

Sports

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Big 12 Notebook

Nebraska forward Kim Engesser was named soccer's Big 12 player of the year. Engesser led the league with 54 points in the regular season and 30 in conference play.

Along with Engesser, five other Huskers were named to the Big 12 Conference's first team. Becky Hogan, Isabelle Morneau, Sharolta Nonen, Amy Walsh and Lindsay Eddleman were all named to the first team, while Megan Anderson was named to the second team.

Texas A&M linebacker Dat Nguyen is one of four finalist for the 1998 Lombardi Award.

Texas running back Ricky Williams tied an NCAA record for games with a touchdown (31). With 51 touchdowns in the last two seasons, Williams needs one more to tie Barry Sanders for the most touchdowns in consecutive seasons.

Oklahoma State Coach Bob Simmons has been selected to coach the North squad in the Hula Bowl game to be played in January in Honolulu.

With 85 yards on kickoff returns, Colorado sophomore Ben Kelly set a CU record with 1,251 yards, breaking M.J. Nelson's mark of 1,198 (1986-1989).

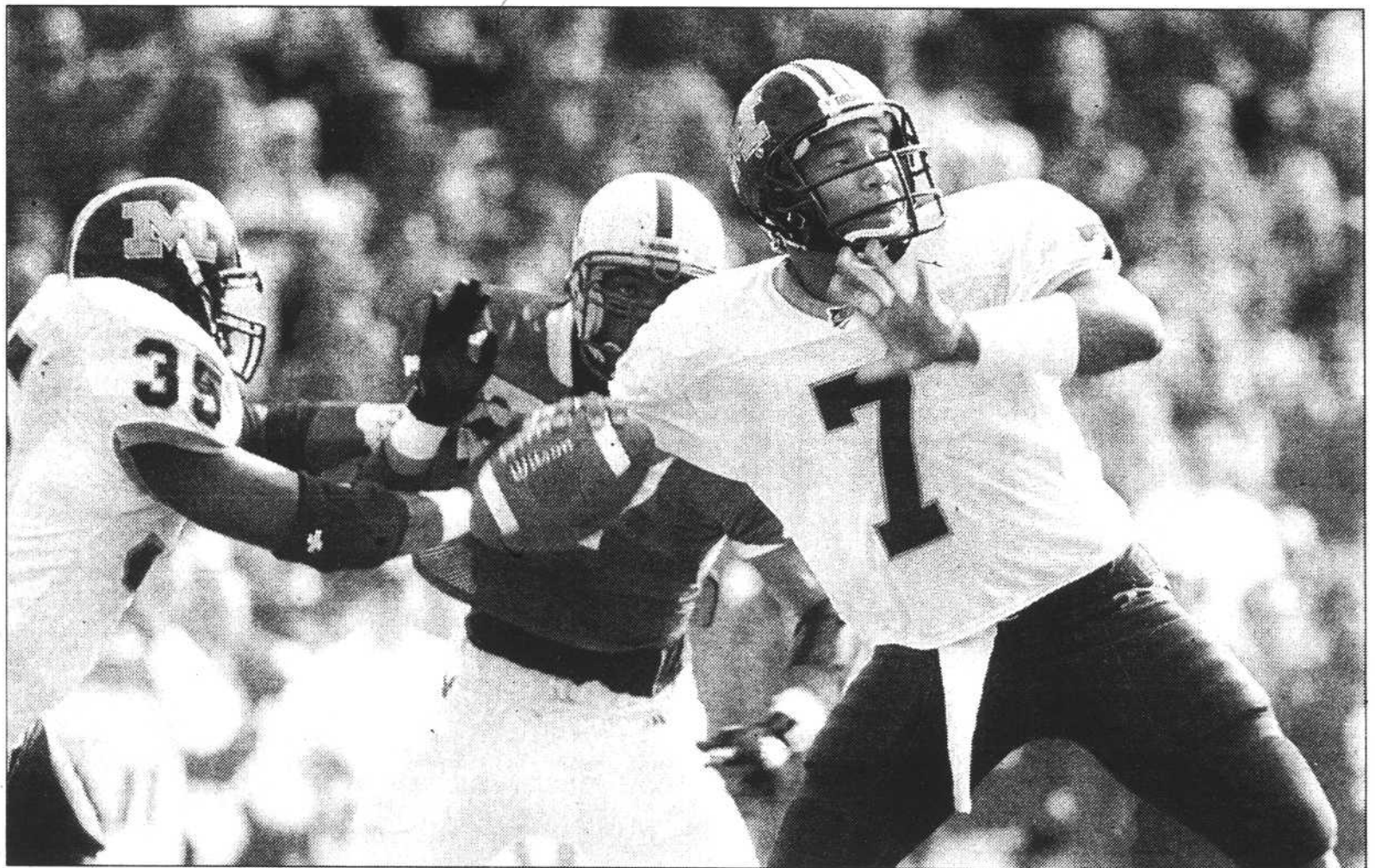
Missouri Tailback Devon West rushed for 146 yards to improve his season total to 1,402 yards, breaking Joe Moore's single season school rushing record of 1,312 yards in 1969.

After Kansas' 23-14 victory over North Texas, the Jayhawks have now won 10 consecutive home games against non-conference opponents.

Texas quarterback Major Applewhite was named Big 12 offensive player of the week. Fellow Longhorn Kris Stockton was named specialty player of the week, while Missouri defensive back Wade Perkins was named the defensive player of the week.

With three weeks left in the Big 12 volleyball season, the conference title race has turned into a two-team race. On Saturday night, Kansas State defeated Colorado, setting the Buffaloes' conference mark at 11-3. Nebraska still leads the conference at 14-0, while Texas is a game behind at 13-1.

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff writer James Nicas.



MISSOURI QUARTERBACK Corby Jones drops back to pass against Nebraska earlier this season. Jones and the Tigers, who own a 7-2 record, have a crucial conference game against Texas A&M this Saturday. MIKE WARREN/DN

It's judgment week in the Big 12

Top teams to face off in contests that could decide division titles

BY CHRISTOPHER HEINE
Staff writer

Unless you are fortunate enough to have tickets, the Big 12's version of Judgment Day comes to a television screen near you this Saturday.

Five of the conference's teams enter this weekend with a chance of winning their respective division race. Four of those teams play each other.

No. 11 Nebraska plays at No. 2 Kansas State while No. 13 Missouri travels to No. 6 Texas A&M.

Losses by Kansas State and Texas A&M would open a floodgate of possibilities. This complicated scenario, coupled with a Texas victory over Texas Tech, would throw all five of the nationally rated schools deeper into the mix.

Nebraska has the longest road to St. Louis, where the Big 12 Championship game is played.

The Cornhuskers, who have struggled with injuries this year, are 9½-point underdogs going against the Wildcats.

Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said he thinks his team is heading in the right direction.

"We've struggled, but this squad has hung together," he said during a teleconference Monday.

"We're capable of playing very good football. Of course it's going to take all of that to have a chance on Saturday."

Wildcat Coach Bill Snyder said the point spread doesn't change the way he feels about Nebraska.

"They're doing a fine job carrying on that great tradition," he said. "We know we play a motivated

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MACK BROWN
Texas coach

football team this week.

"We have a lot of concerns. Eric Crouch has come into his own as a very fine quarterback. I think he adds some diversity to their offense with his ability to throw the football."

Kansas State controls its own destiny. The Wildcats can win the conference outright and challenge for the national championship by winning their remaining games.

The Cornhuskers, uncharacteristically, need the most help to reach the conference championship game. Because of the long odds, the title bid would be cause for celebration in Lincoln.

The needed series of events is a mouthful.

First, NU needs to win its own game against No. 2-rated Kansas State. Second, Nebraska hopes Missouri loses its 11:30 a.m. contest at Texas A&M on Saturday. Third, the Huskers would hope for Missouri to turn around and beat Kansas State Nov. 21.

And finally, NU would have to beat Colorado on Nov. 27 to win the North Division.

If the Huskers beat Kansas State, the championship door swings wide open for Missouri.

However, first the Tigers must take care of Texas A&M.

MU Coach Larry Smith said he is concerned with what his offense will be able to do against the Aggies.

"They have by far one of the best defenses in the conference," he said. "They're very quick up front and force a lot of double teams to free up their linebackers."

Oklahoma State Coach Bob Simmons, who has coached against the Aggies this season, was impressed with the defenses of both Texas A&M and Missouri.

However, Simmons said, the Tigers have an advantage on offense.

"They can run the ball against anybody," he said. "Corby Jones, Devon West and their offensive line have done a good job."

Texas Coach Mack Brown said he knows what he'd be doing if he didn't have a big game of his own on Saturday.

"If I didn't have to coach, I think I'd plop my feet up on something and enjoy some great Big 12 football," he said.

Women's golf overcomes loss of players

BY TOM COSENZA
Staff writer

Autumn is a season often associated with change, something the Nebraska women's golf team had to adapt to in the 1998 fall season.

With the graduation of three players last fall, Nebraska had to develop young players this season. Junior Elizabeth Bahensky, sophomore Amy Roux, and freshmen Catha Fogelburg and Amanda Sutcliffe all stepped up to fill the gaps left by players who graduated.

Fogelburg opened the season for the Huskers by placing seventh at the Ram Fall Classic in Ft. Collins,

Colorado. Fogelburg led all Husker golfers with a three-round score of 224 -- 7 shots back of first place.

As a team, Nebraska placed fourth with a combined score of 914; 25 shots behind first place.

The next week at Firethorn Country Club, Nebraska placed second, finishing behind New Mexico State, which was ranked 19th at the time.

Sutcliffe, who placed 18th the previous week, improved to shoot 216 for a second-place tie. Sutcliffe's score broke NU's 54-hole record of 217, set in 1995.

After a week off, the Huskers traveled to Austin, Texas, to play in the Big 12 Fall Preview. NU finished in seventh place, with a team score of 941. Leading the Huskers was Fogelburg, who shot a

three-round score of 230, which placed her in a tie for 10th.

Roux shot a school record-setting round of 68 on her way to a score of 220 and a fifth place finish at the Big Ten/Big 12 Challenge in Franklin, Indiana. As a team, the Huskers finished in seventh place with a team score of 923.

The final tournament of the fall season for Nebraska was the Fall Golf Classic in Princeville, Hawaii. Bahensky led the Huskers in Hawaii, shooting a three-round score of 220, enough to earn her a share of 10th place. As a team, Nebraska finished in 12th place, with a team score of 917.

"This was probably my best tournament of the season," Bahensky said.