



# THE GAME



STEVE HEBERT/  
KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN  
**KSU'S MICHAEL BISHOP**  
pushes off University of  
Kansas strong safety  
Michael Allen during  
the fourth quarter at  
KU's Memorial Stadium.  
Bishop gained 95 yards  
rushing and two touch-  
downs and 225 yards  
passing, including one  
touchdown.

## Bishop propels Cats to elite status

*KSU Coach Snyder says decision to play transfer key to team's success in 1998*

BY DAVID WILSON  
Senior staff writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. — It was sometime late in the summer of 1997 when Kansas State Coach Bill Snyder realized he'd have a good team in 1998.

The key ingredient was a junior college transfer quarterback named Michael Bishop.

"We made a decision whether or not we'd redshirt Michael Bishop or not," Snyder said. "That was probably the defining factor — not necessarily for a national championship, but that we had a chance to be a pretty good football team this year."

So far, so good.

The second-ranked Wildcats enter Saturday's matchup with No. 11 Nebraska with an undefeated season on the line. KSU hasn't defeated the Cornhuskers since 1968.

Even Bishop — a guy who doesn't really know how to lose at the collegiate level — failed in his first attempt to beat the Huskers. As a starter at Blinn (Texas) Community College and in two seasons at Kansas State, Bishop is 44-1 as a starter.

"This guy hates to lose," KSU senior kicker Martin Gramatica said. "It makes everybody feel the same."

But Bishop's one loss, receiver Darnell McDonald said, was a turning point for the 6-foot-1, 205-pound signal caller.

Bishop, who completed eight of 24 passes against NU last Oct. 4, called his teammates "quitters" following the 56-26 loss.

"After that game, he realized he needed to step up and be our leader," McDonald said.

Snyder, on the other hand, felt it would be best to keep Bishop away from the media after the loss.

A similar restraint was placed by Snyder after an incident prior to this season's Colorado game. Bishop relayed a quote to the media from running back Frank Murphy, who was returning from a suspension. Evidently, Snyder didn't approve.

But being kept from the press hasn't kept Bishop, a Heisman Trophy candidate, from leading Kansas State emotionally this season on and off the field.

"I feel if he is pumped up and ready to win, we all should be," McDonald said. "It makes us play a lot better."

This season, Bishop ranks sixth in the nation in pass efficiency with 164.3 rating points, while leading an offense that averages 477 total yards per game.

He has completed 113 of 208 passes, and thrown just one interception and tossed 18 touchdowns.

"He can not only pass the ball. He can also beat you with the run," NU linebacker Jay Foreman said. "He's definitely a great player. He's the kind of guy the team thrives on. Obviously, you have to contain him if you're going to try to stop their offense."

### Kansas State notes:

■ While KSU Coach Bill Snyder emphasizes controlling emotion among his football players, emotion is what Wildcat kicker Martin Gramatica thrives on — sometimes to excess.

Gramatica, who booted a 65-yard field goal earlier this season — the longest in NCAA history without a tee, missed a 25-yard attempt against Baylor last week. The senior is now 15 of 21 for the season after making 19 of 20 last year.

"I know I can kick," said Gramatica, who celebrates after every successful boot. "I just can't get too excited."

"When I miss, I try to forget about it right away. I don't let it affect my next kick."

Though he said he is excited for his last chance to defeat Nebraska, the Argentina native said he won't let himself — or his teammates — get too pumped for Saturday's game.

"You could get too excited to play Nebraska, but we have a lot of seniors that know how to stay focused," Gramatica said. "I think the best thing I

can do is just stay relaxed."

■ Saturday will mark the last time 25 Kansas State seniors will play a game at Wagner Field. The seniors will be honored in a pre-game ceremony that will take approximately 4½ minutes, Snyder said.

"I'm a man, and I'm sure I'll shed a few tears," said Jeremy Martin, a 6-foot-4, 305-pound offensive lineman. "But as far as team objectives, you can't let emotions overrun a game."

### Football Starters Nebraska starters

Saturday, Nov. 14  
2:30 p.m.  
Wagner Field  
TV: ABC  
Radio: 1410, 1290 AM  
90.3 KRNU

#### Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
QB	7	Eric Crouch	6-0	200
IB	38	Dan Alexander	6-0	250
FB	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	240
WB	5	Shavin Wiggins	5-11	200
SE	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210
TE	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	245
LT	69	Adam Julch	6-5	315
LG	63	James Sherman	6-2	295
C	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	290
RG	55	Russ Hochstein	6-3	280
RT	65	Jason Schwab	6-1	300
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	205

#### Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
LR	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	250
NT	99	Jason Wiltz	6-4	310
DT	91	Loran Kaiser	6-5	280
RR	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	260
SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-0	215
MLB	44	Jay Foreman	6-1	240
WLB	27	Eric Johnson	6-1	205
LCB	16	Erwin Swiney	6-0	185
FS	19	Clint Finley	5-11	200
ROV	21	Mike Brown	5-10	205
RCB	22	Ralph Brown	5-9	180
P	23	Bill Lafleur	5-11	200

### Kansas St. starters

#### Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
WR	22	Aaron Lockett	5-7	155
LT	76	Ryan Young	6-6	330
LG	73	Brian Hanley	6-2	325
C	58	Randall Cummins	6-3	285
RG	78	Jeremy Martin	6-4	305
RT	65	Thomas Barnett	6-5	300
TE	86	Justin Swift	6-3	250
QB	7	Michael Bishop	6-1	205
RB	24	Eric Hickson	5-8	200
FB	30	Brian Goolsby	6-2	250
TE	86	Justin Swift	6-3	250

#### Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
DE	46	Joe Bob Clements	6-3	245
DT	56	Andrae Rowe	6-0	290
DT	77	Damion McIntosh	6-4	290
DE	49	Darren Howard	6-4	270
LB	50	Travis Ochs	6-3	225
LB	8	Jeff Kelly	6-0	245
LB	42	Mark Simoneau	6-0	230
FS	1	Lamar Chapman	6-0	180
CB	17	Gerald Neasman	5-9	180
SS	40	Jarrod Cooper	6-1	205
CB	35	Dyshod Carter	5-10	175