

College football player special from the start

WHITE CITY (AP) — Right from the start, it was clear that Michael Hammersmith had something special.

In only the second game of his high school football career, the freshman quarterback threw for seven touchdowns, completing 27 of 54 passes for 391 yards.

He finished that 1997 season with 1,950 passing yards, and 17 touchdowns. But he also had some learning to do since he was intercepted 27 times.

And his team? Well, it was a long season for White City, which won just one game and lost eight.

But during Hammersmith's sophomore year under newly arrived coach Phil Berndt, the eight-man team showed just enough improvement to be encouraging, finishing 3-6.

Last year the Huskies were a whole lot better at 8-3. And now they're 8-0 going into Thursday's final regular season game, in which they'll try to lock up a playoff berth when they play the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe.

And in last Friday's final home game, Hammersmith broke the eight-man career passing record set in 1989 by Kirby Rust of Kensington, Kan. as his team breezed by St. John's Military 72-24. Hammersmith passed for 369

yards, giving him a career total of 7,696, 16 more than Rust.

As the rout unfolded, the only question was whether the 45-point rule might end the game before Hammersmith could break the record. The Huskies led 34-0 with 2:25 remaining in the first half, but the 16 points St. John's scored in the third quarter gave Hammersmith enough breathing room.

He broke the record in that period on a 40-yard pass to Korby Effland.

"After Korby caught it, it was pretty emotional for all of us," Hammersmith said. "I don't know why. It's just something very special for the whole team and everybody who's been part of it for the last four years."

"It was great to see a lot of hard work pay off for Michael with his special accomplishment, but it was also great to see the team take such pride in his accomplishments," said coach Berndt said.

For the night, Hammersmith completed 13 of his 18 passes, four of them for touchdowns, and he ran for another score. Effland caught two of the touchdowns passes, Bo Feist the other two.

Hammersmith gives credit for his passing success to the offensive line of Jason Britt, Jordy Clark and Bill Gilbert, and his receivers, Effland, Kyler Kasten and Fiest.

"If they didn't block and catch the way they do, none of this would be happening. I've been playing (tackle football) with Korby and Kyler and Bo since junior high."

But for all the improvement the Huskies have made as a team, Hammersmith's growth as a quarterback has been just as important.

"He's got a cannon of an arm — not too many kids at this level can throw 60 yards downfield. And, he sees the field real well," Berndt said. "But, the most important thing is his decision-making. He's gone from a 40 percent completion rate as a freshman to 66 percent right now."

In his first two seasons, Hammersmith threw 35 touchdowns, and just as many interceptions.

He's down to just nine interceptions the past two seasons, with three of them this year.

"The thing that shouldn't get lost in all this is that Michael's such a great kid," Berndt said. "He's made tremendous progress and has worked hard to improve his numbers."

"He really would rather have a 13-0 record and win the state championship than break all the records. He's more impressed with the success the team has had than with his own success."



Pirates hire new manager

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Lloyd McClendon was hired as the Pittsburgh Pirates' new manager despite a 93-loss season.

McClendon, 41, has no major league or minor league managing experience, except for the fall instructional leagues. He was the Pirates' hitting coach the last four seasons under just-fired manager Gene Lamont.

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles will not pick up the option for pitcher Pat Rapp, who went 9-12 with a 5.90 ERA this season.

HOCKEY
LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Less than a week after breaking Terry Sawchuk's NHL career victory record for goalies, Patrick Roy appeared in court after his arrest in a domestic dispute with his wife.

According to a police report, Michele Roy called 911 early Sunday because she was afraid of what her husband would do as they argued about in-laws.

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Michele Roy was not hurt during the dispute at their home, but Roy admitted pulling a bedroom door off its hinges and damaging another after his wife called Greenwood Village police and hung up without speaking, the report said.

The initial hearing was postponed until Nov. 7. Roy remained free on a \$750 bail and left by a side door without comment. His wife was absent.

The judge also issued a restraining order that is standard in domestic-dispute cases, which requires Roy to refrain from alcohol, illegal drugs and

possession of guns or weapons. He was permitted to return home to his family and is allowed to travel with the team to out-of-state games.

ODENTON, Md. (AP) — The Washington Capitals signed holdout left wing Chris Simon, their leading scorer last season with 29 goals and 20 assists, to a two-year, \$4.5 million deal.

BASKETBALL
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA has put the Minnesota men's basketball program on probation for four years and cut an additional scholarship as penalties for academic fraud in the program, according to published reports.

NFL scoreboard

By The Associated Press
National Football League
American Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	6	1	0	.857	165	140
Indianapolis	5	2	0	.714	202	153
Miami	5	2	0	.714	149	91
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	140	153
New England	2	6	0	.250	143	171

Central						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	6	1	0	.857	145	97
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	134	89
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	121	78
Cleveland	2	6	0	.250	95	197
Jacksonville	2	6	0	.250	142	190
Cincinnati	1	6	0	.143	68	164

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	6	1	0	.857	192	128
Kansas City	4	3	0	.571	188	147
Denver	4	4	0	.500	238	178
Seattle	2	6	0	.250	121	200
San Diego	0	7	0	.000	117	204


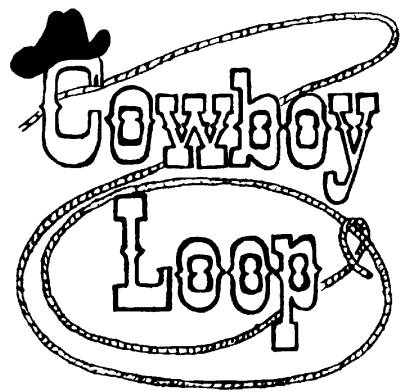
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	2	0	.750	149	115
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	120	105
Philadelphia	5	3	0	.625	181	110
Dallas	3	4	0	.429	174	174
Arizona	2	5	0	.286	121	210

Central						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	7	0	0	1.000	184	137
Detroit	5	2	0	.714	143	134
Green Bay	3	4	0	.429	148	139
Tampa Bay	3	4	0	.429	164	125
Chicago	1	7	0	.125	110	202

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	1	0	.857	296	228
New Orleans	4	3	0	.571	131	117
Carolina	3	4	0	.429	144	116
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	149	238
San Francisco	2	6	0	.250	214	258

Thursday's Games
Detroit 28, Tampa Bay 14
Sunday's Games
Dallas 48, Arizona 7
New Orleans 21, Atlanta 19
Cincinnati 31, Denver 21
Indianapolis 30, New England 23
Kansas City 54, St. Louis 34
Philadelphia 13, Chicago 9
Tennessee 14, Baltimore 6
Carolina 34, San Francisco 16
Minnesota 31, Buffalo 27
Oakland 31, Seattle 3
Pittsburgh 22, Cleveland 0
Washington 35, Jacksonville 16
Open: San Diego, N.Y. Giants, Green Bay

Monday's Game
N.Y. Jets 40, Miami 37, OT
Sunday, Oct. 29
Carolina at Atlanta, 11 a.m.
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 11 a.m.
Detroit at Indianapolis, 11 a.m.
Green Bay at Miami, 11 a.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 11 a.m.
New York Jets at Buffalo, 11 a.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 11 a.m.
St. Louis at San Francisco, 2:05 p.m.
New Orleans at Arizona, 2:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York Giants, 2:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at Dallas, 2:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 2:15 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 6:20 p.m.
Open Date: Chicago, Denver, New England
Monday, Oct. 30
Tennessee at Washington, 7 p.m.




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Football Contest

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