

# Coach sees no great teams

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — This may come as a shock to No. 1 Nebraska — and to Kansas State, Virginia Tech, Miami and Clemson as well — but the coach of the No. 6 team in the land doesn't see any superior teams in college football these days.

"There aren't any great teams out there," Ohio State coach John Cooper said Monday. "There's a lot of good teams."

Cooper believes that the 85-scholarship limit has equalized the talent level to the point where there are not dominant teams such as Oklahoma, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Alabama and Miami were over the last three decades.

"We're all guilty of sitting here and saying, 'Look how good this team is' or 'Look how good that team is,'" Cooper said. "I've been telling you this over and over and over. There aren't any great teams out there. I mean, name me a great team now."

Cooper then proceeded to point out missteps or problems with most of the teams ranked at the top of the polls.

Florida State, ranked No. 1 until falling to Miami 27-24 on Saturday, was Exhibit A.

"Florida State's a great team? Miami hangs 27 points on them and takes the ball — boom — right down the field to score the winning touchdown. They're not a great team. They're a good team," Cooper said.

And don't talk to Cooper about No. 4 Miami being in the national championship picture. He said he watched the Hurricanes lose at Washington 34-29 last month and saw a badly beaten team.

"That was a pretty good butt-kicking," Cooper called Miami's lone loss. He said he ranked his team ahead of the Hurricanes.

Cooper said he almost dropped current No. 1 Nebraska out of the top spot on his ballot in the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll — immediately after the Cornhuskers' dramatic 27-24 overtime victory last month at Notre Dame.

"I watched Nebraska play Notre Dame and said to myself, 'There's no way I can vote this team No. 1. I'm not putting them No. 1,'" said Cooper, who watched the game before his team held off Arizona 27-17.

"Then I get home that night and Florida State beats Georgia Tech by a touchdown and I had to put Nebraska No. 1 — not necessarily because they were the best team, but because they were ranked No. 1 and nobody beat them," Cooper said.

Kansas State is ranked No. 2 in the media poll.

"What's the combined record of the teams they've played?" Cooper asked. "Seven-and-25. But they're ranked second or third in the country."

He didn't mention No. 3 Virginia Tech, but he declined to call No. 5

Clemson a great team: "They're a good team."

Cooper said his team needed to continue proving itself if it wanted to jump into the national championship picture.

Ohio State is 5-0 but has beaten only one team with a winning record (Arizona). Fresno State, Miami (Ohio) and Wisconsin are all .500 teams and Penn State, at 2-5, is off to one of its worst starts in decades. The combined record of the Buckeyes' opponents is 15-15.

The Buckeyes were ranked 16th in the preseason and dropped two spots in the media poll after beating Fresno State 43-10 in their opener. They have since steadily climbed the ladder while other acclaimed teams have been upset.

A year ago, the Buckeyes were ranked ninth in the preseason but finished 6-6 and didn't play in a bowl game. In 1998, Ohio State was No. 1 all season until losing at home to unranked Michigan State, 28-24. And the year before that, the Buckeyes were fourth in the nation heading into the Sugar Bowl but were embarrassed 31-14 by Florida State and ended up No. 9.

Cooper said all of the talk about rankings and computer ratings should be settled on the field in the end.

"When all the bowls are over, we ought to tee it up and play a game or two," he said, "to determine the best team."

# Game is perfectly timed for Sooners

DALLAS (AP) — Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops believes the timing is perfect for his eighth-ranked Sooners.

Stoops is glad to be playing at second-ranked Kansas State (6-0, 2-0 Big 12) right on the heels of an emotionally charged 63-14 victory over 25th-ranked Texas that embarrassed the rival Longhorns.

"It's perfect. I think it's very easy and the way you want it," Stoops insisted Monday. "The players feel good about the way they are playing ... they have confidence, have momentum. And it's easy to see and realize that Kansas State is an excellent team and a bigger challenge."

The Oklahoma coach even sees a possible advantage for the Sooners (5-0, 2-0) in the fact that Kansas State has won 25 straight home games, dating back to a 39-3 loss to Nebraska in Manhattan on Oct. 5, 1996.

"There is a good opportunity that eventually the odds change, or get so one-sided that it's due for something else to happen. Hopefully that's the case," Stoops said.

"I remember Florida-Florida State and the talk about how (FSU coach) Bobby Bowden had never been beaten in a bowl game."

In that 1997 Sugar Bowl, Florida beat Florida State 52-20 in order to take a win at the national championship.

The Kansas State game Saturday will mark the first return of Stoops and three of his assistant coaches to Manhattan, Kan., where each of the quartet coached for at least six seasons.

Bob Stoops was on coach Bill Snyder's staff at Kansas State as an assistant coach and defensive coordinator from 1988-95.

He then went to Florida as defensive coordinator for three seasons before becoming Oklahoma's head

coach after the 1998 season.

When Stoops put together his coaching staff at Oklahoma, he was only looking for the best coaches.

Three of them — offensive coordinator Mark Mangino and co-defensive coordinators Mike Stoops and Brent Venables — just happened to come from Kansas State.

"I was hired here and paid good money."

"My job was to get the best coaches to coach with me if they wanted to," Stoops said. "I don't see that there's a problem, coaches leave and go places every year."

"All of them left the place (Kansas State) better than when they got there. They put a lot of hard work in that program and had pride in it."

Now they're returning Oklahoma to national prominence.

And they face likely their toughest challenge to date against the Wildcats.

Snyder, whose team has had three straight 11-win seasons — the latest a year after he lost the three assistants to Oklahoma — insists there is no bad blood between the staffs.

"I think we have an excellent staff here, and I think Bob had an excellent staff there," he said.

"They are good people," Snyder said. "What everybody tries to acquire is the best coaching staff possible."

Still, the perception exists among some fans that Stoops stole the three assistants from Kansas State.

"I don't really know how hard our fans have taken that," Snyder said.

"Is that one or two people who have expressed an opinion. It can be perceived to be a lot of people when it could be just one or two," he said.

Stoops is quick to point out that he also got coaches from other staffs as well, most notably receivers coach

Steve Spurrier Jr., the son of the Florida coach for whom he had worked for three seasons.



# Chiefs get ready for Oakland

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs are saying they'll get ready for Oakland this week without hardly giving a thought to what happened the last time the Raiders were in town.

On that cold day on Jan. 2, the Raiders erased a 17-point lead and beat the Chiefs 41-38 in overtime, knocking them clean out of the playoffs.

But they do admit that this past Sun-

day, on their bye week, they were glued to the TV watching the Raiders beat San Francisco 34-28 in another overtime thriller.

"I know there are a lot of people in Kansas City who were wasting their energy rooting for the 49ers," center Tim Grunhard said.

"What they did last Sunday has nothing to do with what's going to happen here."

The Raiders broke an 11-game Arrowhead Stadium losing streak with their come-from-behind win last year and will be trying to beat the Chiefs in back-to-back regular-season games in Kansas City for the first time since 1983-84.

Coach Gunther Cunningham's marching orders for the Chiefs, who have won three in a row, are not to worry about last year's bitter loss.

# Goodland Cross Country

These Cowgirls and Cowboys were inadvertently missed in the Homecoming 2000 special section published in Friday's *Goodland Daily News*. All students who participate in sports are important and we want all to receive recognition for their efforts. — Editor

**Kelsey Cooper**

Sophomore  
(Photo unavailable)



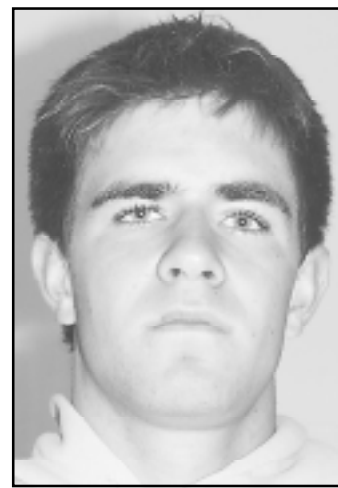
**Anny McCoy**

Sophomore



**Adam McCoy**

Senior



**Bart McCoy**

Senior  
(Photo unavailable)



**Lee McCoy**

Senior



**Espirion Aguilar**

Freshman



# NFL scoreboard

| By The Associated Press           |          | West     |                       |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| National Football League          |          |          |                       |
| American Conference               |          |          |                       |
| East                              |          |          |                       |
| W                                 | L        | T        | Pct PF PA             |
| Miami                             | 5        | 1        | 0 .833 112 51         |
| N.Y. Jets                         | 4        | 1        | 0 .800 9186           |
| Indianapolis                      | 3        | 2        | 0 .600 135 106        |
| Buffalo                           | 2        | 3        | 0 .400 8698           |
| New England                       | 2        | 4        | 0 .333 103 107        |
| Central                           |          |          |                       |
| W                                 | L        | T        | Pct PF PA             |
| Baltimore                         | 5        | 1        | 0 .833 125 65         |
| Tennessee                         | 4        | 1        | 0 .800 104 78         |
| Pittsburgh                        | 2        | 3        | 0 .400 8478           |
| Cleveland                         | 2        | 4        | 0 .333 85131          |
| Jacksonville                      | 2        | 4        | 0 .333 113 128        |
| Cincinnati                        | 0        | 5        | 0 .000 37128          |
| West                              |          |          |                       |
| W                                 | L        | T        | Pct PF PA             |
| Oakland                           | 4        | 1        | 0 .800 141 108        |
| <b>Kansas City</b>                | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0 .600 117 93</b>  |
| <b>Denver</b>                     | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>0 .500 173 137</b> |
| Seattle                           | 2        | 4        | 0 .333 94132          |
| San Diego                         | 0        | 6        | 0 .000 93177          |
| National Conference               |          |          |                       |
| East                              |          |          |                       |
| W                                 | L        | T        | Pct PF PA             |
| N.Y. Giants                       | 4        | 2        | 0 .667 101 91         |
| Washington                        | 4        | 2        | 0 .667 104 96         |
| Philadelphia                      | 3        | 3        | 0 .500 135 87         |
| Arizona                           | 2        | 3        | 0 .400 100 129        |
| Dallas                            | 2        | 3        | 0 .400 112 148        |
| Central                           |          |          |                       |
| W                                 | L        | T        | Pct PF PA             |
| Minnesota                         | 5        | 0        | 0 .1000 125 94        |
| Detroit                           | 4        | 2        | 0 .667 115 120        |
| Tampa Bay                         | 3        | 3        | 0 .500 150 97         |
| Green Bay                         | 2        | 4        | 0 .333 117 111        |
| Chicago                           | 1        | 5        | 0 .167 85161          |
| Monday, Oct. 16                   |          |          |                       |
| Jacksonville at Tennessee, 7 p.m. |          |          |                       |