

Bufs to face Kansas State after losing quarterback

By John Mossman

The Associated Press
BOULDER, Colo. — Whatever calamities befall the Colorado Buffaloes this week and in succeeding weeks, it won't be due to any aftershocks of losing their starting quarterback.

You have coach Gary Barnett's word on it.

On Sept. 23, Craig Ochs, who had missed two straight games after suffering his third concussion in the past year, announced he wouldn't play again this season and was leaving school. Two days later, he appeared in the office of Montana coach Joe Glenn and inquired about transferring there.

The defection by Ochs, a three-year starter and one of the team's captains, stunned Barnett, his staff and his players. They had an off week to get over the revelations, and Barnett insists it's

behind them now.

"What I like about our team right now is we haven't let anything get to us," Barnett said. "We did not let the USC game (a 40-3 loss on Sept. 14) become an internal issue. We didn't let Craig's departure become an internal issue in any way. So we're a pretty focused team right now."

Barnett will get a more precise reading about his team's focus on Saturday when the Buffs entertain No. 13 Kansas State in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

A week after the Buffs' humiliating loss to USC, Kansas State defeated the Trojans 27-20.

"Kansas State had three games to build its confidence," Barnett said, referring to the Wildcats' first three over-matched opponents — Western Kentucky, Louisiana-Monroe and Eastern Illinois. "Then they took on one of the

big boys and really beat on them, too. Of course, that's the team that beat us up pretty well here."

Colorado isn't inclined to put too much stock in the comparative performances against USC. That game was the first start for Ochs' backup, Robert Hodge.

Bad as the Buffs were, they regrouped and upset UCLA 31-17 the following week.

"Obviously, a lot has gone on since the UCLA game," Colorado wide receiver Jeremy Bloom said. "I think it brought us closer as a team."

"I think this is the biggest game of our season — opening with probably the best team in the Big 12 North. Obviously, the stakes are high for us. It's a huge game."

A year ago, the Buffs' 16-6 win over the Wildcats helped propel them to the Big 12 championship.

Jayhawks square off with Baylor

WACO, Texas (AP) — Coach Kevin Steele expected the added emphasis from the outside this week about Baylor's chance to end its 29-game Big 12 losing streak.

The Bears (2-2) play their conference opener Saturday against Kansas (2-3, 0-1 Big 12), a team struggling itself, and the last Big 12 team Baylor beat — four years ago.

Steele doesn't view it any differently than the first 24 Big 12 games the Bears have played since he became coach five games after the streak began.

"In the last four years, we've played

every team in this league," Steele said. "The first game in the conference gives us an opportunity to really change some things. But it doesn't matter who that opponent is, because it hasn't mattered the last four years."

"We need to win, regardless of who we play," he said.

No player on Baylor's roster has ever played in a Big 12 victory.

Since beating Kansas 31-24 at home on Oct. 10, 1998, the Bears haven't really been close in a Big 12 game. Only one loss in the streak has been by fewer than 10 points, and they lost 45-

10 at Kansas in 1999.

While Steele's job is likely in jeopardy, the Jayhawks are going through a transition with first-year coach Mark Mangino, the former Oklahoma offensive coordinator.

Kansas has shown improvement since losing its season and Big 12 opener 45-3 to No. 15 Iowa State. But the Jayhawks have still only won twice, 44-24 against Division I-AA Southwest Missouri and 43-33 last week after coming back from a 13-0 deficit against Tulsa, which has the nation's longest losing streak.

Development group hires director

DIRECTOR, from Page 1

departments," Applegate said. "I was interested in the projected growth and looking at the projects in the area. The people in those offices said they picked Sherman County to be one of the four counties in the northwest to grow in the next few years."

"Sherman County is on the edge of greatness," she said. "It just needs a economic development spark."

Applegate said she was glad to see that Sherman County is part of the western regional enterprise facilitation program because she believes there is a need to network to build a regional effort. The six-county program has received a grant to help bring new businesses to northwest Kansas.

"Leadership is through the community," she said.

"You hired a manager to carry out

the program, and I am looking forward to coming to Goodland."

Looking at Sherman County, Applegate says she sees a number of advantages for the future.

"There are built-in advantages being the gateway to Kansas," she said. "There are great highways, rail and airport services. The new fiber optics will be a real advantage, and there is a strong business community that wants to grow."

"It will take a few weeks to get acquainted with the people and hear what they feel is important," she said. "I have the attitude and passion to make this work."

"I believe a big part of economic development is maintaining a network of contacts both at the regional and state level," she said, "and it is important to stay in contact with the local leaders to set the direction."

She said she feels it will be important to target the companies the county will be hoping to recruit, and to look for ways to help the current businesses expand if they can.

"It is important to shape the future," she said, "not let it happen by accident."

"I am looking forward to coming to Goodland," she said. "I knew after the interview I wanted this job, and then I adopted the community when they put on a great party like Flatlanders where the whole community comes together and shows the friendliness that is the base of the community."

Applegate said in a recent interview in Norton that since 1998 the city has had around 100 new or expanded businesses while losing about 18.

She said the growth in Norton was because of an active Chamber and economic development office.



Cowboy Malcom White was brought down by a teammate at a scrimmage earlier in the season. Goodland will play the Oakley Plainsmen at 6:30 today in Oakley. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Cowboys to tackle Plainsmen

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Cowboys' coach said the team will have to be in top form tonight if they want to beat the Oakley Plainsmen, a team that recently defeated the St. Francis Indians, who took down Goodland 30-0 earlier this season.

"It's a game I think we can win," Coach Tony Diehl said, "but we have to play well. We don't have the luxury to just show up, we have to play really well."

The Cowboys will travel to Oakley this afternoon for their fifth game of the season. The action will start at 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time.

Goodland's record so far this season is 1-3, after creaming the Holcomb Longhorns 39-0, and falling to Hoxie, St. Francis and Atwood.

The Cowboys are doing better than they did last year, when they ended the season winless, but are still struggling a bit.

Diehl said the game against Oakley will be another big test.

Oakley's season record is 2-2, including wins against

St. Francis and Quinter and losses to Atwood and Oberlin. Oakley defeated St. Francis 12-8, but lost 13-8 to the Oberlin Red Devils, a team the Cowboys will face for homecoming next Friday.

Diehl said the Cowboys have been adjusting their game to handle Oakley's strong defense.

"Oakley has a great defense," the coach said, "they don't allow many points."

He said he's expecting the Plainsmen to be a tough opponent and the Cowboys need to keep that in mind.

"It's going to be a dog fight," Diehl said, "a knock down, drag out. We need to be ready to play at the opening snap."

The coach said the Cowboys are improving every week and he's expecting more wins this season.

"Eventually I think we'll really have a breakout game," he said, "and our program will be back to what it used to be."

But, he said, it's not going to happen without some work.

"We need to learn what it means to play championship football," he said.

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