

Big XII Notebook

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Iowa State (5-2, 2-2; lost 30-7 to Texas A&M; Missouri)

ISU Coach Dan McCarney said his team had its "poorest offensive game since the start of the season" against the Aggies.

McCarney, whose team did not score until 2:36 remained in the game, said his team never put itself in a position to win the game and "didn't do much to entertain a great crowd."

The Cyclones will try again to gain bowl eligibility but will have to return to the offensive form that made them the 12th-best offensive team in the nation by averaging 447 yards per game before A&M.

"We didn't give out an MVP award this week because nobody deserved it," McCarney said.

Texas (5-2, 3-1; beat Missouri 46-12; Baylor)

Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week Hodges Mitchell led the Longhorn offense to a second-half surge after a sluggish first 30 minutes in which UT led only 17-12.

Mitchell led Texas on a 99-yard third quarter drive and never looked back from that point, rushing for 151 yards and one touchdown in monsoon conditions in Austin.

Quarterback Major

Applewhite became the most prolific touchdown passer in UT history with three against Mizzou, giving him 55 on his career.

Applewhite passed for 277 yards, solidifying his hold on the starting position for the Longhorns.

Texas A&M (5-2, 3-1; won at Iowa State 30-7; Kansas State)

R.C. Slocum said his team has struggled to put all three phases - offense, defense and special teams - together this season.

Slocum said that some wins seemed at some points like losses in certain areas, but Saturday's win was a win from all angles.

"That was the best overall team performance thus far," he said.

The Aggies and the Wildcats will meet for the first time since A&M beat KSU in the 1998 Big 12 Championship game, knocking the Wildcats out of the national championship picture.

Colorado (1-6, 1-3; lost 23-15 at Kansas; Oklahoma State)

Gary Barnett said his team's loss was frustrating and marked by a lack of productivity from the running game, where CU gained only 90 yards to KU's 262.

Barnett said the game had very few bright spots for his team, but one positive was punt returner and Big 12 Special Teams Player

of the Week Roman Hollowell.

Hollowell gave the Buffaloes a 9-3 lead in the first quarter with a 66-yard punt return for a touchdown.

"Roman is probably our most consistent offensive player," Barnett said. "The punt return - he did it all by himself and if we all played like Roman, we wouldn't be a 1-6 team right now."

Nebraska (7-0, 4-0; beat Baylor 59-0; at Oklahoma)

NU Coach Frank Solich stayed true to his word that his team would not overlook the Bears to Saturday's game in Norman, Okla., proved by the pounding NU gave Baylor's Kevin Steele in his return to Lincoln.

The Cornhuskers put up 38 points in the first quarter.

Nebraska's meeting with No. 3 Oklahoma renews a longtime rivalry that has been dormant for some time because of OU's slide and the Big 12 schedule, which rotates matchups in the North and South divisions.

"It would be a great matchup on a yearly basis," Solich said. "This will, without question, pick up the series where it left off."

Nebraska's game against Kansas on Nov. 4 will be televised by ABC at 2:30 p.m.

Compiled by Joshua Camenzind

Clemens' bat toss to be reviewed

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Baseball started investigating Roger Clemens on Monday for throwing the barrel of Mike Piazza's shattered bat at him in Game 2 of the World Series.

Umpires did not eject the Yankees pitcher for tossing the jagged end in front of Piazza on Sunday night, but Sandy Alderson, executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office, did not rule out discipline.

"It's happened in the past," Alderson said at Shea Stadium. "That doesn't mean it will happen this time."

Umpires concluded Clemens, who beamed Piazza on July 8, did not deliberately throw the bat at him.

"He just picked up the bat and winged it," umpire crew chief Ed Montague said. "It was just an emotional deal that built over the months."

Frank Robinson, the vice president in the commissioner's office in charge of discipline, began telephoning executives from the Yankees and Mets on Monday and viewing videotapes, Alderson said.

"We're reviewing the situation and will take any appropriate action, if necessary," Alderson said. "Whatever pattern of behavior that exists or doesn't exist will be part of the review. There's a perception of a pattern of behavior in the minds of the public that has to be taken into account."

In the past, hitters have been penalized for throwing bats at pitchers, most notably Oakland's Bert Campaneris. He was suspended for the rest of the AL playoffs in 1972 after throwing his bat at Detroit pitcher Lerrin LaGrow,

who had hit him on an ankle with a pitch.

Clemens said he had not been contacted.

"It was an unusual incident. That's why I think we're approaching it with a certain amount of circumspection," Alderson said. "Intent is always difficult to establish."

Mets general manager Steve Phillips said he didn't think Clemens deliberately threw the bat fragment at his catcher.

"I understand why they didn't eject him, I really do," Phillips said.

Still, he was in favor of having Robinson review the strange toss.

Any suspension would not start until next season, because the players' association almost certainly would appeal, delaying any penalty until after a hearing before Paul Beeston, baseball's chief operating officer. Lawyers would need time to prepare for a hearing.

When Clemens was ejected in the 1990 AL playoffs by umpire

Terry Cooney, who thought the pitcher was cursing at him, Clemens was suspended for five games and fined \$10,000. A final ruling after two appeals was not made until the following April 26.

Gene Orza, the No. 2 official of the players' association, declined comment on Robinson's investigation, and neither commissioner Bud Selig nor Robinson returned telephone messages.

Yankees manager Joe Torre said he already had spoken with Robinson.

"He asked me what I thought and what I saw and what I felt," Torre said. "I think to be thorough about it, that's probably the right thing."

Piazza welcomed the investigation.

"Twenty, 30 years ago, it wouldn't have been an issue," he said. "This day and age, who knows?"

Mets manager Bobby Valentine refused to be drawn into the debate.

Penalties don't alarm Solich

BY DAVID DIEHL

Yellow flags thrown in the direction of the Nebraska Cornhuskers have been flying frequently the last two weeks.

But Coach Frank Solich said he doesn't think the penalties are cause for alarm going into Nebraska's showdown with No. 3 Oklahoma on Saturday.

Nebraska was flagged a season-high nine times two Saturdays ago and then set a new high against Baylor with 12 penalties, numbers that aren't necessarily reassuring for Husker fans.

"There were an awful lot of flags thrown," Solich said, "particularly in the second half. It's very difficult to keep drives alive when you're being called for holding."

Nebraska was flagged six times in the second half against the Bears. For NU's first five games, the team averaged six penalties in an entire game.

Guard Russ Hochstein said Nebraska cannot commit penalties against a team like Oklahoma.

"No good team can afford penalties," Hochstein said. "Penalties are really crucial in a game."

NU's offense was hamstrung by the six second-half penalties, putting up only seven points in the last 30 minutes. Going up against an offense as explosive as Oklahoma's, Nebraska will need all the points it can muster.

With Oklahoma's deadly passing attack, the pressure will be on Nebraska's defensive backs to make plays on Saturday. But Defensive Backs Coach George Darlington said he isn't worried about too much contact and pass interference calls.

"We want to be aggressive to the ball," Darlington said. "We seem to play better when we play aggressively."

Another aspect of the 21 penalties that NU committed in the last two weeks is who was committing them, Solich said, especially against Baylor.

Nebraska had 115 players play against the Bears, leading to mistakes from inexperience, Solich said.



DN File Photo

Nebraska has been penalized 21 times in its last two contests, but many of those penalties occurred when quarterback Jammal Lord was directing the No. 2 offense, or when players even further down the depth chart were playing in the blowouts of Texas Tech and Baylor.

"When you play everybody on your football team, that kind of a game can come along where you get a lot more penalties than you've normally gotten in the course of a game," Solich said.

Nebraska won't have the problem of putting 100-plus players on the field Saturday. NCAA rules mandate a much smaller roster for road games.

The Sooners also are expected to pose more of a threat to top-ranked NU than the Bears, who have won only three games in the past two seasons.

Senior co-captain Jason Schwab said that inexperienced players may commit more pen-


alties, but penalties are still unacceptable at Nebraska.

"It doesn't matter who is in there," said Schwab, a sixth-year tackle. "Our young guys have to know that we don't hold here. Third-string or fifth-string, whatever you are, we don't hold here."


When Nebraska squares off against OU for the first time in two years on Saturday, Solich said, he believes his team won't have a problem with penalties.

"We have played great football without penalties or with few penalties," said Solich, who will be facing off against Oklahoma for the first time as coach. "We'll be back to that again."


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