

Big XII Notebook

Kansas (2-3, 0-2; lost 52-13 to Kansas State, Missouri)

Terry Allen's Jayhawks continue to struggle in the turnover department. KU totaled three turnovers against the Wildcats (two fumbles, one interception) and have given it away now 18 times this season in five games. KU is going into its second rival game in as many weeks.

Oklahoma (5-0, 2-0; beat Texas 63-14, at Kansas State)

The Sooners come into their matchup of the unbeaten off a monumental win against their archrival Saturday.

OU, now ranked No. 8, held the Longhorns to minus seven rushing yards on the day and 154 total yards behind Big 12 defensive player of the week Rocky Calmus and special teams player of the week J.T. Thatcher. Bob Stoops' defense will be tested by the Wildcat offense, which is averaging 472 yards and 51.3 points per game.

Texas (3-2, 1-1; lost 63-14 against Oklahoma, at Colorado)

Longhorn coach Mack Brown said the video of Saturday's debacle against Oklahoma showed exactly what the score did — a lopsided game from all angles.

Brown said his team was out-played in all facets and he was out-coached as well. Getting back on track is as simple as pie to Brown.

"The only way you can be a confident team is to win," Brown said. "So that is what we have to do."

Oklahoma State (2-3, 0-2; lost 24-10 to Missouri, Iowa State)

Cowboy coach Bob Simmons benched starting quarterback Tony Lindsay for Aso Pogi in OSU's loss to the Tigers. Pogi, a redshirt freshman, passed for a fourth-quarter touchdown but he only completed 12 of 22 passes and had one interception.

Before Lindsay left the game, the senior completed 14 of 22 passes but had two picks himself. The Cowboys are the fourth team in the Big 12 to use a dual or triple quarterback system so far this season.

Texas Tech (5-1, 1-1; beat Baylor 28-0, Nebraska)

The Red Raiders head into their 6 p.m. matchup on Fox Sports Net with the Huskers behind an aerial offense that is averaging 303 yards per game, but also a stingy defense that is allowing under ten points a game to opponents.

Tech was able to stop three drives that went deep into Red Raider territory by breaking up one fourth-down pass and intercepting two others, preserving the shutout of Baylor.

Kansas State (6-0, 2-0; beat Kansas 52-13, Oklahoma)

The Wildcats will be partying with the ESPN GameDay crew and Lee Corso this Saturday in Manhattan in the feature game of the weekend when KSU hosts Oklahoma.

Bill Snyder and his team have already passed two Big 12 tests with ease and a win over the resurgent Sooners would cement their claim to the No. 2 ranking.

Missouri (2-3, 1-1; beat Oklahoma State 24-10, Kansas)

Redshirt freshman Darius Outlaw had a successful debut against the Cowboys after he took over for Kirk Farmer, who broke his collarbone against Nebraska.

Outlaw threw for 191 yards, running for one touchdown passing for another — both in the first quarter. Mizzou coach Larry Smith said he was pleased with Outlaw's performance. Farmer's evaluation continues and his return this season is still in question.

Iowa State (4-1, 1-1; lost 49-27 to Nebraska, at Oklahoma State)

Dan McCarney's troops will try to regroup after suffering their first loss of the season to NU. ISU's passing game looks to be in good hands but its running game, which had been averaging 227 yards coming into Nebraska, managed only 37 yards against the Huskers.

The Cyclones will also try to avoid a collapse similar to 1999 when ISU started out at 3-0, lost to Kansas State and finished the season at 4-7.

Texas A&M (3-2, 1-1; lost 26-19 to Colorado, at Baylor)

The Aggies outgained

Subplot heats OU-KSU contest

■ The No. 2 Wildcats and the No. 8 Sooners will square off Saturday in a game marked by bitterness between coaching staffs.

BY SAMUEL MCKEWON

It's the first Big 12 Conference regular-season game of the year with a big top, plus a few extra circus rings to accompany the hype. And it doesn't even involve Nebraska.

In a national championship knockout game, No. 2 Kansas State and No. 8 Oklahoma have enough rich subtext surrounding Saturday's regionally televised 2:30 p.m. contest in Manhattan, Kan., to play three games.

There's the clash between two passing offenses and their respective quarterbacks: OU and Josh Heupel's straight ahead, controlled attack that racked up 63 points on Texas last week against KSU and Jonathan Beasley's home run ball.

Kansas State also has an improved running game that will face an equally improved Sooner defense.

Trumping those stories is that of Wildcat Coach Bill Snyder vs. Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, the mentor and his not-so-prodigious former defensive coordinator, who, after taking the OU job two years ago, swiped three of KSU's coaches for his own staff.

It touched off anger among Wildcat faithful, along with a Sports Illustrated article this summer that quoted Bob Stoops'

brother and Oklahoma assistant, Mike, as criticizing Snyder.

Said Mike Stoops: "I don't know if anybody ever leaves Coach Snyder on good terms. He simply doesn't accept that you would leave. But then again, there's no having a personal relationship with him even when you're there."

In Monday's Big 12 weekly teleconference, Snyder kept the debate civil, even though the fans may opt for a more unruly protest of expletives Saturday.

"I can't tell you where all the (negative) perceptions came from," Snyder said. "I don't see bad blood. I think we have an excellent coaching staff here, and I think Bobby has an excellent coaching staff there. I don't know how our fans have taken it."

Stoops also worked under Florida's Steve Spurrier, and it's that contentious, boastful Southerner whom many say Stoops takes after. On several occasions during Big 12 teleconferences, Stoops has referenced his experiences at UF. Not as often does he talk about KSU.

He defended his hiring actions Monday and added he slipped two assistants off Florida's staff, including Spurrier's son.

"I was hired here to be the head football coach, and I was paid good money," Stoops said. "My job was to get the very best coaches I could to coach with me if they wanted to."

"Coaches have a right to do what they will with their lives, with their families and build their careers the way they see fit."

Stoops' quick building of a strong staff, along with a passing offense other Big 12 teams haven't quite caught up to, has put Oklahoma back in the top 10. This has been unfamiliar territory since the 1995 season, when OU spent one week at No. 10 before losing badly to Colorado on national television.

Not since has there been a bigger game in the Sooner nation. Some point to last week's 63-14 thrashing over the Longhorns as a turning point.

But UT Coach Mack Brown Monday likened his defense to that of "passing against air," providing "no test" for Oklahoma's offense, which averages 304 yards passing per game. Other foes, including Kansas, Texas at El-Paso and Rice, pale in the challenge Texas was supposed to offer.

Kansas State, which trailed some Division II teams in schedule difficulty last week with the 131st-ranked slate in Jeff Sagarin ratings, hasn't seen the type of test Oklahoma will provide.

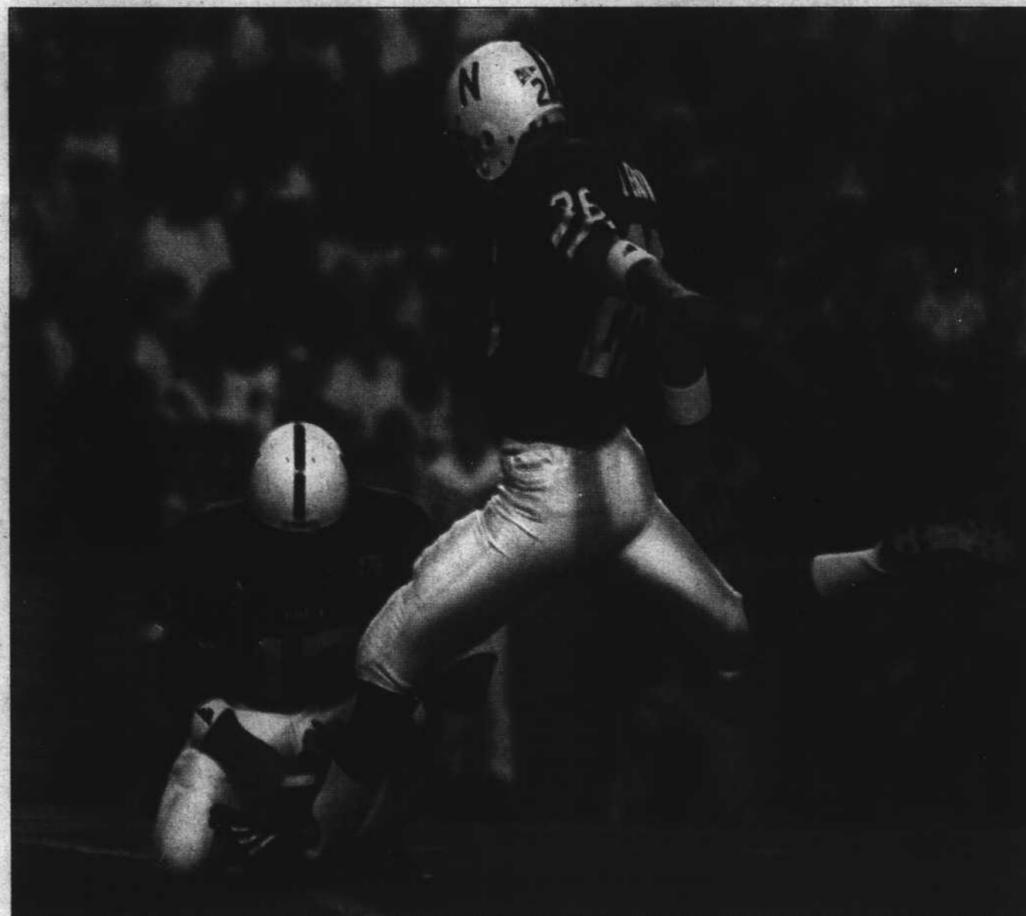
The game could likely hinge on whether Heupel can operate on a hostile field against a defense known for its unforgiving treatment of quarterbacks. Flip the coin over, and Kansas State has run and passed as it pleased in six wins this year. KSU is a threat



The 8th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners head into this Saturday's 2:30 p.m. matchup at No. 2 Kansas State full of confidence after demolishing Texas on Oct. 7.

in the return game, as well. Kansas Coach Terry Allen has seen both teams, with his Jayhawks hanging with OU despite seven turnovers in a 34-16 loss. One week later, KSU ran a pee-wee version of its offense in a 52-13 win over KU in Lawrence. "They dominated us," Allen said of the Wildcats. "Other than the turnovers, we played better against Oklahoma. If I was going to take a side based on how we played, I'd definitely give the edge to K-State."

Field goals latest woe for Husker special teams



Sophomore Kicker Josh Brown has connected on only two of five field-goal attempts this season, but he has made 65 straight extra points for NU.

BY DAVID DIEHL

After five games, Nebraska's problem with kickoffs looks to be solved, but trouble may be lurking in the placekicking department.

Sophomore placekicker Josh Brown has a 40-percent success rate, connecting on just two of five field-goal attempts this season. However, Brown and Nebraska coaches said they aren't overly concerned at this point.

Brown made his two field goals Saturday vs. Iowa State. Both were in the first half of NU's 49-27 win and came from 40 and 24 yards. Brown also misfired from 39 and 48 yards vs. the Cyclones.

Coach Frank Solich addressed Brown's kicking after the game.

"There is work to be done," Solich said. "But I've seen a lot of improvement, also. Are we perfect? Certainly not. But it was a tough day to kick with the wind."

A north wind blew steadily at 15 to 20 miles per hour during the game, and Brown said it was to blame for his first misfire.

The second miss, which was with the wind, was more mechanical, Brown said.

The snap, the hold and his approach have to be perfect on any

attempt, he said.

"All three seemed to be backwards on that one," Brown said. "It's just little things that can make a big difference."

But besides the wind, Brown said, the biggest factor in his kicking this year is that it has come so sporadically.

Brown didn't attempt his first field goal of the season until NU's fourth game vs. Missouri. The 42-yard attempt in the third quarter failed.

Brown said a stretch where he doesn't kick in a game situation for a long time takes away from his rhythm.

"Rhythm is everything," said Brown, who has made 65 straight extra points, including his first 26 this season.

"You got to have a beat. You need your timing down with your holder and your snapper. We don't do it much in practice during the week so come game time it's crucial knowing what each other person is doing."

Kickers Coach Dan Young said the two-for-five mark is a little bit of a concern but nothing to lose sleep over.

"I think Josh will come around," Young said. "He's been kicking well in practice. We just need to get him more attempts in games."

Solich echoed those thoughts: "I've got no problems with Josh kicking the ball. He'll step up and make some big ones for us."

"Rhythm is everything. You got to have a beat. You need your timing down with your holder and your snapper."

Josh Brown
NU kicker

While the place-kicking game may not be up to par, Young said he's pleased with the performance of Chace Long who has taken over for Dan Hadenfeldt on kickoffs.

Saturday, Long single-handedly stymied the Cyclone's return team, kicking four touchbacks against the Cyclones.

On his nine kickoffs, Long held the Cyclones' average starting position to the 21-yard line.

"Iowa State had a dangerous return man in J.J. Moses," Young said. "And Chace pretty much shut him down."

Young said Long has done better at placing his kickoffs than Hadenfeldt has. The kicking coach also blamed Hadenfeldt's early-season kickoff problems on an injured groin that has since healed.

Women's golf hurt by low fourth score

BY TOBY BURGER

Even with three golfers currently in the top 12 at the Legends Invitational in Franklin, Ind., the NU women's golf team still finds themselves 13 shots out in a three-way tie for sixth.

Juniors Sarah Sasse and Amanda Sutcliffe and senior Amy Roux all performed well for the Huskers, but a team score includes four individual scores, not three. The lack of a decent performance by the Huskers' fourth and fifth golfers is keeping NU in the middle of the pack with 36 holes of the 54-hole tournament complete.

"Were missing that good fourth score," Krapfl said. "Sarah, Amanda, Amy have been playing very, very well. They fought real, real hard this tourney."

Sasse once again led the way for the Huskers, firing an even-par 72 and following it with a 73 to finish the first day in eighth, six off the lead. Roux and Sutcliffe are also in contention. Roux shot two over to end the day tied for ninth while Sutcliffe is tied for 12th, one shot behind Roux.

Amanda Krane would usually provide that all-important fourth score for NU, but the sophomore has been out for two weeks with a stress fracture.

Krapfl said the team must step up to make up for Krane's absence. Monday, Catha Fogelberg and Stephanie Schaefer didn't do that.

Fogelberg, a junior, finished 67th, while Schaefer, a sophomore, placed 82nd.

It left Krapfl both pleased with the performances by her top three players and disappointed with the team's finish.

"We played much better today than we have been during the past few weeks," she said. "But we're still 13 shots out of first."

The team goes to the links today for the final 18 holes of the Legends Invitational.

Men in last place after first day

BY KRISTEN WATERS

The sun was shining in St. Louis today, but little shone for the Nebraska men's golf team.

The Huskers finished in last place after their first day of play in the 15-team Purina Classic Tournament held Monday. The tournament ends today with the final 18 holes of the 54-hole tournament.

Monday, Nebraska finished its first round of play with a score of 301 putting them in 14th place, ahead of only Kansas State.

The Huskers shot a 297 in the final round of the day, leaving a score of 598, 30 over par, and a fall to last place.

Sophomore Andy McCabe was the lone bright spot in an otherwise dreary NU performance. McCabe led the team with a first-round score of 74 and a second-round score of 69 for a total of 143 and a six-way tie for 11th place.

Junior Seth Porter finished second on the team with scores of 76 and 71 for a total of 147 and a tie for 33rd. Sophomores Blake Humbles and Kevin Bryson tied for 68th place.

NU Sophomore Marty Smith finished in a five-way tie for 28th, but he wasn't on Nebraska's team roster and was instead competing as an individual.

The Huskers will look to move up in the tournament as they tee off today at 8 a.m. for the final round of play.

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