

Quarterback ready for game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Quarterback Elvis Grbac took almost half the snaps in practice Wednesday and expects to be ready for Kansas City's game Sunday at Seattle.

Grbac, who is having the best season of his career, injured his right elbow last week in the second half of the Chiefs' 54-34 victory over St. Louis.

He underwent an MRI on Tuesday, which concluded his right elbow was only bruised.

"By game time, I'll be fine," said Grbac, who has thrown at least two touchdown passes in each of the last five games and in 10 of his last 11.

He said the elbow had good range of motion Wednesday and that his availability "is not an issue."

Coach Gunther Cunningham agreed. "He's very competitive," Cunningham said. "I don't think people realize how tough he is. He's not some 6-foot guy. He's 6-5 and 240. He knows what

he's done and he wants to continue to do that."

The Chiefs (4-3) listed 10 players, including eight starters, on their injury list Wednesday following their bruising victory over the previously undefeated Rams. But the only ones missing practice were wide receiver Sylvester Morris, who has an injured shoulder, and defensive lineman Eric Hicks, who is out 4-6 weeks with a knee injury.

Broncos hold grueling workout

DENVER (AP)—Practicing for the first time in nearly a month, running back Terrell Davis rejoined his teammates Wednesday as the Denver Broncos held a grueling, almost two-hour workout that featured more contact than usual.

Davis, who hasn't played a full game yet this season because of a severely sprained left ankle and foot and who has been inactive for the past three games, appeared ready to return to the lineup.

That won't happen until Nov. 5, when the Broncos (4-4) visit the New York Jets.

Denver, still smarting from a 31-21 loss to previously winless Cincinnati on Sunday, has a bye this week.

Davis' ankle injury, which occurred in the season opener, has overshadowed concern about his right knee.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan liked what he saw of Davis on Wednesday. "Terrell had a great practice today," Shanahan said. "It looks like he's 100 percent."

He made cuts, and that was very

encouraging. You could see there were no lingering effects, whether from the ankle or knee.

"He looked as good as I've seen him look over the last couple of years."

Shanahan had a quite different impression about his team — and his defense in particular — after Sunday's loss. Corey Dillon ran for an NFL-record 278 yards as the Bengals generated a club-record 407 yards on the ground.

Shanahan promised more contact in practice in an effort to improve tackling, and Wednesday's practice was evidence of that new policy.

Injuries thin line and hurt Wildcats' offense

MANHATTAN. (AP)—The depth of Kansas State's offensive line was a concern for coach Bill Snyder from the beginning of the season.

Now several crucial midseason injuries have thinned the line and hurt the Wildcats' offense.

Kansas State will head to Texas A&M without the services of its starting tight end, a backup lineman and its starting fullback. Playing with injuries isn't new for Kansas State.

Starting guard Andy Eby was sidelined with an elbow injury against Oklahoma and Texas Tech. Eby is expected to play this week, but with a brace on his elbow. Several other blockers won't play, though.

"We don't have an abundance of them running around," Snyder said. "But we have got enough players to make trip and get five on the field."

The recent ailments have cut the depth chart from 10 to seven or eight on the interior line. And tight end and fullback have also taken hits.

Key reserve linemen Nick Leckey

will miss this week because of an undisclosed injury. Starting tight end Shad Meier will be out because of a foot injury and fullback Johnno Lazetich is out with an undisclosed injury. Both didn't play against Texas Tech.

Meier's foot is in a cast and he is using crutches. Snyder said he is uncertain when Meier will return.

"It happens as you go through the season and it's frustrating," Eby said of the injuries. "The younger guys like Nick Leckey and Steve Washington have to continue to step up. I think we'll be fine. We're deep enough."

Due to the injuries, Snyder has tackle Matt Martin splitting time at both tight end and fullback, while other linemen will play a variety of positions.

"Certainly it thins us out more than we have been," Snyder said. "We have a lot of players that have to be diverse enough. Virtually every player that we have on our offensive line has played in multiple positions."

Running back David Allen, who also

missed games due to an ankle injury in the season opener, said injuries have played a part in Kansas State's sputtering offensive performances.

Against Texas Tech, the Wildcats had season lows with 198 total yards and 67 rushing yards.

"A lot of it has to do with suffering from injuries," It really takes away from what you try to do. Especially, when it's the offensive line. Everything starts with those guys up front. It really makes a difference."

To complicate matters, the Wildcats injuries have gone up against good defenses. Both Oklahoma, which beat the Wildcats 41-31, and Texas Tech are ranked in the top 20 in total defense.

"The defenses have something to do with it," Eby said. "We're not used to playing these conference teams and now we're in the heart of the conference schedule. We want to be the powerhouse that we felt like we were earlier in the season. We'll get it back. We just have to get clicking again."

Rites of fall include team struggles and coach's job on the line

KANSAS CITY, MO. (AP)—It's becoming a rite of fall: College football teams struggle, coaches sit on the hot seat, and Dennis Franchione becomes a candidate for replacement.

But the Texas Christian head coach plans to stay put. At least for now.

Franchione, a native of Girard, Kan., with a reputation for winning, has been rumored of late as the replacement to Missouri's Larry Smith. The Tigers have struggled the last two seasons after finishing 8-4 in 1998 and winning the Insight.com Bowl.

The Tigers are 2-5, 1-3 in the Big 12, and play Iowa State (5-2, 2-2) on Saturday.

Rumors linking Franchione to Missouri make him uneasy.

"Larry Smith is a friend of mine. His wife is a friend of my wife. We have a

great deal of respect for Larry Smith and the program he has," said Franchione, whose Horned Frogs are 6-0 and ranked No. 11. "MU hasn't had much success in the last 15 or 16 years, but the success it has had was with Larry Smith there."

"For me, we're enjoying TCU. We love it in Texas. I'm 49 years old. If TCU's my last job, I'd have no regrets."

Franchione and Missouri athletic director Mike Alden's ties date to their days at New Mexico. Franchione was head coach when Alden was associate athletic director for development.

Alden has repeatedly stated his support for Smith and said that Missouri was not looking for a new coach.

Other schools Franchione has been rumored to be headed toward include

Notre Dame, Southern California and Alabama.

At TCU, Franchione is under contract through 2005 and makes close to \$1 million a year.

He has a clause in his contract naming Notre Dame, Texas, Texas A&M and Arizona State as schools he could go to where there'd be a far less punitive buyout than if he went elsewhere.

Franchione has a penchant for winning. A former assistant at Kansas State, he was 53-6 in five seasons at Pittsburg State from 1983-1989. He had two winning seasons at Southwest Texas State before spending six seasons at New Mexico.

In his last season there, the Lobos went to their first bowl game since 1961.

Kansas made Franchione a finalist for the vacancy left by Glenn Mason following the 1996 season. Franchione withdrew from consideration and the Jayhawks hired Terry Allen from Northern Iowa.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press Postseason Baseball World Series	Wednesday, Oct. 25 N.Y. Yankees 3, N.Y. Mets 2, N.Y. Yankees lead series 3-1
(FOX)	Thursday, Oct. 26 N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 19-9) at N.Y. Mets (Leiter 16-8), 6:25 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 21 N.Y. Yankees 4, N.Y. Mets 3, 12 innings	Saturday, Oct. 28 N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 6 p.m., if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 22 N.Y. Yankees 6, N.Y. Mets 5	Sunday, Oct. 29 N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 6 p.m. EST, if necessary
Tuesday, Oct. 24 N.Y. Mets 4, N.Y. Yankees 2	

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1998 Dodge Quad Cab SLT Pkg. - 44K
1997 Chevy S-10 - 2/WD, Sport Side
1997 Pontiac Grand Prix GT - 4D
1997 Chrysler Sebring LXI - Silver, 52K
1997 Pontiac Trans Sport **OLD** Montana Pkg., 68K
1994 Chevy Cavalier **SOLD**
1993 Ford Explorer XLT - Local trade, 81K



Player spends time in Olympic city

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Stacey Dales spent a summer in the city worth remembering.

It wasn't just any city. It was the Olympic city.

Dales, a junior at Oklahoma, played on the Canadian women's basketball team at the Sydney Olympics. And though her team did not do well, finishing 10th in a field of 12, it was a gold-medal experience for Dales.

"It was a goal that I had set for myself at a very young age, to play in the Olympics for my home country," Dales said Wednesday at the Big 12 media day. "It was a tremendous learning experience."

"I improved consistently and I'm thrilled about the opportunity to bring so many intangibles back to the university, things that I can feed the younger players."

Dales said she learned about mental toughness and what it takes to be a leader, how to handle criticism and how to get her point across to teammates.

All will be important to a team that shared the Big 12 championship with Iowa State and Texas Tech last season and is expected to contend for the title

again.

"It was little things on how to make a basketball team better," she said. "But the main thing was consistency and being able to forge through some of the adversities we faced, knowing there will be adversities this year. I want to help our team get through them."

The youngest player on the team, Stales started for the Canadians and average 11.8 points, 3.8 rebounds and 1.6 assists. The only thing she didn't do well was shoot video during the opening ceremonies.

"I watched my camcorder footage afterwards and it was so horrible," she said with a sheepish grin. "Because it was such a frantic rush of energy, 100,000 people around you, some of them throwing Canadian flags. It was such a rush."

"To see all the countries and such diverse cultures coming together to celebrate one event, it's just incredible."

She'd like to keep that feeling going through the college season. The Sooners return all but one starter off a 25-8 team, but the one missing was the best of all, Big 12 player of the year Phyl

lesha Whaley.

"I think we'll replace her points and rebounds. I don't think we'll replace her presence," coach Sherri Coale said. "I've never coached a game at Oklahoma without Phyllesha Whaley on the roster. I don't know what I'm going to do."

She'll probably do just fine with Dales, LaNeisha Caufield and Jadrea Seeley all returning. Coale also signed two promising junior-college transfers in Jamie Talbert and Rosalind Ross.

"I think we're doing pretty good," Caufield said. "We're so close. I've never seen a team as close as this team. Our newcomers fit in so well. They're learning everything quicker than I imagined they could catch on."

Most of the league's other top stars from last season have departed as well. The Big 12 was a senior-dominated league at the top, so there's room for new talent to emerge.

Iowa State's Stacy Frese and Desiree Francis are gone. So are Edwina Brown of Texas, Lynn Pride of Kansas, Nicole Kubik of Nebraska, Jennifer Crow of Oklahoma State, Aleah Johnson of Texas Tech and Julie Helm of Missouri.

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