

# Wildcats, Cyclones try to stay in race

MANHATTAN (AP) — If destiny had taken just one slight detour, Seneca Wallace could be wearing a Kansas State uniform.

Instead, he'll be leading No. 21 Iowa State against the 12th-ranked Wildcats Saturday in a key showdown in the Big 12 North.

Wallace was a virtual unknown in the California junior college system three years ago when Kansas State coach Bill Snyder was shopping for a quarterback.

Snyder had his eye on Marc Dunn, who'd been the national junior college offensive player of the year.

Then just about the same time Snyder was landing Dunn, Wallace appeared on his radar screen.

But it was already too late.

"We had gotten a commitment from Marc, and I certainly wouldn't go back on that," Snyder said. "So when I was told Seneca was available, or we might have an opportunity at him, we were at a point in time where we had already made a commitment."

"Basically, we were late getting him, not that we would have had any opportunity."

Wallace made an immediate impact with the Cyclones (7-3, 4-2 Big 12). He remains on most Heisman Trophy lists.

Ironically, as Wallace leads the Cyclones against the Wildcats (7-2, 3-2) Saturday in a 6 p.m. kickoff, Dunn will be standing on the Kansas State sideline as the backup to starter Eli Roberson.

Wallace and the rest of the Cyclones hit a wall in an embarrassing loss to No. 1 Oklahoma. But of late, Wallace has regained his touch and has now completed 177-of-300 passes for 2,495 yards and 13 touchdowns.

He ranks third in the Big 12 in total offense with a 270.2-yard average and is coming off a record performance in a 42-35 victory over Missouri.

In that one, the multi-dimensional quarterback set an Iowa State record

with 493 total yards.

"Iowa State has a great program, and we've got to focus on them, especially the quarterback," said Kansas State defensive tackle Tank Reese. "We'll see how good we are. We need a good week or preparation because he won't make it easy."

There's no lack of motivation for either team. If the Cyclones beat Kansas State Saturday and follow that up with a victory the following week over Colorado, they could win the Big 12 North.

"It's a great opportunity. It's something we're definitely excited about, but we can't really look that far ahead," said Iowa State defensive lineman Jordan Carstens.

"We've just got to think about playing K-State and playing them tough and whatever happens at the end of the season, happens."

The Wildcats are also coming off a record-setting performance. Their 64-0 rout of Kansas was the most lopsided in the 100-year history of the state rivalry.

"They have a lot of offense," said Iowa State coach Dan McCarney. "In that defensive conference room where we put up formations and plays and tendencies, all those things, we almost ran out of board space this week."

"There's that much offense. Bill knows what he's doing. He coaches it well. The kids know it. That's the most important thing. You can't stop everything. We've got to try to slow them down and try to win the turnover ratio and try to put ourselves in position to make it a four-quarter game."

In their last 12 meetings, Iowa State's only victory was a 27-23 win in Ames in 1993. Last year, the Wildcats won 42-3 in one of Wallace's worst games as a Cyclone.

"Most of that domination starts up front in the offensive and defensive lines where they've just out-toughed us, outlited us and out-physicaled us," McCarney said.



## Mangino knows perils of playing Nebraska

By Kevin O'Hanlon  
*Associated Press Writer*

LINCOLN, Neb. — Mark Mangino knew what he was getting into when he took the head coaching job at Kansas last December.

He knew the Jayhawks were down. He knew it would be a struggle to turn the program around.

And he knew he had to play Nebraska every year — which hasn't exactly been much fun for the Jayhawks for some time.

Consider the following:

—The Cornhuskers have beaten the Jayhawks 33 years in a row. The last time Kansas beat Nebraska was in 1968 — before Richard Nixon was elected to his first term as president.

—Nebraska has outscored Kansas

1,508-271 in that span — winning by an average score of 46-8.

—Nebraska has an 84-21-3 edge in the series — which is the third-oldest in the nation.

—Nebraska has shut out Kansas 32 times — more than any other opponent.

—Ten of those shutouts fell within the current, 33-game Nebraska winning streak.

—Nebraska has scored at least 40 points in 25 of the last 33 meetings with Kansas.

Thus, as he prepares to bring his Jayhawks to Lincoln on Saturday, Mangino is not buying into the talk that Nebraska (6-4, 2-3) has lost its edge after falling out of the polls for the first time since 1981.

"Nebraska is Nebraska," Mangino said. "I don't care what their record says, Nebraska is always Nebraska. They're good, they're fast, they're strong, they've got tremendous athletes, they're well coached and they will be ready."

Nebraska, which struggled in losses to Penn State, Iowa State and Okla-

homa State, appears close to turning things around.

The Huskers posted a 38-31 win Oct. 26 at Texas A&M.

Last week, they had a chance to beat Texas in the closing seconds, but quarterback Jammal Lord's pass was intercepted at the 1-yard line and the Longhorns escaped with a 27-24 win.

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