

# Eagles capitalize on Chiefs' errors

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles gladly accepted their gifts from the Kansas City Chiefs, and quickly put them to good use.

The Chiefs committed two special-teams errors Thursday night — including failing to cover David Akers' onside kick on Philadelphia's opening kickoff — and the Eagles converted both mistakes into points in a 23-10 victory that kept them unbeaten on the road.

"That's a big lift," said running back Duce Staley, who caught one of Donovan McNabb's two touchdown passes as the Eagles (7-4) tied a club record with their eighth straight road win and their fifth this season.

"It's a lift for the special teams to get a turnover, and it's a lift for the offense to get back out there on the field and score some points," said Staley, who led the Eagles with 80 yards on 25 carries.

After going 15-for-37 in Sunday's 13-3 loss to Washington, Thursday's game gave McNabb a lift, too. Against the Chiefs, he developed a quick rapport with his receivers and went 18-for-26 for 269 yards.

"This was an opportunity for us to redeem ourselves for everything that happened last weekend," said McNabb, who completed passes to seven receivers on Thursday. "All the things that happened on Sunday — that just wasn't us."

Thursday's defeat was all too familiar to the Chiefs (3-8), who dropped to 1-5 at Arrowhead Stadium just four

days after beating Seattle 19-7 for their first home victory.

"I wish I could place my finger on it," said quarterback Trent Green, 21-for-35 for 213 yards with one touchdown and one interception. "It is a number of different things. We have to regroup."

The Eagles went after Kansas City from the outset, when Akers caught the Chiefs flat-footed with his onside kick. Dameane Douglas recovered at the Philadelphia 40.

Twelve plays later, Akers kicked the first of his three field goals, a 24-yarder that gave the Eagles the lead for good.

"I don't think it took the wind out of our team, but it startled us," said Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil, who led the 1980 Eagles to the Super Bowl. "That's a gutsy, gutsy call."

The Eagles couldn't have planned their next special-teams break, though. At first, it looked like a big play for the Chiefs.

Early in the second quarter, Kansas City's Glenn Cadrez partially blocked Sean Landeta's punt — but instead of letting the ball roll dead, Eric Warfield tried to pick it up.

The ball rolled away from him, and William Hampton recovered for the Eagles on the Kansas City 41. Two plays later, Staley caught McNabb's pass and broke three tackles on his way to a 46-yard touchdown and a 10-0 lead.

"It hurt us. It hurt us bad," Warfield said. "I made a big mistake. I was trying to run before I caught it."

# KU students want better seats

LAWRENCE (AP) — The continuing controversy over student seating at Allen Fieldhouse is getting another look, after a group of students began lobbying for better seating at men's basketball games.

Peter Gogal, a sophomore at Kansas, is one of eight students who presented a new seating plan to Kansas Athletics Corporation on Tuesday.

"As cheesy as it sounds, I want to make Allen Fieldhouse all that it can be and make it as intense an environment as it can be for opposing teams by

bringing some of the rowdier fans — the students — closer to the players," Gogol said.

Students currently sit at the ends of the court, behind the baskets. The student group would like seating behind players' benches on the west side and closer to the floor around the court.

Richard Konzem, associate athletics director, said officials are willing to consider the plan.

"I know we have a system in place that works very well," he said. "We're always open to new ideas and change."



# Cities want to save Twins, fight over stadium site

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — United in their desire to save the Minnesota Twins, the leaders of Minneapolis and St. Paul are split on which city should be the team's home.

The incoming mayors of both cities pitched ballpark plans Thursday to a state task force examining whether a new, partly subsidized stadium is feasible.

The discussion followed a vote by baseball owners on Nov. 6 to eliminate unnamed two teams, with the Twins and Montreal Expos the best bets to fold before next season.

Minneapolis Mayor-elect R.T. Rybak is pushing a \$315 million, 38,000-seat, open-air ballpark to be

built near the Target Center.

About two-thirds of the money would come from the team and private investors, about \$25 million from game-day parking revenue and \$45 million to \$50 million in loans. The loans would be backed by a rebate of Minnesota income taxes paid by players on the Twins and visiting teams.

"You can't do this cheaper anywhere else," Rybak said. "If this task force decides to move forward, you will have a strong aggressive partner in Minneapolis."

St. Paul Mayor-elect Randy Kelly wants a \$375 million stadium to be constructed in his city, funded by private sources and state-issued bonds.

# Win in reach for Cowboys

The Goodland Cowboys travel to Imperial, Neb., today to begin the basketball season facing a team that just got by them last year 66-64.

In last year's game, the Cowboys were down 35-24 at the half and worked hard to recover but were not quite able to catch up before they ran out of time.

The boys have worked hard in practice, and Coach Jon McLean is confident that they will be a better team this year. They have learned a lot of things in practice, he said, and are a more experienced team.

The Cowboys have three players who have been in the program for three

years, the coach said, and that helps.

Seniors Andrew Melia, Bryan Mai and Jordan Riebel will lead the team and have a good core of juniors to help in Don Raymer, Aaron Gittinger, Chris Rubio, Alan Cebula and Kevin Schulte.

The Longhorns out rebounded the Cowboys last year, but the coach expects Melia and Raymer to be big rebounders for this year.

The game at Imperial will start at about 7 p.m., or after the the girls game is over. The Cowboys' next action will be at home in the Topside Tip-off beginning at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

# Bronco kicking way to the top

DENVER (AP) — Just call him Mr. November.

Jason Elam has quietly enjoyed a standout season, especially in the past month, and the NFL couldn't help but notice.

On Thursday, the Denver Broncos placekicker was named the AFC Special Teams Player of the Month after converting 11-of-12 field goals in November, including two from beyond 45 yards.

Elam led all of the league's kickers in November with his 11 field goals and 38 points. His lone failure was a blocked 48-yarder against Oakland.

Elam was 4-for-4 twice during the month, in wins over San Diego on Nov. 11 and Dallas on Nov. 22.

For the year, Elam is 21-of-24. Besides the blocked kick, he missed only a 65-yarder in the season opener against the New York Giants that would have eclipsed his own NFL record, as well as a 42-yarder at San Diego.

The Broncos have sometimes had trouble scoring touchdowns this sea-

son, and that has benefitted Elam.

Elam, who matched Tom Dempsey's NFL record for the longest field goal when he kicked a 63-yarder in 1998, scored his 1,000th career point when he kicked a field goal against Oakland on Nov. 5. He became the 30th NFL player to reach that plateau and, in his ninth year, the fastest kicker to do so.

Elam, 31, rebounded from a serious injury last season. He broke two transverse process bones in his lower back while being blocked on a kickoff return and missed three games. He continued to experience stiffness in his back, but still hit on 18-of-24 field goals and accounted for 103 points.

Elam has twice been honored as AFC Special Teams Player of the Week, in 1998 and 1999, but this is his first Player of the Month honor.

He is the third Denver player to win a Player of the Month award this season. Quarterback Brian Griese won the offensive award for September and cornerback Deltha O'Neal won for defense in October.

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