

## Rockies catcher Mayne gets win on mound

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
DENVER — The bullpen beyond the right-field wall was deserted, and Colorado manager Buddy Bell was bordering on desperation when he spotted injured catcher Brent Mayne in the Rockies' clubhouse. "Can you pitch?" Bell asked. "Yeah, I can pitch," Mayne replied, fibbing slightly as he realized he was on the verge of fulfilling a lifelong dream. Having run out of relief pitchers in a 6-6 game, Bell sent Mayne to the mound for what turned into

a historic performance. Mayne became the first position player in 32 years to win a major league game. "From a personal note, I wanted to get out there and pitch, try it out," Mayne said Wednesday. "That's a once-in-a-lifetime thing. I never even thought about getting the win. Later, I thought, 'Wow! I can get the win right here. This is even better.'" Mayne pitched the 12th inning of Colorado's 7-6 victory over the Atlanta Braves. He gave

up a two-out hit to Rafael Furcal and a walk to Andruw Jones before retiring reigning NL MVP Chipper Jones on a check-swing grounder to third. "It's a lose-lose situation," Chipper Jones said. "If you get a hit, you're supposed to, and if you don't, you're a geek." When the Rockies scored the winning run minutes later, Mayne ended up as the first position player to win since outfielder Rocky Colavito threw 2 2-3 shutout innings for the New York Yankees on Aug. 25, 1968.

## Lindsay likes new OSU attack

### Cowboys hope to return to form of 1997's 7-4 campaign

**BY SAMUEL MCKEOWN**

Oklahoma State quarterback Tony Lindsay vividly remembers a game his teammates would likely rather forget.

It's two years past, but a 52-20 loss to Kansas State in 1998 now serves as a rallying point to revive Lindsay's wayward career. On that day, KSU quarterback and Heisman Trophy runner-up Michael Bishop completed only eight passes. But those completions were good for 287 yards and three touchdowns, obliterating a defense that was among the best in the Big 12 Conference.

"They were just crazy with those deep balls," said Lindsay at the Big 12 Conference Media Days in late July. "Their receivers got behind our guys and made big plays. It didn't matter what we would have done."

The point? The offensive coordinator on that KSU squad, Del Miller, now calls the plays in Stillwater. His arrival changes the OSU attack from an option-based running game to the same wide open, one-back offense K-State employs.

Lindsay admits he's excited like he hasn't been in awhile. He emerged as a future star after he led the Cowboys to a 8-4 record and a bowl berth in 1997 as a freshman. Two 5-6 seasons and a serious knee injury later, the Denver native, while healthy, isn't a blip on the radar screen when conversation of the Big 12's best quarterbacks arises.

"I've got nothing to lose," he said. "I mean you've got guys like (Eric) Crouch and Major Applewhite that are getting all the hype. I'm not going to be in the mix for that — right now."

The same fortune has beset the entire Cowboy team and Coach Bob Simmons, who had the conference buzzing with his overachieving 1997 squad. Now he staves off hot-seat rumors, along with jabs from Tulsa Coach Dave Rader. Rader, whose Golden Hurricanes serve as Oklahoma State's second in-state rival, recently said TU was going up, while OSU was stuck in neutral, inching back down the

hill. Both Lindsay and Simmons were stung by the comments. The coach got particularly touchy when one writer suggested the Cowboys belong in the second tier of the Big 12 hierarchy. "Second tier?" Simmons barked. "I can't believe you said that. Where are the second tier writers here?"

But even the coach saw reason for change in the off season, hence the revamped offense. When Lindsay went down with a strained knee in the opening game last year, hopes of an effective rushing attack went along with him. OSU mustered only 1,681 yards on the ground for the season, and ranked 92nd nationally in total offense.

The I-back job is, in fact, still in the air. During the spring game, when the new offense was unveiled, junior Reggie White rumbled for 160 yards and three touchdowns. Likewise, Lindsay looked strong, completing 11 of 18 passes for 231 yards. Jamal Fobbs, the incumbent senior starter at tailback, was hurt and didn't play.

Lindsay said Fobbs might move to wingback in certain formations to utilize his athleticism. The quarterback said OSU would pass 20-30 times a game.

Simmons all but ruled out the option attack for next year, though Lindsay has proved himself skilled at it during his career. Last season the coach said the offensive line often blocked poorly, leading to low rushing totals.

On defense, Oklahoma State is traditionally strong, but must replace three starters in the secondary. Simmons likes the progress being made there, along with some of the freshmen that were signed to compete right away. In the front seven, there's one qualified star in defensive end Juqua Thomas, who said he might see double teams to slow down his rush.

The soft-spoken Thomas said execution is key to an improved record. Simmons thinks a better off-season atti-

## BIG XII PREVIEW

### Oklahoma State Cowboys

- Preseason Rank: 4th (South Division)
- 1999: 5-6 (3-5 Big XII, 4th in the South)
- Offensive Starters Returning: 5
- Defensive Starters Returning: 5
- Prognosis: Cowboys should benefit from a healthy Tony Lindsay and not having Kansas State or Nebraska on the schedule.

Delan Lonowski/DN

tude will do the trick. It'll help that Kansas State and Nebraska can't be found on the schedule, as they accounted for four losses in the past two seasons. They've been replaced by Iowa State and Missouri.

A midseason trip to Texas is big, as is a late home date with resurgent rival Oklahoma, whose success has put some pressure back on Oklahoma State, Lindsay said.

As if to replicate OU's success with passing, OSU has a vertical plan of their own. But unlike the Sooners' clock-eating, piecemeal throwing game, the Cowboys want to stretch the defense, just like their Wildcat neighbor to the north.

"We're going to open it up, there's no question about it," Lindsay said. "We needed to change a little bit. I remember looking at that Kansas State game and thinking 'we should be doing that.'"

Test No. 1: Tulsa, the city-borne threat to OSU's position in the state.

"They better be ready if they're going to be saying what they said about us," Lindsay said. "Just beating them, that might be the biggest game right there."

"We're going to surprise them, I know that."

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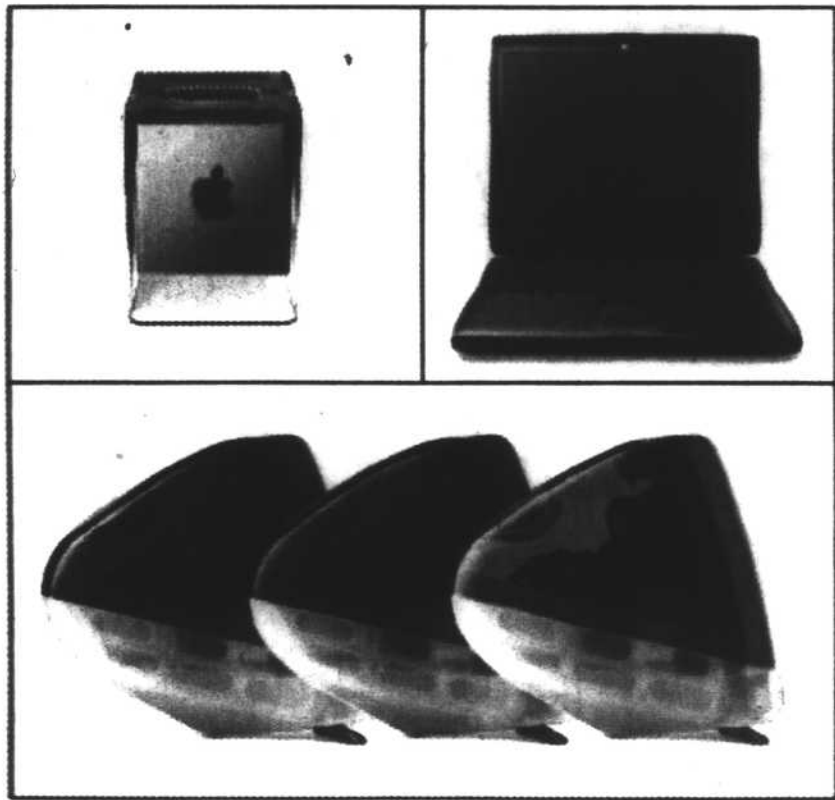
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