

Big XII Notebook

Kansas (1-1; beat UAB 23-20)

Kansas kicker Joe Garcia may have flubbed an extra point against Alabama-Birmingham that cost the Jayhawks the lead in second half of its win.

But Coach Terry Allen said he had no problem going back to Garcia later for a much tougher kick - a 50-yard field goal - that would provide KU with the winning margin of points.

"Joe had been kicking very well in practice, so I had no hesitation," Allen said. "He split the uprights, and it probably would have been good by 55 or 56 yards."

Oklahoma (2-0; was idle)

The Sooner camp is quiet in preparation for Rice, one of the few true wishbone teams left in college football.

Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops said the off week was spent working on the option schemes and sets.

Oklahoma State (2-0; beat Southwest Texas State 23-0)

Oklahoma State has a new I-back in Reggie White, who is well on his way to a 1,000-yard season after two straight games over the century mark.

Coach Bob Simmons lauded White's size - 6-foot 2-inches tall and 230 pounds - and speed package.

"He runs aggressively, sometimes too aggressively, which brings up ball-control issues," Simmons said. "But he won't let people arm-tackle him."

Kansas State (3-0; beat Ball State 76-0)

After Aaron Lockett returned his second punt for a touchdown in Saturday's romp over the Cardinals, Kansas State Coach Bill Snyder joked about a possible "returmer controversy" between Lockett and NCAA record-holder David Allen.

There are no worries, Allen fans. When the senior returns from injury, the job is his.

"I think David has proven his skills," Snyder said.

Texas Tech (4-0; beat Louisiana-Lafayette 26-0)

Coach Mike Leach's new-fangled passing offense hasn't been perfect in Texas Tech's four-game winning streak, but it has been good enough against poor competition.

Now the Red Raiders get a week off before moving to Big 12 Conference play against Texas A&M on Sept. 30.

"It's probably good we're getting a week off," Leach said. "A&M will be the best we've played yet."

Baylor (1-1; lost to Minnesota 34-9)

If things at Baylor were bad, the situation got worse Saturday when quarterback Greg Cicero suffered a broken left collarbone. The injury will sideline him for the rest of the season.

BU Coach Kevin Steele said the two quarterbacks who followed in the loss to Minnesota could not take advantage of what Steele termed "a great offensive game plan."

"We looked at the tape and saw all these chances," Steele said. "And we couldn't get people in the right place."

With Cicero's injury, don't expect Baylor to scale back its offensive attack. Steele said BU will continue to run multiple sets throughout the season.

Iowa State (3-0; beat Iowa 24-14)

Iowa State has been here before. In fact, it was last year.

Yes, 3-0 is just how ISU began the 1999 season, including a win over in-state rival Iowa. But a loss to Kansas State the next week began a tailspin through the Big 12 schedule that Iowa State never recovered from.

"We got to see if we can be a better team in 2000," ISU Coach Dan McCarney said. "Certainly we didn't play the best game against Iowa, but the effort was there."

Texas (1-1; lost to Stanford 27-24)

Texas lost in the little places on Saturday night and Sunday morning against Stanford.

UT had more yards but lost two turnovers and didn't force any. It had a punt blocked. And

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Banned trackster watches Olympics

Husker Carl Myerscough remains suspended because of accusations of steroid use.

BY JAMIE SUHR

While the top track and field athletes are in Sydney, Australia, for the 2000 Summer Olympics, Nebraska shot-putter and former Olympic hopeful Carl Myerscough sits at home and watches.

Myerscough, a native of Hambleton, England, is still awaiting word on any ban from the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) for testing positive for steroids in June of 1999.

A source close to the track team said Myerscough did indeed take steroids from his coach in England, Simon Nathan.

Nathan, Myerscough and Mark Colligan, Husker throws coach, deny these allegations.

"That's totally against his character," said Nathan, the national junior shotput and discuss coach for Great Britain.

The IAAF, track and field's international governing body, has yet to weigh in on the matter.

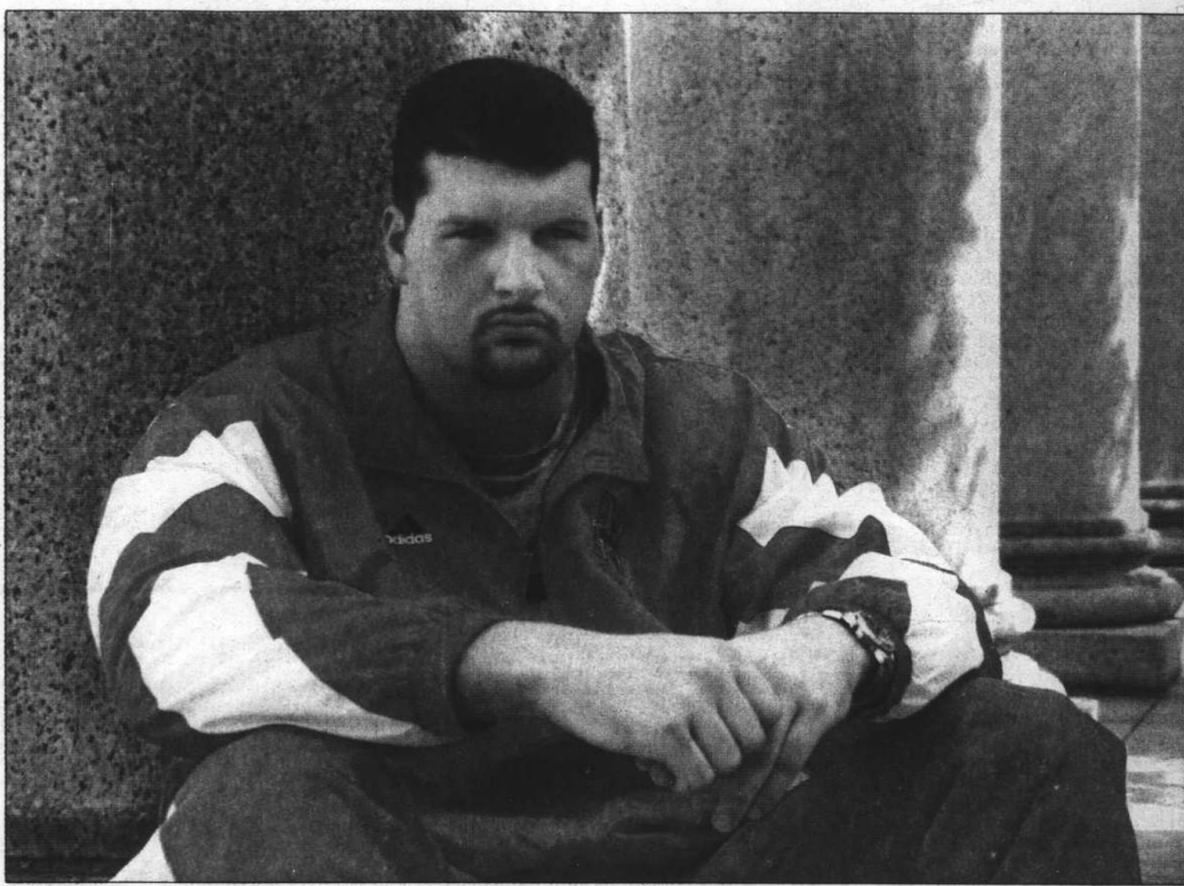
Myerscough has been suspended since June 1999. In those 15 months, the federation has not ruled on the case, held up by a tangled mess of bureaucratic red tape.

Eventually, the IAAF will decide the NU shot-putter's innocence or guilt.

In the meantime, Myerscough said he bides his time thinking about what might have been.

"It'll be painful when I watch the Olympics because I know I should be there," Myerscough said. "I'm very bitter about the whole thing, and I won't forgive them for that."

The saga of Myerscough,



Nate Wagner/DN

Carl Myerscough, an NU shot-putter, didn't participate in Olympic trials because of a positive test for steroids in 1999.

steroids and the IAAF began in June 1999 when Myerscough received a phone call from a UK Athletics official letting him know he had tested positive for a banned substance.

"I didn't know what was happening," Myerscough said. "I got a phone call at 7:30 p.m., and I couldn't sleep for three days."

After a positive test, UK Athletics sends its findings to

the IAAF, and if the IAAF determines the test results are valid, then the athlete is suspended until a hearing can take place.

Myerscough contends his test results should be thrown out because of what he said is a rash of errors in the handling of his case.

Myerscough said the courier did not deliver the urine sample to the lab within the 48 hours as

stated in UK Athletics' policy.

In fact, the sample was three days late and was left sitting on the night stand at the courier's apartment, he said.

Myerscough added that no paperwork was filed at the lab that reported the whereabouts of the test taker.

He said at least one of the signatures on the test results was forged and that one of the

lab workers would testify for Myerscough.

IAAF officials and UK Athletics would not comment on the Myerscough case or his allegations of wrongdoing.

However, Colligan said UK Athletics is conducting an internal investigation for forged documents.

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National Rankings Associated Press Football

Rank	School	Record	Points	Prev. Rank
1	Nebraska(43)	2-0	1,747	1
2	Florida St.(26)	3-0	1,723	2
3	Florida	3-0	1,545	6
4	Kansas St.(1)	3-0	1,459	7
5	Virginia Tech	3-0	1,412	8
6	UCLA	3-0	1,408	14
7	Wisconsin	3-0	1,349	4
8	Washington	3-0	1,331	9
9	So. California	2-0	1,126	10
10	Michigan	2-1	1,107	3
11	Clemson	3-0	1,030	16
12	Miami	1-1	926	12
13	Tennessee	1-1	889	11
14	Ohio St.	3-0	733	17
15	Texas	1-1	717	5
16	Notre Dame	2-1	705	21
17	Oklahoma	2-0	629	18
18	TCU	2-0	531	20
19	Illinois	3-0	513	19
20	Auburn	3-0	445	24
21	Purdue	2-1	422	13
22	So. Miss.	1-1	380	25
23	Michigan St.	2-0	274	22
24	Georgia	1-1	194	23
25	Mississippi St.	2-0	128	NR

Delan Lonowski/DN

NU fall sports undefeated

BY MATTHEW HANSEN

The football team is still tops in the country. So is the volleyball team. And the women's soccer squad is ranked third, just a few points away from moving up to gain the No. 1 ranking.

You could say it's been a pretty swell fall season for Nebraska athletics.

Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne said he certainly thinks so.

"They're doing great, aren't they?" Byrne said. "For our fall sports, this is clearly the best we've ever been."

The football team is in familiar territory on top, as it has held the No. 1 spot in the Associated Press and Coaches' Polls for at least one week in five of the last seven years.

Although the volleyball team has only one NCAA championship to football's three since 1993, the team also feels comfortable near the top of the polls. NU Volleyball has finished in the Top 3 in the final AVCA polls four times since 1994.

But it's the soccer team that is making this Nebraska's best all-around fall season ever - even better than 1995, when both the football and volleyball teams won national titles, Byrne said.

Five years ago, NU soccer was only in its second year of existence. The Huskers finished 10-8 and unranked that season.

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Early upsets mar Big 12 teams

BY SAMUEL MCKEWON

One month into the college football season, early returns aren't looking good for the Big 12 Conference.

There's Texas, suffering a 27-24 upset at Stanford, which lost to San Jose State one week earlier.

There's Colorado, whose woes continued against Washington with a late fumble leaving the Buffs at 0-3.

There's Baylor, which proved with a 34-9 loss to Minnesota that it is, alas, still Baylor, a team worthy of empty stadium seats.

But the kiss of death arrives with the Big 12's 1-6 record against Top 25 opponents. Only Nebraska, has managed a victory over the elite crust of college football, and that was a 27-24 squeaker over Notre Dame. The Irish improved its reputation with a squeaker win of its own over Purdue 23-21.

Outside of the Huskers, the outlook is glum. With CU's losses to Washington and Southern California, Missouri's losses to Clemson and Michigan State, Texas A&M's loss to the Irish, and UT's loss to Stanford, the buzz has shifted westward, where the Pacific 10 Conference has blitzed through competition and placed three teams in the Top 10.

But Big 12 coaches are shrugging off the shabby results in favor of a my-team-first policy. Translation: If the losses aren't happening in my neighborhood, it doesn't matter.

"Every year is different," Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops said. "Every coach has to have his own teams ready to play. I leave all that who's better stuff to the media people and coffee-table folks for arguing who's the best conference."

Stoops, who's kept his No. 17 Sooners flying below the radar so far, essentially preached an idea that if every team takes care of business, reputation isn't a problem.

And the coach whose



DN File Photo

Nebraska is the only team in the Big 12 to defeat a Top 25 team this season. The conference is a combined 1-6 against Top 25 opponents.

team has a chance to beat No. 20 Southern Mississippi this Saturday, Oklahoma State's Bob Simmons, saw it the same.

"We want to win this weekend's ball game for all the right reasons, starting with what's best for Oklahoma State," said Simmons, whose team has beaten up on Tulsa and Division I-AA Southwest Texas State for tune-ups.

But Simmons went on to point out how easily the Big 12 reputation could be different, especially in the case of CU.

The Buffaloes easily out-yarded USC in a 17-14 loss and was driving for a game-tying field goal before fumbling away a chance against the Huskies.

Simmons said he felt his former team, which lost to now-No. 9 USC and No. 8 Washington, may be as good as many top 25 teams. "Colorado is one play away in both of those games," Simmons said. "We're talking about three games (including CU's 28-24 loss to Colorado

"Every coach has to have his own teams ready to play. I leave all that who's better stuff to the media people and coffee-table folks for arguing who's the best conference."

Bob Stoops
OU football coach

State) where had they won, we're not having this conversation."

Nor might it occur if a few more of the conference powers - well, Kansas State - would schedule teams that register on the college football respect meter.

While CU and Missouri struggled against top 25 teams, KSU basked in the purple glow of two blowouts, including Saturday's tension added 76-0 win against Ball State that Coach Bill Snyder termed "a game that was over before it was over."

"We had 34 points in the first quarter," said Snyder, who seemed to enforce a self-imposed mercy rule on the

Cardinals by not passing in the second half. "It wasn't very close after that."

NU Coach Frank Solich takes a personal responsibility track somewhere in between most of the Big 12 coaches.

Unlike Snyder, he prefers a brand-name program sprinkled into the schedule with a mid-level team and a pushover.

Parity has made it harder to steamroll most opponents, both inside the Top 25 and teams lurking outside it.

"You've got to play great football, no matter who you play," Solich said. "The Big 12 certainly isn't off to a great start."