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

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 oppor-

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 Ell 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

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

but we can't really look that far ahead," said Iowa State defensive lineman Jordan Carstens.

ing 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

knows what he's doing. He coaches it knew what he was getting into when he 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 psotion to make it a four-quarter game."

Ames in 1993. Last year, the Wildcats for some time. won 42-3 in one of Wallace's worst games as a Cyclone.

us, outhit us and out-physicaled us,"

McCarney said.

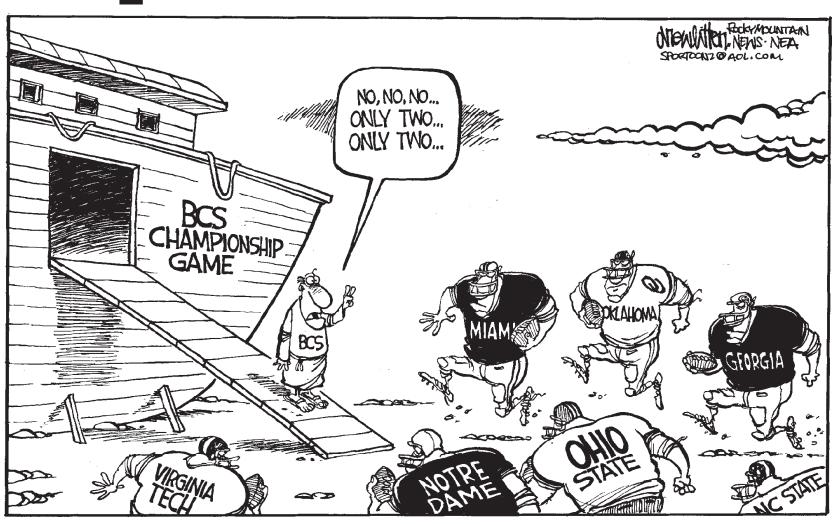
"Iowa State has a great program, and

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,

"We've just got to think about play-

ran out of board space this week." "There's that much offense. Bill

front in the offensive and defensive time Kansas beat Nebraska was in lines where they've just out-toughed



Mangino knows perils of playing Nebraska

By Kevin O'Hanlon

Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. — Mark Mangino 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 Ne-In their last 12 meetings, Iowa braska every year — which hasn't ex-State's only victory was a 27-23 win in actly been much fun for the Jayhawks

Consider the following:

The Cornhuskers have beaten the "Most of that domination starts up Jayhawks 33 years in a row. The last 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 oppo-

-Ten of those shutouts fell within the current, 33-game Nebraska win-

-Nebraska has scored at least 40 points in 25 of the last 33 meetings with

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 homa State, appears close to turning said. "I don't care what their record things around. The Huskers posted a 38-31 win Oct. says, Nebraska is always Nebraska. They're good, they're fast, they're 26 at Texas A&M.

will be ready." Nebraska, which struggled in losses

strong, they've got tremendous ath-

letes, they're well coached and they

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 Longto Penn State, Iowa State and Okla- horns escaped with a 27-24 win.

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