback Corey Ivy was named defensive player of the week, and Texas A&M kick returner Chris Taylor is special-ty player of the week.

With eight matches left in the Big 12 volleyball season, the conference title race has turned into a three-team battle. Nebraska still leads the conference with a perfect 12-0 record, but Texas and Colorado are close behind with an 11-1 mark.

The Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff writer James Nicas

Newcombe back home for medical tests

By DAVID WILSON
Senior staff writer

Nebraska quarterback Bobby Newcombe has returned home to Albuquerque, N.M., for a weeklong visit with family and doctors concerning his lingering knee injury, his father, Robert, said Monday.

The sophomore, who tore the posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in the Cornhuskers' season opener, flew home Sunday and will miss NU's game at Iowa State this Saturday, Robert Newcombe said.

"The break is as important for his

physical well-being as well as his mental well-being," Robert Newcombe said. "Bobby hasn't been home for six



Newcombe have concerns with his career," Bobby Newcombe saw two doctors

months. He's put all his blood, sweat and tears into academics and athletics at the University of Nebraska."

"Where the coaches may have specific concerns about this season, they — as well as I —

Monday, his father said, and is scheduled to visit another on Saturday before returning to Lincoln.

It is still unsure whether or not surgery will be necessary, Robert Newcombe said, or if the 6-foot, 195-pounder will be able to return to action this season.

"We'll have to hear from all the doctors before we decide what the best course of action is," Robert Newcombe said.

After visiting with Nebraska team doctors, Robert Newcombe said he wanted a second opinion from doctors in Albuquerque.

"The coaches don't have any prob-

lem with me doing it," Robert Newcombe said. "They're not going to tell me no. I just think it's a good idea. As a parent, it makes me feel more comfortable."

After practice Monday, NU Coach Frank Solich said Bobby Newcombe was seeing a doctor out of town, but he would not comment on the location of that doctor or the duration of the visit.

Husker Quarterbacks Coach Turner Gill said Newcombe had returned home for a short stay but also refused further comment.

"It's between him, his dad and the

Please see NEWCOMBE on 8

Husker attack seeks an end to early jitters

By SAM MCKEWON
Senior editor

The Nebraska players thought they had the first-quarter bugs worked out Saturday in preparation for Texas.

It made sense, seeing that they had four weeks to work on it. In the previous four games, the Cornhuskers had scored 10 points in the combined 60 minutes for four first quarters. One of those slow starts led to a loss at Texas A&M.

Couple that with a team-described "great" week of practice before the game against UT, and NU thought it would be ready.

The results betrayed that optimism: no points and 15 total yards in the first quarter.

So, for the second straight week, the Cornhuskers are left wondering just when they will break out of their first quarter funk and what exactly is going wrong.

"It's so hard to read," senior center Josh Heskew said. "You think that we're going to come out fired up, and then you don't come out and play that way."

"It's hard to really pinpoint one thing that could actually be the determining factor for it."

For the Huskers, there could be a variety of problems, but one possibility is that opposing defenses are showing NU some looks that can be found in scouting tapes.

Both Heskew and newly named starting quarterback Eric Crouch said teams have given the Huskers some different looks this season, especially Oklahoma State, which ran a totally different defense, and Texas, which blitzed on every down. But Crouch said that's to be expected when teams play NU.

"There's always some things that you're going to have to adjust to at the beginning of the game," said Crouch, who is starting in place of Bobby Newcombe. Newcombe is spending the week in Albuquerque, N.M.



OFFENSIVE LINEMAN JASON SCHWAB looks for someone to block against Washington earlier this year. The offense has been slow out of the blocks this season, scoring only 10 points in the last four games.

The best way to go about it, Crouch said, is not to turn to passing or change schemes but to line up and pack more punch at the line of scrimmage.

"We've just got to go out there and be more physical," Crouch said. "That's just what we have to do."

For Heskew, the solution is the same but more simple.

"Hey, we've just got to do it," Heskew said. "There's no two ways around it. We've got to quit messing around and come out and get it done."

NU golfers make mark on national scene

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Senior staff writer

As he stood near the 18th green at the Stanford Golf Course on Sunday and listened to Cardinal Golf Coach Wally Goodwin present the Cornhuskers with a second-place trophy at The Nelson, Steve Friesen realized for the first time just how far Nebraska men's golf has come over the past eight months.

"As (Goodwin) introduced us, he told the crowd that Coach Romjue had brought us from basically nothing to a team everyone sees as a noted contender at any tournament we go to," Friesen, an NU golfer, said.

"He didn't say anything like that to anyone else, even the team that won the tournament. It was kind of neat, and it was really nice to hear."

NU earned the runner-up title at The Nelson, fin-

ishing with a 54-hole total of 864. Friesen finished fourth individually after shooting 68 in the final round Sunday, bringing his tournament total to 211 on the par-214 course. Nebraska's Jamie Rogers took 10th place, shooting 1-over-par.

"It was not an easy course, but it wasn't extremely tough, either," Friesen said. "The greens were so pure. It was a really nice course to finish on."

But, more importantly, NU's final fall tournament capped a successful eight-month period in which the team made an impact on the national golf scene.

Nebraska didn't finish lower than fourth place in five tournaments this fall, using the season to build on the momentum gained from a top 20 showing at the NCAA National Tournament last spring.

"I think we crept up on people last year when we finished 20th at nationals," Romjue said. "I think we'll have some respect that we haven't enjoyed in the past."

"When we show up, people are going to say, 'Oh yeah, they're good, they're here, and they're capable of beating us.' There's about a half-dozen or so elite teams, and we aren't there. But teams will know that they have to bring their A-game, or we'll beat them. I

expect we'll be ranked in the top 20 this spring."

Romjue listed NU's showings at the Colorado State Ram Collegiate and the Duke Golf Classic as fall highlights. Nebraska tied for third at Duke on Oct. 19, matching fifth-ranked Georgia Tech stroke-for-stroke.

Three weeks earlier, the Huskers won the Colorado State Tournament, relying on a school-record round of 65 from senior Jamie Rogers.

Rogers, Friesen, Scott Gutschewski and Josh Madden finished as Nebraska's top four golfers in every tournament this fall. Romjue experimented with three different golfers at the last spot but never found a strong fifth player. He hopes that either senior Ryan Nietfeldt, junior Judd Brewer or freshman Seth Porter will emerge as a consistent fifth player in the spring.

Whether or not that happens, NU still has a confident, strong nucleus entering the spring.

"Steve, Jamie, Scott and Josh Madden have been the team this fall," Romjue said. "I'm looking forward to the day when they all play well at the same time. They've made mistakes but have still competed well. I think the day they don't make mistakes, people are going to be astounded at how good this team can be."



Romjue