

Grass might slow Rams

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — All week long the Kansas City Chiefs joked about letting the grass on the Arrowhead Stadium field grow thick and high. Somebody even suggested they haul out the garden hose and wet it down to a soft, squishy mud.

And why not? So far this season no defensive scheme or team has come remotely close to stopping Kurt Warner and the St. Louis Rams' high-octane offense.

Maybe playing on God's own green grass will at least slow them to a blur. "We might be a touch slower on grass," agreed Warner, who is leading an offense that's No. 1 in the league in passing, scoring and total yardage and favored by seven points in the match between Missouri's two NFL franchises.

In theory, the Rams' great speed on offense, which includes running back Marshall Faulk and wide receivers Torry Holt, Isaac Bruce and Az-Zahir Hakim, would be negated a bit by the thicker, heavier footing.

The Rams (6-0) last dug their cleats into Mother Earth in Week 2, when

they beat Seattle 37-34. Last year, in their Super Bowl season, they were 2-1 on grass.

"I would say we feel we've got some strengths we can utilize on turf, with the quickness and speed we have," said Warner. "But ... the other team's playing on grass, too. That doesn't play into anything. We'll still attack. We'll still do the same things."

For the Rams, doing the same things will probably overwhelm the Chiefs (3-3), who have an overall lack of team speed.

Warner and his troops lead the NFL with almost 510 yards per game. Their average passing harvest of 379 yards is also No. 1. In a 45-29 victory over Atlanta last week they added to their NFL record with 12 consecutive regular-season games over 300 yards.

"I've never seen an offense or a quarterback play as well as these guys are playing," said Chiefs coach Gunther Cunningham. "I was fortunate to be part of a great offense (in San Diego) where I had to tell the quarterback to slow down because we needed some rest on defense."

Faulk had a great day against Atlanta, gaining a career-high 286 yards, including 208 rushing.

"Marshall Faulk is the MVP of the league so far this year, in my opinion," said Warren Moon, the Chiefs' backup quarterback. "I've had some speed teams before. But I never had a Marshall Faulk."

Moon, the most prolific passer in pro football history, has been awed as anybody by the unstoppable attack.

"They're on a 6,000-yard pace for the season. That's unheard of," Moon said. "It's a feeling that every time you take the field you can score. It's a great feeling to have."

Moon also wonders whether the Chiefs, coming off a 20-17 loss to AFC West rival Oakland, might benefit from the green, green grass of home.

"Grass definitely makes a difference for a team that's built for speed," said Moon. "When you get on that grass it slows you down, especially those small receivers. They don't have that fast track. Now they've got to dig into that dirt a little more to make their cuts or they're going to fall down."

Returning the punt



Malcome White, No. 21, a player for the Goodland "C" Squad, returned a punt while Josh Hatfield, No. 78, blocked a Colby Eagles player for him. Goodland won the game against Colby Thursday night 28-14. Goodland had a slow start falling behind 14-6 in the first half.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Jayhawks road win builds team confidence

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Now that they've finally won a conference road game, what could be next for the Kansas Jayhawks?

Whatever happens, fewer players will probably take part, starting with Saturday's homecoming game against the injury-plagued Colorado Buffaloes.

Coach Terry Allen said he would again reduce the number of players who suit up for game day against Colorado.

Last week Allen trimmed six play-

ers off the 70-man travel roster and the Jayhawks pulled off a 38-17 victory at Missouri, their first Big 12 win of the year and their first conference road win since Allen became head coach.

Allen also had the Jayhawks hitting more in practice last week. That, too, remains the order of the day.

"You're running a higher risk of injury," said Allen. "Some teams this time of year practice in helmets and shorts, but we felt it has been necessary to get mentally and physically tougher."

Colorado (1-5, 1-2 Big 12) probably is in no hurry to see its opponents get physically tougher. The injury-wracked Buffs have played one of the toughest schedules in the country, including losses to Southern Cal, Washington, Kansas State and Texas.

Of particular concern to the Buffs was a beat-up, patched-up offensive line.

"I would blitz us if I was their defensive coordinator," offensive line coach Steve Marshall said. "You have a true freshman at quarterback, and you have

to start guys that haven't started. Yeah, they will probably come after us."

Although they've lost five games, the Buffs have played several of their nationally ranked foes close.

"Colorado plays awfully good defense. It's hard to get a read on them considering the caliber of teams that they have played, and despite their record, they played really well in that win at Texas A&M," Allen said. "Because of their injuries, you don't know what you're going to face. They have shown the ability to circle the wagons."

Wildcats coming off first home loss since 1996

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — For the first time since 1996, No. 10 Kansas State is coming off a home loss.

The Wildcats (6-1, 2-1 Big 12) play host to Texas Tech in a regionally televised game a week after No. 3 Oklahoma broke their 25-game home winning streak with a 41-31 upset that severely damaged their national championship hopes.

The main objective, besides getting back on the winning track, will be to improve the shabby tackling that allowed Oklahoma ball carriers to break downfield for additional yardage on play after play.

"We have addressed it and put emphasis on it," said Kansas State coach Bill Snyder. "We probably have not been as demanding as we need to be. We have got to put players into a position that they become accountable for their practice habits as it relates to tackling."

Snyder said he counted 17 missed tackles and that the tackling problems have been an issue "since halftime of the (season opener)."

"My concern is that we become a better tackling football team," Snyder said. "If you go back to the press conferences that we have had since the beginning of the season, I think virtually every time I have said that we did not tackle as well as we should. I believed that we had made some progress. I thought maybe in the Oklahoma game the wheels fell off in that respect."

Defensive back Jon McGraw said it's a matter of concentration.

"I think you just have to get the mindset of going in and tackling well and have it be one of the focuses of the game," he said. "I don't think it's been a big problem this season. Obviously we've had some missed tackles. I think every team's going to have some missed tackles. We're just going to have to place some more emphasis on it."

The Red Raiders (5-2, 1-2) are in the middle of a tough two-game stretch. They're playing the Wildcats just one week after being routed 56-3 by No. 1 Nebraska, snapping a nine-game home

winning streak.

"They're actually in the same boat," said wide receiver Aaron Lockett. "They lost a game they were expected to play pretty close in, and we did the same."

So I think we're both coming in with the ambition of winning this game, and we know we have a lot to prove, not only to each other but probably to the Big 12 and the nation."

Texas Tech, playing only its second road game, was whipsawed by the Huskers.

"It's not so much that our heart wasn't in the right place," said Tech coach Mike Leach. "I thought those guys were out there trying, but I think they were wired so tight, that as they dealt with disappointment, we completely self-destructed. You can't really put your finger on any aspect of the

game that we did particularly well."

Leach insisted he was not concerned about his team's bouncing back from such a one-sided loss.

"Ultimately it really doesn't matter whether we lose by one or 1,000. They're all the same," he said.

The Wildcats' morale following Oklahoma, Snyder said, "is good."

"I think the loss is behind us," he said. "I am sure there is still emotion, but I think the focus is where it needs to be. I think it is probably the same as anyone else's natural human responses to a loss. The tremendous hurt, pain and disappointment originally, and then the embarrassment and anger that goes along with it in the recovery process. I think they have gone through all of those, but right now I think the focus is on Texas Tech and our preparation to that."

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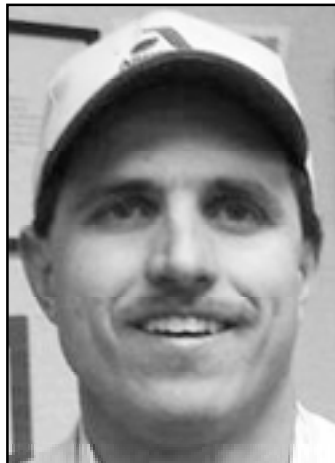
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September Employee of the Month Kevin Schmidt

Kevin's ten years of experience at Frontier Equity are clearly evident when it comes to performing any task. No matter the difficulty of his responsibilities, he can be counted on to assist fellow employees, cooperative members and customers alike. His reliability, dedication, and knowledge make him a valuable asset to the Goodland Fertilizer Department. Whether it's the hard work assembling grain bunkers at several locations or the mental accuracy required in calculating spray rate applications, you can rest assured you're dealing with a talented individual. Thank you, Kevin Schmidt for continuing the success at Frontier Equity.

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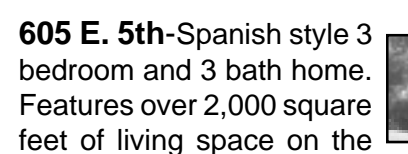
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NEW LISTINGS



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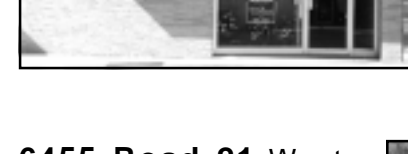


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