

# Wildcats offense struggles

MANHATTAN (AP) — Rodrick Johnson looks at Kansas State's offensive depth chart and sees a menu.

With five freshmen starting for the Wildcats — including quarterback Josh Freeman and two of the offensive linemen charged with protecting him — the Oklahoma State linebacker can be forgiven for finding Saturday's game an appetizing one.

"I'm licking my chops on that one, because it's good to get in there with a true freshman," Johnson said. "You can disguise more, you can fiddle around on defense more, because coming straight out of high school, they're not used to reading coverages."

"We can turn some guys loose and let the D-line get home, like they've been doing all year."

Kansas State (3-2, 0-1 Big 12) has been solid on defense in Ron Prince's first season as coach, allowing just 14.2 points per game. But offense is another story.

The Wildcats have managed just three touchdowns in their last three games, and their 20.2-point scoring average — second-lowest in the Big 12 — is skewed upward by defensive and return TDs and a 45-0 blowout of overmatched Florida Atlantic.

They didn't break double digits in either of their last two games, both defeats, and were held out of the end zone entirely in last week's 17-3 loss at Baylor.

Prince responded by dropping running back Thomas Clayton, who lost a fumble deep in the Bears' territory, to the third string and by making Freeman his starter ahead of senior Dylan Meier.

"I think we're having a lot of difficulty having any kind of consistency that puts drives together," Prince said. "There are a number of factors in that. The execution at a number of positions right now isn't where we would like it to be."

# Heartland falls

Heartland Christian School's volleyball team lost to Vilas, Colo., and Pritchett, Colo., Friday in Vilas. Vilas defeated Heartland 25-11, 31-29, 25-18. Pritchett won 25-7, 25-12, 25-6.

In junior high play Monday in Bird City, Heartland's A team defeated Cheylin 21-25, 25-15, 16-14. Hitchcock County defeated Heartland 25-6, 25-11.

Heartland's junior high B team lost to Cheylin 25-21, 25-19 and to Hitchcock County 25-7, 25-11.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press  
Colby sophomore Lindsey Wilson returned a volley during a match played Sept. 26 in Colby. Wilson and doubles teammate Kaylie Dugger qualified for the state tournament. The two laced second in doubles Thursday at the regional meet in Pratt. The state tournament is Oct. 13-14 in Emporia.

# Three Eagles head to state

By John Van Nostrand  
Colby Free Press

Colby High girls tennis coach Jordan Sharp said the program hopefully has turned the corner Thursday as three Eagles qualified for the state tournament.

Junior Logan Wark will compete at state as she placed third in singles competition at regional play in Pratt. Wark placed ninth at state in 2005.

Colby's doubles team of Lindsey Wilson, sophomore, and Kaylie Dugger, senior, finished second, good enough for a trip to state. Wilson and Dugger played three sets against Goodland to get to the

championship round.

"This is exciting," Sharp said. "They all played wonderful tennis, just as I was expecting."

Sharp said Wark's play Thursday was no different than her play a year ago.

"She is familiar with regionals and the postseason," he said.

Players had to finish at least fourth in their category to qualify for the state tournament. Sharp said players who won their first two



Dugger

matches qualified for state.

"For most of the girls it was their first time for something like this," Sharp said.

Colby's other players, like Barbara Bickner and doubles team of Cyndi Rothfuss and Lis Erickson, lost their first-round match.

"If you lose your first one, you're done," Sharp said.

Sharp said he hopes this year's team is a role model for the future.

"We have a bunch of girls who are dedicated to this," he said. "I hope what they did this year will start to build up the program."

The state tournament is Oct. 13-14 at Emporia.

# SportsBriefs

By The Associated Press  
BASEBALL  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson walked out of prison, hours after a federal judge ordered him released because of a "legal snafu."

U.S. District Judge William Alsup said Anderson must be freed because a federal appeals court hadn't affirmed the contempt order within the required 30 days after Anderson was jailed.

Anderson, 40, could be returned to prison if the appeals court affirms the Aug. 28 contempt citation.

The trainer has been imprisoned twice for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating whether the Giants slugger committed perjury when he said he never knowingly used steroids.

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# Hole-in-one hurts Lady Trojan women

The Colby Community College men's and women's golf teams competed in the Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU) Fall Invitational Monday and Tuesday in Guymon, Okla.

The men's team finished in sixth place and the women's team finished third.

Andy Fikan lead the Colby men's team with a two-day total of 158, which put him in a tie for 16th place individually. Other finishers include Marcus Grinnan (159, 18th), Derek "Deke" Elliott (162, tied

20th) and Jonathan Richards and Heath Muir both shot a 169.

The women's team finished one stroke out of second place behind OPSU. On the final hole, OPSU's Molly Bentley made a hole-in-one which cost the Lady Trojans second place.

Kati Near led the Trojans with a two-day score of 198, finishing 9th overall. Other finishers were Trista Nordyke (204, 11th), Megan Scheuerman (209), Kate Nelson (219), and Veronica Forsythe had to withdraw due to injury.

# Jayhawks, Aggies looking to rebound

LAWRENCE (AP) — Tough opening loss in Big 12 play? Check.

Long streak on the line? Check. Quarterback questions, talented running backs and quick returners who can break the big one? Check.

Kansas and Texas A&M find themselves in virtually identical situations heading into Saturday's game — but only one of them gets to work off the frustration of last week's failed comeback attempts.

The Jayhawks (3-2, 0-1 Big 12), winners of nine straight at home, trailed then-No. 21 Nebraska 17-0 at the half before losing 39-32 in overtime. Texas A&M (4-1, 0-1), which has won its last six games against Kansas, outscored Texas Tech 13-7 in the second half but still lost 31-27.

"Obviously, when you go through the game, you find a play or two here throughout the game you would like to have back or done differently," Aggie coach

Dennis Franchione said. "But after the team meeting is over with about 5 o'clock (on Sunday), you put that one to bed and move on to the next one. We went right to work on Kansas and they were very intent on that."

The Jayhawks put up numbers that would have won a lot of games, gaining 574 yards on the nation's 21st-ranked defense and holding the 10th-ranked rushing offense to 116 yards on the ground.

And despite throwing three interceptions and fumbling once in the first half, senior Adam Barmann played well enough in the second half that coach Mark Mangino is in no hurry to rush freshman Kerry Meier back into the lineup.

Meier has missed the last two games with a sore right shoulder, and Barmann — unspectacular as an off-and-on starter in his first three seasons — has been solid as a fill-in.

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