

# Counseling follows crash

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — In the emotional aftershock of the tragic Oklahoma State plane crash, Big 12 coaches are worried their players may be more reluctant than ever to get on team flights.

In squad meetings and private one-on-one sessions, they're talking with players who've been shocked and shaken by the sudden death of 10 people, including two of their fellow athletes.

"We've had kids talking about getting back on planes and taking buses," Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said Monday during the league's weekly conference call.

"The fallout from this will affect certainly us all."

In addition to players Dan Lawson and Nate Fleming, eight other members of Oklahoma State's traveling party died in the crash of the small aircraft near Byers, Colo., Saturday evening.

Texas coach Rick Barnes gave his players the bad news just after the plane landed that had flown them back from their game in Arizona.

"It took the life right out of them," Barnes said. "It hit so close to home. It could be us. They all went right to the phone and called their parents."

Many young athletes come to college with little or no flying experience and are already apprehensive about planes.

"I assured our players they should know we would never, ever do anything to jeopardize their safety. And I would never, ever ask them to do some-

thing I wouldn't do," Barnes said.

Oklahoma's next game is Wednesday against Baylor in Waco, Texas, and many players have asked Sampson if they could bus instead of fly.

"I told them we'd talk about it," said Sampson. "We're going to fly."

Because so many Big 12 schools are in small midwestern towns far from large metropolitan airports, they frequently take private or charter flights instead of commercial aircraft.

The Sooners were trying to fly out of Lubbock, Texas after playing Texas Tech last year when inclement weather delayed their plane's arrival by almost two hours. Rather than fly in the bad weather, Sampson put his players on a bus and made an 8 1/2-hour drive back home to Norman, Okla.

"There is nothing convenient about an 8 1/2-hour bus trip," said Sampson.

The Oklahoma State crash hit Missouri particularly hard. Last year after taking off from Columbia, Mo., en route to Texas, their plane made an emergency landing in Springfield.

"Obviously, (the Oklahoma State crash) could be us," said Tigers coach Quin Snyder. "A lot of kids haven't flown (before getting to college). They are concerned about flying."

A light snow was falling when the Oklahoma State plane took off from Denver. There has been speculation that ice on the wings may have been a factor.

"I'm supposed to get on a private plane tomorrow and go recruiting," said Kansas coach Roy Williams. "I don't think I'm overreacting when I

say if there's any problems in weather, I'm not going to get on it."

Texas A&M coach Melvin Watkins sensed that his players were unnerved by the news before they took the court against Iowa State on Sunday afternoon.

"Here I am worrying about being 0-7 in the conference. But it compares not at all to the tragedy that just happened," said Watkins. "We've got some kids who don't particularly care to fly anyway. Any time a tragedy like this happens, across the board people get concerned about flying again."

Texas Tech coach James Dickey discusses the safety of flying with his team every year.

"There's no question there are a lot of these young people who have fears about flying," he said.

Dickey also doubts that people around the country will fully understand how the tragedy has affected every other team and school in the conference.

"There's a closeness that most people do not know exists," he said. "This conference as a whole, as far as basketball is concerned, is pretty close."

Colorado players were probably as rattled as any since they had just played the Cowboys a couple of hours before the crash.

"We had a team meeting to talk about their emotions and feelings," said coach Ricardo Patton. "I think we're going to go back to commercial (flights) just to put our guys' minds more at ease."

us in the back of our minds."

The Cyclones (17-3, 5-2 Big 12) controlled the game from the start, hitting their first 11 free throws against the undersized Aggies (6-13, 0-7), who lost their seventh straight game and dropped to 0-5 against Iowa State.

Kansas, in the meantime, remained the Big 12's only unbeaten team, hiking its record to 17-1 overall and 6-0 in the conference as Roy Williams' log against the Wildcats went to 30-4.

"I said before the game and I'll say it now, I am impressed with what Jim Wooldridge has done with that program," said Williams.

Kenny Gregory, who had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Jayhawks, also noticed a difference.

"They seem a lot more confident now," he said. "Even though we got a big lead on them, they never quit playing hard."

Tony Atchison had 28 points for Kansas State, almost all from outside shooting.

Missouri, which dropped out of the Top 20 one week after getting there, needed a 3-point bucket from Kareem Rush with 32.6 seconds left for a 2-point lead. Then he stripped Texas Tech's Cliff Owens of the ball with two seconds to go.

On Monday night, the struggling Tigers will play host to Kansas.

The crowd and the team ought to be sky-high because former coach Norm Stewart will be honored before the game.

"We can be playing the worst ball of the year and when Kansas comes around, there is something about Kansas that gets you ready to play," said Rush, who had 23 points.



## Jayhawks lose to Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — An 18-0 run is enough to bury most opponents. It wasn't nearly enough Monday night for No. 3 Kansas, which always seems to run into trouble at Missouri.

Kareem Rush had 27 points and 11 rebounds as the Tigers shrugged and built a new lead, making it five in a row at home against Jayhawk teams ranked in the Top 10 with a 75-66 victory.

"Beating Kansas is something that if you go to Missouri, you have to do," Rush said. "It was a great performance and we have to keep on going."

Missouri is 5-4 against Kansas in Big 12 play, although the Jayhawks lead the overall series 152-90. Kansas was ranked No. 7 last year, No. 3 in 1998, No. 1 in 1997 and No. 3 in 1996, and lost each time.

Kansas players weren't exactly crushed, even though it ended a 10-game winning streak.

"It's not the end of the world," said Kenny Gregory, who had 16 points. "I'm not going to dwell on it too much, just because it's the big Kansas-Missouri rivalry. But whoever we were playing, I would be disappointed if we lost."

In the only other game involving ranked teams, No. 12 Syracuse beat No. 14 Georgetown 70-63.

The key for Missouri (14-6, 5-2 Big 12) was not losing poise after watching a 17-point second-half lead evaporate.

Over a stretch of 5:50, Kansas turned

a 43-26 deficit into a 44-43 lead on Kirk Hinrich's 3-pointer with 12:20 to go.

Coach Quin Snyder was impressed with the poise of his young team, which has four freshmen playing key roles, the rest of the way. Five days earlier, Missouri coughed up an 11-point lead at Nebraska, including a 15-0 run.

This time, Rush scored eight points in a three-minute span as the Tigers pulled ahead 59-52 with 7:30 to go.

Kansas, despite shooting 50 percent the second half after hitting only 35.5 percent the first half, never got any closer than five points the rest of the way.

"The most significant thing is what we did after they went on their run," Snyder said. "We haven't been able to respond when a team has turned it up against us and that's because we've tried to respond as individuals."

"This is what happens when you play together."

Coach Roy Williams said the Jayhawks might have a lot to do with that.

"They really get fired up to play us," Williams said. "But you have to give credit where credit is due, they get so much more enthused."

Brian Grawer added 14 points and was 4-for-7 from 3-point range for Missouri, including three in the final nine minutes.

Clarence Gilbert added 12 points

for the Tigers, who are 10-0 in the Hearnest Center.

The floor was named for former longtime coach Norm Stewart during a halftime ceremony, and after the game Stewart was given the game ball.

"The opportunity I have is because of what he was able to accomplish here," Snyder said. "I really wanted our kids to play well and win. I didn't think it would be complete if we didn't do that."

Drew Gooden led Kansas with 19 points, Gregory added 16 and Jeff Boschee had 11.

But Kansas was only 7-for-18 at the free throw line, while Missouri was 17-for-23. Eric Chenoweth missed all four of his attempts.

"I think we missed the possibility of six points in a row on the line when it was about a four- or five-point game," Williams said. "You have to be tough enough to step up to the line and make those free throws at that point."

Before the game, there was a moment of silence for victims of Saturday night's plane crash involving the Oklahoma State basketball team.

Both coaches as well as several others wore black and orange ribbons, the Oklahoma State school colors, during the game.

"You appreciate every opportunity you have to go out and play in a game like this," Snyder said. "They played every moment and it's good to remember that."

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