

The fearsome five... *Take on football, here and elsewhere*

Week
Number
One



R. Nolan



M. Fell



D. Jennings



R. Epp



T. Dreiling

The games:

Local, Area

Colby-Atwood
Goodland-Hoxie
Norton-Oakley
St. Francis-Oberlin
Golden Plains-Healy
Brewster-Otis/Bison

College

K-State-West'n. Kentucky
K.U.-Tulsa
Colo. State-Colorado
Pittsburg St.-Fort Hays St.
(No NFL this week)

About the pickers:

Ray Nolan is sports information director and assistant baseball coach at Colby Community College. **Mike Fell** is general manager of KXXX-Q100. **Dave Jennings** is owner of The His Shop. **Rich Epp** is sportscaster and voice of the Colby Community College Trojans and the Colby Eagles, and co-owner of J-R Marketing. **Tom Dreiling** is publisher of the *Colby Free Press*.

The pickers' picks:

Nolan: Atwood, Hoxie, Norton, Oberlin, G. Plains, Brewster, K-State, K.U., Colorado State and Pittsburg St.

Fell: Colby, Hoxie, Norton, St. Francis, G. Plains, Brewster, K-State, K.U., Colorado State, Pittsburg St.

Jennings: Colby, Hoxie, Norton, St. Francis, G. Plains, Brewster, K-State, K.U., Colorado, Fort Hays State.

Epp: Colby, Goodland, Norton, St. Francis, G. Plains, Brewster, K-State, K.U., Colorado, Pittsburg St.

Dreiling: Colby, Goodland, Norton, St. Francis, G. Plains, Brewster, K-State, Tulsa, Colorado, Fort Hays State.

Big XII

New quarterbacks ready

DALLAS (AP) — Rashaun Woods is gone, but Oklahoma State still has the record-setting receiver's two younger brothers: D'Juan, the team's top returning receiver, and Donovan, the new starting quarterback.

Donovan Woods, a redshirt freshman replacing Josh Fields, gets his first Cowboys start Saturday at UCLA.

"I think his development is really good," Cowboys coach Les Miles said. "He's got character. He will play competitively and he will want to make the play. It will be exciting for all of us to see how he plays."

Kansas State, Nebraska, Texas Tech, Kansas and Baylor also will have new starting quarterbacks when the Big 12 season gets started this weekend.

Texas A&M got a head start on the rest of the conference. The Aggies lost their season opener 41-21 Thursday night at No. 20 Utah.

No. 2 Oklahoma, still with Heisman Trophy winner Jason White at quarterback, plays Bowling Green in its opener.

Brad Smith, who missed by 23 passing yards becoming the first NCAA quarterback to throw for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in a season, begins his junior year in No. 18 Missouri's game against Arkansas State.

Sophomore Vince Young, pulled from the second half of Texas' loss in the Holiday Bowl after leading Texas to six straight wins, is back as the No. 7 Longhorns' starter against North Texas.

Defending Big 12 champion Kansas State takes the first step without Eli Roberson, with Dylan Meier taking over at quarterback. Coach Bill Snyder, whose No. 12 Wildcats open against Western Kentucky, doesn't anticipate big offensive changes.

"We'll see as we get into games if there is necessity to do that," Snyder said. "But there has been no indication we'll alter our offense from what it has been."

In other Big 12 openers, Nebraska begins the Bill Callahan era against Western Illinois, coach Dan McCarney begins his 10th season at Iowa State against Northern Iowa, Texas Tech goes to SMU, Baylor plays at Alabama-Birmingham, Colorado is home against Colorado State, and Kansas hosts Tulsa.

Oklahoma State, which has won 16 of its last 20 games, is on the road to start the season for the fifth straight year. D'Juan Woods had 31 catches for 479 yards and a touchdown last season; Donovan Woods is the sixth freshman quarterback for the Cowboys since 1986.

The Sooners have won all 16 September games for Bob Stoops. They open the coach's sixth season against Bowling Green, coming off an 11-win season that including two wins over Big Ten teams.

"Like everybody, we're just anxious to get back on the field and look

at somebody different than ourselves," Stoops said. "We recognize it as a big challenge right off the bat to be ready to play. We're aware of their potential."

Not only does Nebraska have a new coach, the Cornhuskers have a new offense and quarterback. Sophomore Joe Dailey will lead the pass-intensive West Coast offense that replaces the long-used deliberate, power running game.

Nebraska will be without All-Big 12 center Richie Incognito, suspended indefinitely by Callahan for repeated violations of team policy.

At Texas Tech, senior quarterback Sonny Cumbie gets his chance in coach Mike Leach's high-octane passing offense. B.J. Symons threw for 449 yards per game and 52

touchdowns last season.

After a summer during which a rape and recruiting scandal enveloped Colorado, the Buffaloes try to return the focus to the field. They open against Colorado State at home, a real home game and not in Denver for the first time in the in-state rivalry since 1997.

Kansas sophomore quarterback Adam Barmann started three games last season when Bill Whittemore was injured, but he's No. 1 going into this season opener against Tulsa.

Dane King, the nation's top junior college passer last season (301 yards per game), takes over at Baylor. He beat out Shawn Bell and Aaron Karas, the starters last season, in preseason workouts.

Broncos fall to Cardinals

DENVER (AP)—While Dennis Green was pleased with his kicker, he would rather see his offense score touchdowns.

Neil Rackers kicked four field goals as the Cardinals' special teams kept Arizona in the game until its offense got rolling in a 33-21 win over the Denver Broncos in a preseason game Thursday night.

"Neal has a lot of talent," said Green, who is in his first year as Cardinals coach. "We'd like to have had more touchdowns, but field goals will do."

Rackers kicked field goals of 45, 47, 57 and 47 yards as Arizona's offense struggled against Denver's backups.

The Cardinals held Denver to three plays and a punt on the game's first series and Karl Williams followed with a 39-yard punt return to

the Broncos' 31-yard line. That set up Rackers' 45-yarder.

Coby Rhinehart blocked Denver's next attempt at a punt, and Rackers followed with a 47-yard field goal.

Arizona's offense didn't get comfortable until late in the second quarter, moving 77 yards in 12 plays. Josh Scobey capped the drive with a 1-yard touchdown dive to make 13-0.

Josh McCown was done after that drive, finishing 5-for-8 for 41 yards. He put a scare into the Cardinals, midway through the first quarter.

Just after completing a pass, McCown was hit just above the left hip by Denver safety Chris Young. Grimacing and struggling to catch his breath, McCown took a knee as the Cardinals' trainers ran onto the field.

SportsLine

Eagle Tailgate Party Sept. 10

The Colby High School Booster Club will sponsor a "Tailgate Party" on Friday, Sept. 10 at Dennen Field starting at 5:30 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips and soft drinks will be available. Kick-off of the home opener between the Eagles and Hoxie Indians is at 7 p.m.

Colby sports activity

• **Today** — Varsity football vs. Atwood, there, 7 p.m.

• **Saturday** — Colby Invitational varsity girls tennis tournament, Fike Park and Colby College courts, 9 a.m.; volleyball camp for girls grades 4-6, middle school gym., 9-10:30 a.m.; volleyball camp for girls grades 1-3, middle school gym, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

• **Monday, Sept. 6** — Labor Day, no school. Jayvee football vs. Lakin at Dennen Field, 5 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Sept. 7** — Junior varsity and varsity girls golf at Goodland, 2 p.m.; "C"-junior varsity-varsity volleyball at St. Francis with Oberlin, 4 p.m.

Brewster sports activity

• **Today** — High school varsity football at

Brewster vs. Otis Bison, 7 p.m.

Golden Plains sports activity

• **Today** — High school varsity football at home vs. Healy, 7:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Sept. 7** — High school volleyball at Healy, 4 p.m.

Volleyball camp is Saturday

A volleyball camp for girls grades 1 through 6 will be held at the Colby Middle School gym on Sept. 4 and 11, and Oct. 2, 9 and 16. The 4th through 6th graders will play from 9-10:30 a.m. on those dates and the 1st through 3rd graders from 10:30-11:30 a.m. For additional details, please call coach Dustin Rorabaugh at 460-0221.

'Drive Fore Sobriety' set

The fourth annual "Drive Fore Sobriety" golf tournament, sponsored by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, will be held Sept. 11 at Sugar Hills Country Club, Goodland. Registration begins at 8 a.m. (MDT) with tee-off at 9 a.m. (MDT).

If interested in becoming a hole sponsor, forming a team or making a donation, call (785) 462-6111.

(Items to colbysports@nwkansas.com, td@nwkansas.com, fax 462-7749 or call 462-3963. We ask that submissions reach us no later than 10 a.m. on the day requested.)

A nother practice session



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Golden Plains Middle School volleyball players gathered up balls in the gym during practice Tuesday afternoon. The middle school Bulldogs will travel to Weskan on Thursday, Sept. 9 for a volleyball match and football game.

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We had great weather and a great 2004 Thomas Co. Free Fair but we couldn't have done it without the help of all of these great people and businesses.

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