

Cowgirls get past high seeds

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma State University Cowgirls knocked off no. 4 Kansas 2-1 and no. 1 Nebraska 2-0 in second round action at the Big 12 softball tournament in Oklahoma City on Friday.

Amanda Hayes went 2-for-3 and hit an RBI single in the top of the sixth inning to give the Cowgirls a 2-1 win over Kansas in the second day of the tournament.



The Cowgirls (26-21) had just four hits in their game, but Jade Lindly led off the third inning with a solo home run and pitcher Lauren Bay allowed just five hits to get the complete-game win.

Oklahoma State faces top-seeded Nebraska Thursday night, while Kansas was to face Baylor in an elimination game.

Hayes' single scored Danielle Thomas, who led off the sixth inning with a bunt single and advanced to second on a sacrifice by Jenny Kipp.

Kansas (31-26) got its only run when Christi Musser led off the fifth inning with a home run.

Oklahoma State scored the only runs of the game to beat top-seeded Nebraska 2-0 in the second game of the day.

A throwing error by Nebraska and a RBI single from Ryan Realmuto were enough for the fifth-seeded Cowgirls (26-22) to beat the Cornhuskers (48-12). Nebraska managed only three hits, while committing two errors.

Oklahoma State will face either Texas A&M or Texas Tech Today. Nebraska will play Kansas in an elimination game after the Jayhawks (32-26) eliminated Baylor (38-22) in a 10-4 win.

Jennifer Stewart went the distance for Oklahoma allowing two hits and one run.

Oklahoma will face either Nebraska or Kansas.

Also Thursday, third-seeded Texas Tech had an easy time with sixth-seeded Baylor, winning 8-0 in a game shortened by the mercy rule.

Area Schedule

Saturday, May 12

Colby High School Invitational Tennis Tournament at Fike Park and the college courts at 8:30 a.m.

Varsity baseball at Pratt at 1 p.m.

Cheylin High School golf at Enders, Neb. at 10 a.m.

West Sub-Regional Tournament continues in Hutchinson.

Sunday, May 13

West Sub-Regional Tournament continues in Hutchinson.

Monday, May 14

Class 4A Regional Tennis Tournament in Pratt at 8 a.m.

Class 4A Regional Golf Tournament in Goodland at 8:30 a.m.

Colby High School hosts Ulysses at the Colby Recreation Fields at 4 p.m.

in the Class 4A Regional Softball Tournament.

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The look of a champion



Both girls and boys enjoyed wins for the Colby Middle School Eagles at the Northwest Kansas League Track Meet in Hoxie on Thursday. **LEFT:** Crystal Mannebach and Erica Molstad transferred the baton on the way to win in the 4x100 relay. **RIGHT:** David Barnum finished the 3200 in a personal best 12:14.8, winning handily.



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

XFL finished after inaugural season

NEW YORK (AP) — "He Hate Me" — aka Rod Smart — was right.

The XFL player who drew attention simply by stitching his nickname to his jersey didn't have TV viewers in mind when he selected that sobriquet, but he might as well have.

The football league founded by the World Wrestling Federation and jointly owned by NBC folded Thursday, less than three weeks after its inaugural championship game drew about 25 percent of the television audience that the highly hyped debut produced.

"The launch worked, the people were there, and we didn't answer their expectations, I guess," NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol said.

The idea was to put the games on NBC on Saturday nights, when few people watch television generally, and use WWF impresario Vince McMahon's promotional skills to draw young male viewers that advertisers crave.

That plan worked. For about a week in February.

The WWF's share of after-tax losses will be about \$35 million. NBC's loss should be similar.

"Despite where our heart was, we just couldn't make it work from a financial standpoint," McMahon said.

Once it was clear NBC wasn't going to keep airing a product that in Week 7 set a record for the lowest prime-time rating ever on one of the three major networks, McMahon set out to keep the eight-team XFL on the air.

But a deal couldn't be worked out with the league's other broadcasters, UPN and TNN.

"It was a risk we all thought was a smart one in this wildly escalating TV rights scene," Ebersol said, whose network lost its NFL contract after the

1997 season.

The XFL had a shorter life than another outdoor spring football league — the USFL, which started airing on ABC in 1983 and folded after three seasons.

But the XFL couldn't seem to decide whether it wanted to be more about sport or spectacle.

"I never had faith in the concept," said former CBS Sports president Neal Pilson, a consultant. "If they had pitched it closer to football, they would have lost the wrestling audience. If they had made a burlesque out of football to conform to the expectations of the wrestling audience, they probably would have lost NBC."

Early games had lascivious cheerleader shots, anti-NFL bluster from

WWF types, sophomoric double entendres and screaming announcers — including Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, a former wrestler — who sounded more like shills than analysts.

The XFL even changed the on-field rules to speed up games after a double-overtime contest in Week 2 delayed "Saturday Night Live." Other rules changes came as late as the playoffs, and tinkering with the production side never ceased.

NBC already was distancing itself from the disaster Thursday.

The headline ticker running above the "Today" studio in midtown Manhattan read, "World Wrestling Federation folds the XFL after only one season."

Kansas signs coach to three-year contract

LAWRENCE (AP) — A new three-year contract for Marian Washington will bring the base annual pay for the longtime women's basketball coach at Kansas to at least \$210,000.

Washington, who just completed her 28th season as head coach of the Jayhawks, will for the first time be getting broadcast compensation, long a traditional perk for coaches of men's sports.

Washington's new pact includes a \$35,000 minimum for her radio show, considerably less than the \$280,000 radio and television guarantee for Roy Williams, the men's basketball coach, and \$150,000 for football coach Terry Allen.

"But think about how many years I worked on a radio show and was not compensated for it," Washington said. "I appreciate it. I really appreciate being compensated for radio."

Washington said she hadn't complained about the situation "because I never complain about anything."

"I needed to have a show because I was told it was a way to generate additional funds," she said. "I don't feel like I have to make excuses for what I feel is fair to me."

The base salary for Washington, Williams and Allen is now \$125,612 a year, an amount expected to increase under the state budget that includes a 6.2 percent increase in faculty salaries.

In addition to the \$35,000 for broadcast and other contract increases, Washington's deal includes a new \$10,500 travel allowance that she can use to take personal guests to games.

"This provides me with a stipend to offset that," Washington said. "Now my mother can fly with me and my daughter can fly with me."

Washington was working under a four-year contract due to expire at the end of June. Negotiations on the new one began last summer, before any of the university's athletic budget problems that prompted it to cut swimming and tennis programs came to light. Washington said most of the terms in the new contract were agreed to then, and she signed it shortly after the Big 12 tournament in March.

"If anyone looked at my track record, they'd realize that it would be

absurd to think that I would ever try to go about things at a time when it was inappropriate," Washington said. "I've been very fair and very patient and I've always been very appreciative."

Washington's teams have won 535 games in her 28 seasons, with at least 20 victories in 17 of them. The Jayhawks struggled last season, finishing 12-17, their first time below .500 since the 1988-89 season.

Washington has already signed five recruits for next year's team, which she said could include as many as seven new players.

The Lawrence Journal-World reported that provisions in Washington's new contract include two automobiles or \$7,500, country club memberships, \$25,000 for summer basketball camp expenses, the payment for a \$2 million life insurance policy or \$5,000, 50 tickets to each of her team's home games and two tickets to all men's home games and football games.



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