

Chiefs face ‘devil’ of a schedule

KANSAS CITY — Unfortunately for Kansas City, Larry Johnson’s record-breaking rushing day against the sorriest team in the NFL counts for only one win.

Now begins the toughest part of the schedule for the playoff-hopeful Chiefs (6-4). Their last six regular-season games are all against winning teams. Five of their upcoming opponents are either outright or co-leaders of their division and the sixth, San Diego, has already beaten them once.

Denver (8-2), New England (6-4), Cincinnati (7-3) and the Chargers (6-4) will be at Arrowhead Stadium, starting Sunday with the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots. Sandwiched between the home games is a two-week span in mid-December when Kansas City visits NFC East leaders Dallas (7-3) and the New York Giants (7-3).

Gone are soft touches such as the Houston Texans, who gave up a Johnson’s franchise-record 211 yards rushing Sunday night in Kansas City’s 45-17 win.

It may not be the toughest finishing stretch of games in Dick Vermeil’s coaching career, but it has to be close.

“I don’t know if it’s been six games, but I know there have been times when we’ve had to finish strong,” Vermeil said Monday.

Fortunately for the Chiefs, their painful and expensive rebuilding effort seems to be paying off on defense. Buffalo and the Texans in the past two weeks have both been held down.

“I’ve seen improvement all along,” Vermeil said. “You play a team like (Houston) and it’s a little more glaring because they haven’t been a productive offensive team.”

So can the Chiefs’ ascending defense meet the challenges of the next six weeks?

“I believe we can. Time will tell,” he said.

One of the main newcomers in the defensive improvement, however, was on crutches after the Houston game. The Chiefs said cornerback Patrick Surtain had a right ankle sprain, not a good sign considering the next six opponents all rank in the top 12 offenses in the league.

Also injured was long snapper Kendall Gammon and reserve line-backer Kris Griffin. Gammon had what was described as a bruise on the lower left leg and Griffin a hamstring injury. The long-snapping duties were passed to defensive end Jared Allen, who learned the skill in college at Idaho State.

“I don’t know where (Surtain) will be,” said Vermeil. “Same for Kendall Gammon, Kris Griffin.”

The good news on the injury front centered on the injured hamstring of Pro Bowl left tackle Willie Roaf, who has missed several games.

“He will practice full speed on Wednesday,” Vermeil said.

Vermeil was in no mood to task Johnson to task for refusing to speak with reporters Sunday night after his record-breaking day. After Chiefs officials tried to set up a news conference, they returned to say Johnson was not talking.

The third-year running back, who has rushed for more than 300 yards in two games since Priest Holmes went on injured reserve, has felt he was not always treated fairly by the media.

“A certain percentage of the media has enjoyed writing any time he’s been in trouble. I think it was his way of just saying ‘to hell with you,’” Vermeil said. “He does have that right. His name has been in the paper a lot and it’s more about problem things.”

Vermeil also echoed the thoughts of Chiefs president Carl Peterson on suggestions the Chiefs try to bolster their wide receiver corps by signing Terrell Owens.

“I wouldn’t be in favor of it. We have a profile that we’ve tried to build a football team with. His public profile just doesn’t fit. That kind of talent would be nice to have.”

Last season marked by close losses

MANHATTAN — It all would have happened, eventually: the wrenching decision, the emotional announcement, the fond farewell marked with smiles and tears.

After all, nobody can coach forever.

But had Kansas State scored 10 more points — maybe even six or seven — at the right times this year, perhaps Bill Snyder’s retirement wouldn’t have come quite so soon.

One factor in his decision to step down after 17 years, Snyder said last week, was that two straight years without a bowl bid would mean less pressure for the new coach — whoever that turns out to be.

The Wildcats just missed out on the postseason, finishing 5-6 after a 4-1 start. Three of those losses came by a total of seven points: 30-28 to Texas A&M, 23-20 to Colorado and 27-25 to Nebraska.

“All season, we’ve been so close to winning games,” fullback Victor Mann said. “We’ve just let them slip out.”

At least a 36-28 comeback victory over Missouri in Snyder’s last game let the Wildcats end the season with a shot of energy — and several reasons for his successor to hope for good things next year.

High on the list is sophomore wide receiver Jordy Nelson, whose 10-yard TD catch put Kansas State ahead for good against the Tigers.

Nelson led the Wildcats with 45 catches for 669 yards and eight scores. He had scoring receptions in Kansas State’s first seven games, a school record.

Kansas State will also have its leading rusher, Thomas Clayton

(680 yards, four TDs) back for one more season, along with Parrish Fisher, who this year became the first Kansas State freshman to rush for more than 100 yards in a single game.

One big question mark on offense could be quarterback, though — not because the Wildcats don’t have any candidates to start in 2006, but because they could have too many.

Allen Webb, who will be a senior next year, started the first five games before losing his job to redshirt freshman Allan Evridge. But when Evridge was ineffective against Missouri, Webb came back in and rallied Kansas State to the win.

“I’m a team player, and I’m not a selfish person at all,” Webb said. “Regardless of whether I’m in there or not, I want the team to win. But it was big for me to get in and produce for my team.”

Kansas State could even have a three- or more-way controversy at the position next year. Dylan Meier, a six-game starter in 2004, redshirted his junior year because of a nagging shoulder injury, and redshirt freshman Kevin Lopinaha looked impressive on the Wildcats’ scout team.

Snyder’s successor will also inherit the team’s two leading tacklers: linebacker Brandon Archer and safety Marcus Watts, if Watts can return from a dislocated left hip, sustained early in the Missouri game.

In all, Kansas State could have as many as 18 starters back next year.

“This can be a good program, because there is a foundation,” Snyder said at the news conference

Eagle player honored

Colby High School Lady Eagle volleyball player Lissa Mazanec was selected to the 2005 Class 4A State Tournament Team. This selection was based on her outstanding performance at the 4A State Tournament held Friday, Oct. 28 and

Saturday, Oct. 29 in Salina. It is a direct reflection of the fine season both she and her team have enjoyed this year.

The Lady Eagle volleyball team placed fourth in Class 4A at the State tournament.

SportsLine

Public invited to watch wrestling tryouts

The Colby High School wrestling team will be holding their final tryouts, which will be open to the public at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29 at the high school gym.

The event will showcase the top two wrestlers in the 14 different weight classes. The winner of each weight class will become the team’s varsity wrestler for the first part of the season.

Proceeds from the free-will donation event will benefit the wrestling team throughout the year.

Colby High School basketball season opens Dec. 2

The Colby High School Eagles basketball season opens Friday, Dec. 2 against Scott City. Action starts at 4:30 p.m. with the “C” teams and games will be played at the Colby Community Building and high school gym.

Eagle wrestling starts Dec. 2

The Colby High School Eagle wrestling season starts Friday, Dec. 2, at Burlington, Colo. Both the junior varsity and varsity squads will compete. Action begins at 6:30 p.m.

High school wrestling on the road

The Colby High School varsity wrestlers travel to the St. Francis tournament Saturday, Dec. 3.

Matches begin at 9:30 a.m. The junior varsity squad will wrestle at the Goodland tournament Dec. 3. It begins at 10 a.m.

announcing his retirement. “We’re very confident in the young people that we have returning. ... I guess that’s the point: to entice the right individual to lead this program”

Just who that right individual might be, though, is a wide-open question.

Texas Christian coach Gary Patterson is a Kansas State alumnus and former graduate assistant — and a proven winner who has led the Horned Frogs to 10-victory seasons three times in the last five years. Patterson, who is signed through 2007, is in contract talks and told The Dallas Morning News last week that he is focused on TCU.

The names of two Oklahoma assistants, offensive coordinator Chuck Long and co-defensive coordinator Brent Venables, also have come up.

Long is a former quarterback at Iowa, where Snyder recruited him and helped him develop into a Heisman runner-up. Venables is a Kansas native who both played and worked for Snyder. But Venables’ age — 34 — could work against him, and Long said this week that he is in no hurry to leave the Sooners.

South Florida coach Jim Leavitt is also a rumored contender to replace Snyder.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COLBY CINEMA & ARCADE

NOV. 18 - DEC. 1

PRIME
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 & 9:00 (PG-13)
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:00 1:46

CHICKEN LITTLE
Fri. & Sat.: 7:15 & 8:45 (G)
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:15 1:20

STARTING WED. NOV. 23

YOURS, MINE & OURS
Wed: 7:15 & 9:00 (PG)
Thanksgiving Day: 7:15 1:30
Fri. & Sat.: 7:15 & 9:00
Sun. - Thurs: 7:15

WALK THE LINE
Wed: 7:00 & 9:30 (PG-13)
Thanksgiving Day: 7:00 2:16
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 & 9:30
Sun. - Thurs: 7:00

COLBY THEATRE

NOV. 18 - DEC. 1

JAR HEAD
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 & 9:30 (R)
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:00 2:05

ZATHURA
Fri. & Sat.: 7:15 & 9:15 (PG)
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:15 1:41

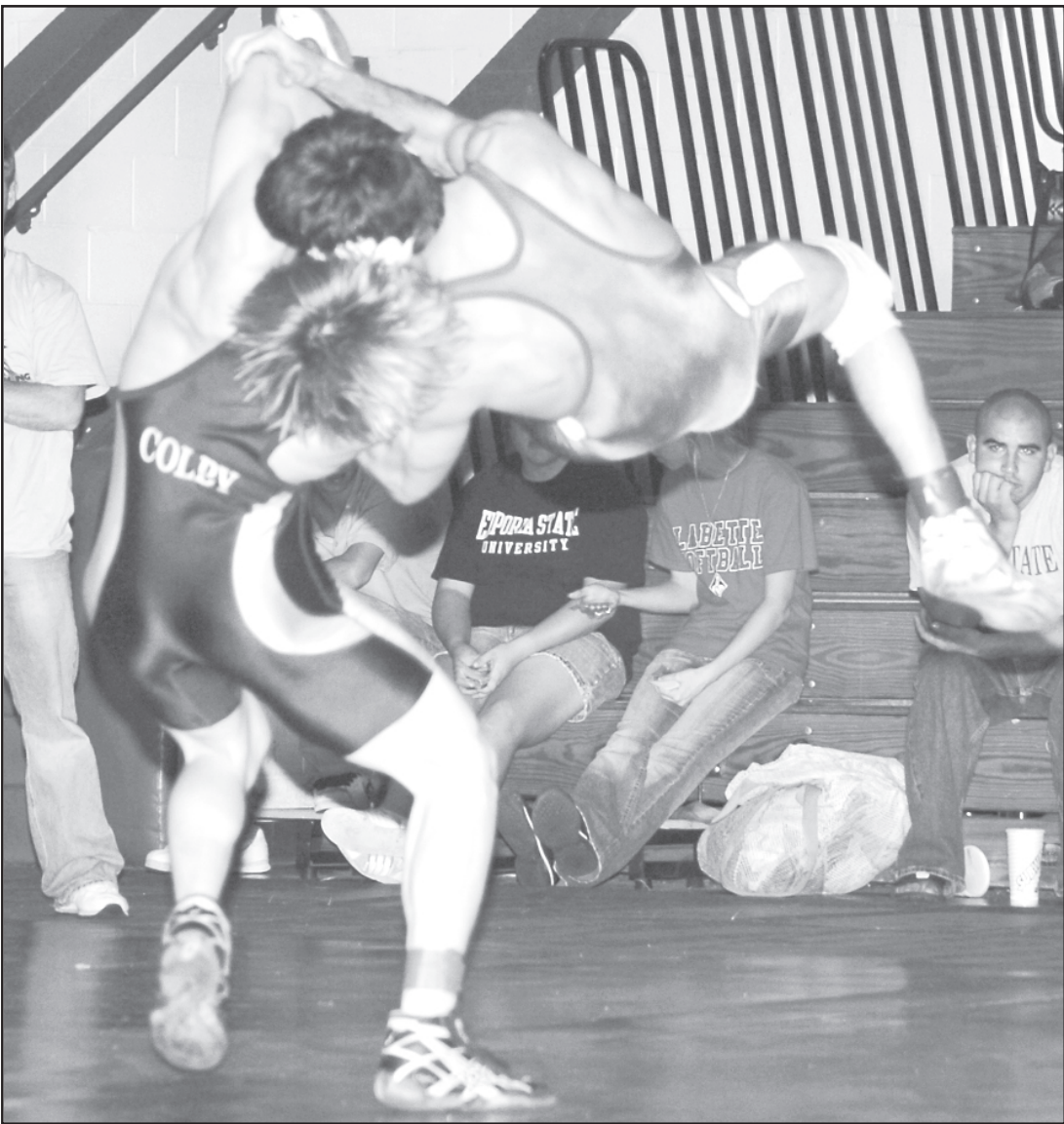
STARTING WED. NOV. 23

JUST FRIENDS
Wed.: 7:15 & 9:00 (PG-13)
Thanksgiving Day: 7:15 1:34
Fri. & Sat.: 7:15 & 9:00
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:15

JAR HEAD
Wed.: 8:45 (R)
Thanksgiving Day: 7:00 2:15
Fri. & Sat.: 8:45
Sun. thru Thurs.: 7:00

CHICKEN LITTLE
Wed.: 7:00 (G)
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 1:20

Slam-dunk



Daniel Prater, a sophomore at Colby Community College, lifted Marcus Bowman from Pittsburg State in the air while wrestling at the Take Down Tournament in Parsons earlier this month. Prater placed first at the tournament. The Trojan wrestlers next competition will be on Friday, Dec. 2 at the Northwest Wyoming Dual.

AP Briefs

Hockey
DETROIT — Red Wings defenseman Jiri Fischer collapsed on the Detroit bench late in the first period of a game against the Nashville Predators and was hospitalized in stable condition.

The team announced that Fischer had a seizure and was doing fine. Red Wings coach Mike Babcock later said Fischer’s heart had stopped and was restarted at the arena.

Fischer was also given CPR at the bench by team physician Dr. Tony Colucci before being removed on a stretcher.

Fischer logged 4 minutes, 52 seconds of playing time, and was on the ice when Nashville’s Greg Johnson scored the game’s only goal.

No makeup date was immediately announced.

Football
PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb will have surgery for a

sports hernia and is expected to miss the rest of the season.

McNabb re-injured his groin while trying to tackle Dallas safety Roy Williams following an interception last Monday night. McNabb didn’t play in Sunday’s 27-17 loss to the New York Giants, the Eagles’ fourth straight defeat.

All-Pro cornerback Lito Sheppard also appears out for the season with a severely sprained ankle that will require surgery.

STRIKE ZONE

~ League Bowling Results ~

November 15 - Pinbusters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Pepsi Cola	82	44	1
Colby Bowl	79	47	2
Cummins-Mid-America	69	57	3
Twisters	65	61	4
Donelan Jewelry	60	66	5
Cox Communications	58	68	6
United Commercial Travelers	57	69	7
Colby Automotive	56	70	8
Bye Bye Birdies	32	94	9

First high Individual game: Kipp Nelson, 279

First high Individual Series: Kipp Nelson, 793

November 14 - First Nighters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Discount Repair of Oakley	84	42	1
Colby Implement	78	48	2
Montana Mikes	74	52	3
Frontier Equity	72	54	4
C.C.C. Boys	64	62	5
N.W. Fire Extinguisher	59	67	6
Schlick Construction	54	72	7
Grinnell Furniture	50	76	8
Woolter Well & Pump	50	76	9
Warrior Hunting Supply	45	81	10

First high Men Individual game: Richard Joyce, 266

First high Men Individual series: Jerry McGuire, 624

First high Women Individual game: Roberta Shipley, 168

First high Women Individual series: Roberta Shipley, 470

November 15 - Early Bird Ladies League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Bowlerettes	29.5	14.5	1
Van's Merry Four	24	20	2
NW Vacuum	23	21	3
www.strike	22.5	21.5	4
4 4 Fun	19	25	5
Jean's Rollers	14	30	6

First high Individual game: Lesley Rogers, 209

First high Individual series: Lesley Rogers, 489

November 16 - Ladies Nite Out

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Straight Line	31	17	1
Bottle Gallery	30	18	2
Don's Electric	29	19	3
Camouflage Lawn Care	28.5	19.5	4
Strike-Outs	28	20	5
Twisters	24	24	6
Lobo Liquor	24	24	7
Sunflower Bank	20.5	27.5	8

Who-No's?

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First high Individual game: Robin Schwanke, 201

First high Individual series: Robin Schwanke, 543

November 16 - Powderpuff League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Golden Harvest Seed	30.5	17.5	1
Service Oil	24	24	2
Farm Credit	21	27	3
Weiser	20.5	27.5	4

First high Individual game: Debra Metzler, 216

First high Individual series: Kelly Horinek, 563

November 6 - King & Queen

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Phillips - Finlay	18	2	1
Brewer - Schwanke	14	6	2
Moeder - Lee	12	8	3
Barton - Kreutzer	11	9	4
Kern - Wark	10	10	5
Sturdy - Branum	6	14	6
Norman - Griffin	6	14	7
Schissler - Koehn	3	17	8

Men's First high Individual game: Vern Schwanke, 269

Men's First high Individual series: Vern Schwanke, 673

Women's First high Individual game: Kelly Horinek, 221

Women's First high Individual series: Kelly Horinek, 558

November 17 - King Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
www.visitcolby.com	91	35	1
Orschelns	75	51	2
Warks Embroidery	74	52	3
Thunderballs	71	55	4
Colby Bowl & Fun Center	54	72	5
Colby Automotive	50	76	6
T - J's Tire	46	80	7
5 Pony Men	43	83	8

First high Individual game: Doug Hurr, 232

First high Individual series: Brent Menges, 615

November 18 - Ten Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Comfort Inn	11	1	1
Satan Haters	11	1	2
Cal Williams	10	2	3
Classic Trojans	5	7	4
Colby Bowl	5	7	5
Hurt Enterprises	4	8	6
KNEA/S.P.	2	10	7
JJ Tools	0	12	8

First high Individual game: Becky Fellhoelter, 254

First high Individual series: Becky Fellhoelter, 515

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