

Big 12 Notebook

With Kansas State's 40-point performance against Nebraska on Saturday, the Wildcats became the fourth Big 12 school to score 500 points or more in a season.

KSU currently has 512 points and, through 10 games, is the 134th highest scoring team of all time.

If it scores 86 points in the rest of the season, Kansas State will become the second school to reach the 600-point plateau.

Three different Nebraska teams have scored 600 points, led by the 1983 Husker team that scored 654 points.

The Big 12 offensive player of the week is Kansas State's Michael Bishop. The defensive honor went to Texas A&M's Dat Nguyen.

The special teams player of the week is Texas Tech's Chris Birkholz.

Nguyen was named one of the finalists for the Butkus Award, which honors the nation's top linebacker.

The other finalists are Javon Kearse of Florida and Chris Claiborne of Southern California. Nguyen leads all three players in tackles and tackles for loss.

Who says the Big 12 is just an offensive conference? Seven teams are in the top 25 in total yards allowed per game.

Texas Tech's 42-35 win against Texas on Saturday assured the Red Raiders their fourth consecutive seven-win season.

Oklahoma State beat Southwestern Louisiana 44-20 on Saturday, which completed the non-conference schedule for Big 12 schools.

This season, the Big 12 was 30-8 against nonconference opponents, which beats last year's mark of 24-14.

Texas A&M and Kansas State have a chance to add to their list of conference championships when they play in the Big 12 Championship game.

But neither team can catch Texas, which has the most combined conference titles. The Longhorns have won 13 championships. In second place is Nebraska, with 12.

The Big 12 is down to one team in the NCAA soccer tournament. Nebraska beat Texas A&M 7-0 in the second round on Sunday. Baylor fell at home 5-4 to Northwestern in the second round.

The Cornhuskers will play at fifth-seeded Notre Dame in the third round.

Notebook compiled by Staff writer Jay Saunders

Alexander out; White could start

By ADAM KLINKER
Staff writer

For Tom Osborne, it was quarterbacks who had injury problems. For Frank Solich, it's I-backs.

When Nebraska takes the field against Colorado on Nov. 27, the Cornhuskers may have yet another fresh face in the backfield: Dan White.

In the much-storied Husker line of I-backs, this season has been a trial by fire as far as injuries have gone. Now, Dan Alexander has been hit with a season-ending injury.

With DeAngelo Evans plagued by knee and tailbone injuries and Correll

Buckhalter hampered by a hip pointer, Alexander was next in line to fill the void.

But Alexander, NU's starting I-back in the last two games, left the Kansas State game in the Huskers' second drive of the game after a fumble. He never returned.

Monday, Coach Frank Solich disclosed that Alexander left the game because of injury — a season-ending knee and hamstring injury that will require surgery, which Alexander will undergo this afternoon.

Alexander will have the lateral collateral ligament and the hamstring tendon in his right knee repaired. The surgery is not considered major, but

Alexander will be out about three months.

White, a redshirt freshman, is the last fully healthy runner in the I-back corps. Running Backs Coach Dave Gillespie said if Buckhalter cannot fully recover, White could be the next choice.

Buckhalter did not practice on Monday.

In addition to White, fullback Joel Makovicka also tried his hand at the I-back spot in Monday's practice. Solich said.

"Joel Makovicka has been brushing up at I-back," Solich said. "He has been called upon in the past to do that and could be asked to do that again."

It is the second surgery Alexander

will have in his career at NU. During his freshman season, Alexander tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and was out for five months.

"I really feel bad for Dan," Gillespie said. "He's gone through a lot to get where he is, and he's worked hard to overcome. He has been a major factor in our offensive output."

In his first career start at Iowa State, Alexander rushed 22 times for 110 yards and three touchdowns. He had three carries for 22 yards against KSU.

"Dan is a very mature, grounded person," Gillespie said. "He doesn't like what's happening to him, but he'll come through it, and hopefully we'll see him in the spring."

NU's Brown recoups from missed kick

■ The senior has a chance to break the record for most extra points in a career when the Huskers play Colorado on Nov. 27 in Lincoln.

By ADAM KLINKER
Staff writer

For years, it has been surprising when the Nebraska football team has lost.

Equally as surprising is a missed extra point by Cornhusker kicker Kris Brown.

On Saturday, NU lost to Kansas State. And improbably, Brown missed an extra point.

"He was upset," said Kickers Coach Dan Young of Brown after the miss. "He felt bad, especially when the point swing was important."

As practice was winding down for the Huskers on Monday night, Brown stood on the sideline and watched his teammates wrap up their final drills.

Brown laughed and joked with the other kickers, tried his hand at a few passes and talked with former NU Coach Tom Osborne.

Like most of the rest of the Husker squad, Brown was at ease after the KSU loss.

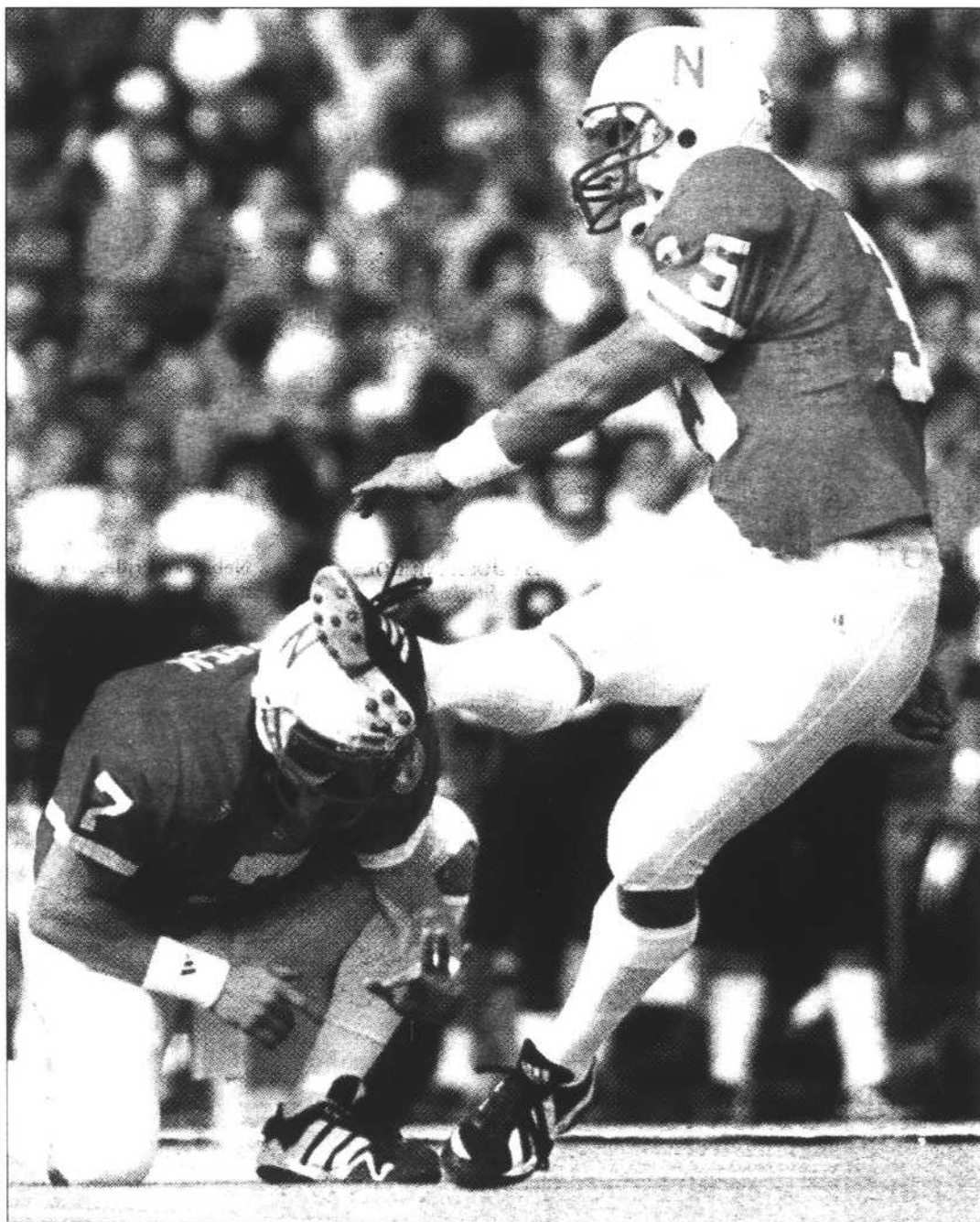
But uncharacteristically, Brown had missed an extra point in Saturday's game against KSU, and he knew it would be news.

With 216 extra points after touchdown, Brown had just missed eclipsing the 5-year-old NCAA record for most extra points made by kicking.

He missed No. 217 after a fourth-quarter touchdown.

"I just got lazy with it," Brown said. "I took it for granted. I didn't come through the ball the way I should have."

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PLACE KICKER KRIS BROWN kicks an extra point against Missouri earlier this season at Memorial Stadium. In a 40-30 loss to Kansas State, Brown tied the NCAA record for most career extra points and then missed the next attempt.

SCOTT MCCLURG/DN FILE PHOTO

Husker women earn bid to NCAA's

By LISA VONNAHME
Staff writer

Monday, Nebraska Cross Country Coach Jay Dirksen had a surprise.

A surprise, that is, for his women's cross country team. The team received a berth in the NCAA Championships, held Nov. 23 in Lawrence, Kan.

Both the NU men's and women's teams thought their seasons had come to a halt after their 13th- and fourth place

finishes at the Midwest Regional Championships on Saturday.

A top-two finish would have secured the Cornhuskers a spot at the NCAA Championships. An at-large berth would have served as a qualifier, too.

But based on their finishes, the Huskers left regionals Saturday in Wichita, Kan., thinking they would not compete at the NCAA meet.

The women thought wrong. Dirksen's surprise to the NU women Monday was the announcement that they had earned an at-large berth. They would be running at the NCAA's after all.

Some of the Huskers ruined Dirksen's surprise as a few had heard the good news just minutes before he

was able to tell them.

"My dad called me and was like, 'You're in!'" said an elated Amy Wiseman. "I had like four of my teammates in my room, and I dropped the phone and just started crying."

"We all got in a big huddle, and we all were dancing around, screaming, popping balloons. It was just totally nuts."

The Cornhuskers' excitement and enthusiasm Monday was a far cry from how they were feeling on Saturday, NU freshman Jeannette Zimmer said.

"I was kind of depressed on Saturday," Zimmer said. "I thought our season was over."

Zimmer led NU at the regionals, finishing in 17 minutes, 43.70 sec-

onds, good for 11th place. Rasa Michniovaite of Minnesota earned the regional title with a time of 17:07.40, while Kansas State took the women's team title with 92 points.

Wiseman, who battled an illness during most of the season, placed 20th in 17:52.60 and admitted she still was not in top racing condition. Last year, Wiseman finished the race in fifth place.

"I think with another week of training, I'm just going to go nuts and give it all I've got at NCAA's," Wiseman said. "I felt really good last week, and I think I'm going to be ready."

Both Wiseman and Zimmer

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