

Bishop contender for player of year

■ After engineering a 40-30 win over NU, the KSU quarterback gets the nod from some Big 12 coaches as the league's best offensive weapon.

By JAMES NICAS
Staff writer

Throughout the season, people around the country have been making the push for Texas running back Ricky Williams to win the Heisman trophy.



Bishop

Although Williams is still the front-runner for the Heisman, the same probably cannot be said for Williams as the Big 12 offensive player of the year.

After Kansas State's 40-30 victory over Nebraska on Saturday, many coaches around the conference said KSU quarterback Michael Bishop is the leading candidate for the Big 12 offensive player of the year.

Understandably so. Bishop has thrown for 2,346 yards this season while throwing for 20 touchdowns and only two interceptions. He's KSU's second-leading rusher, with 543 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Williams' credentials are strong, too. The senior

from San Diego has 1,865 yards and 27 touchdowns. He needs 135 yards against Texas A&M to reach 2,000 and 63 to eclipse Tony Dorsett's record of 6,082 career rushing yards in Division I football.

Even though Williams has received the attention that goes with his accomplishments, Oklahoma State Coach Bob Simmons said Bishop has proven his merit for the award.

"You have to consider what Bishop has done for his football team this year, and the fact that they are playing in the championship game would make me choose Michael Bishop," Simmons said.

Last Saturday's effort against the Cornhuskers helped many coaches decide Bishop is the top offensive player in the league. Despite four turnovers, Bishop ran for 140 yards, threw for 306 yards and accounted for four touchdowns.

"Bishop is a guy, because he touches the ball every snap, that is more dangerous," Missouri Coach Larry Smith said. "He can hurt you so many ways, and Williams is the top back in the conference, if not the country, but Bishop is the same at quarterback."

Bill Snyder, the normally tight-lipped Kansas State coach, was quick to offer praise for his quarterback, who he said last week was the main reason KSU was undefeated. He accounted 81 percent of

the Wildcats' offense against the Huskers to Bishop.

"His ability allows him to do so many things," Snyder said. "He can throw, run and is even our back-up punter. He is a great runner, but he is a quarterback who can run, not a running back who is at quarterback."

Even though Bishop has received a lot of his attention later in the year, Williams has been in the spotlight since the beginning of the season.

Since returning to Texas for his senior season, Williams has been the front-runner for the Heisman and presumably for the Big 12 offensive player of the year.

Many pundits have ruled against awarding Williams the Heisman for career achievements. Texas A&M Coach R.C. Slocum said that career accomplishments can be taken into

account when deciding for this year's award.

"I have to go with Ricky Williams, because he has had a tremendous impact on his football team," Slocum said. "For what he has done in his life and career, it will be difficult for him not to win it."

In a diplomatic response, Baylor Coach Dave Roberts gave a suggestion that could please both sides on the player-of-the-year debate.

"Maybe both of them can be co-players of the year," Roberts said. "Both have played us, and they were incredible, so I hope there is a tie."

Who's the best?

Here are the numbers comparing Michael Bishop and Ricky Williams this season:

Bishop			
	Att-Comp	Yds.	TD
Passing	132 - 243	2,346	20
Williams			
	Car.	Yds.	TD
Rushing	126	543	12
Williams			
	Car.	Yds.	TD
Rushing	317	1,865	26
	Cat.	Yds.	TD
Receiving	19	226	1

Husker women get at-large bid for NCAA meet

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agreed Dirksen's surprise would be their greatest advantage for the NCAA meet.

"I think this is going to pull our team together even more," Wiseman said. "Before, it was like, 'Our season's over. This is it.' Now, all of the sudden, we have something to prove. We thought it was over. We're in it, and we can do it."

For the NU men, the story was just the opposite.

The Huskers finished 13th in the field of 22 teams and were paced by senior Lou Petricca, who had his best race of the year. Petricca finished the 10,000-meter race in 32:15.40 for 43rd place.

Junior Tony Smith was next for NU in 51st place with a 32:33.80. Chris Bailey of Illinois State won the individual crown in 30:52.60, while Oklahoma State grasped the men's team title with 42 points.

"We thought we were prepared to really pull something out," Smith said. "It was just one of those days where not everybody was on. We didn't live up to what we thought we could do."

A&M, KSU to play in title game

From staff reports

What had been feared by many Nebraska players, coaches and fans was made official Saturday: The



Slocum

Cornhuskers will not be making a return trip to the Big 12 Championship.

However, Texas A&M will make a return trip, this time to St. Louis, where it will play Kansas State on Dec. 5 as part of the Dr Pepper conference championships series to be televised by ABC.

The Wildcats are 10-0 this season, No. 1 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Poll and No. 2 in The Associated Press Poll. KSU solidified its spot with a 40-30 win over Nebraska on Saturday.

Texas A&M is 10-1 this season, with the only loss a 23-14 setback to Florida State in the Kickoff Classic. The Aggies stand sixth in both polls. A&M advanced to the title game by virtue of a 17-14 win over Missouri on Saturday. A&M lost to Nebraska 54-16 in the 1997 Big 12 Championship but defeated NU 28-21 this year in College Station.

"I think it will be a very good matchup," NU Coach Frank Solich said. "Kansas State has a great offense, and Texas A&M has great defense. I'm sure both teams will play

very well."

Before both teams reach the title game, each has critical games that weigh heavily in the national picture. KSU plays Missouri this week, while Texas A&M travels to Texas on Nov. 26.

The other conference championship games have yet to be set. The SEC Championship game already had Arkansas as one participant, while Tennessee, which beat the Razorbacks 28-24 Saturday, needs to win one of its last two games to get in.

The race for the WAC Championship remains up in the air. Traditional powers Brigham Young and San Diego State are tied for one spot in the conference while Air Force and Wyoming vie for the other.

Brown's extra-point streak comes to an end at KSU

BROWN from page 7

It was the first miss for Brown this season - a season that has been full of disappointments, Brown said, not only for himself, but for the team.

"It's not a year I planned on having," Brown said. "I'm not doing the things I'd hoped to do, but it's just a part of athletics. It's part of being a competitor."

Since Brown's holder, Frankie London, suffered a season-ending injury in the Kansas game, Brown said he has been in a bit of a slump.

He said working with London on so many repetitions throughout the year and in practice made the two of them almost machine-like, producing extra points and field goals automatically.

Since London's injury, quarterback Eric Crouch has held for Brown.

"Eric's done a good job," Brown said. "But it's not something you want

to happen - a kicker losing his holder in the middle of the season. I think it's had some effect on me mentally."

As far as the record, Young said it hasn't been a big concern of Brown's.

"He's a team player. He just wants to do what he can to help the team get a victory," Young said. "The kick's probably not that big of a milestone for him. That's just the kind of player he is."

Record or not, Brown has confidence that he'll get another shot against Colorado on Nov. 27, knowing that the Nebraska offense will continue to put the ball in the end zone.

"For me, it says more about the team and what this team has done," Brown said. "For me to kick extra points, we had to get in the end zone that many times."

"It's more of a team deal. I was just in the right place, at the right time, for the right team to put the ball through the uprights."

"I'm not doing the things I'd hoped to do, but it's just a part of athletics."

KRIS BROWN
NU kicker

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