# sports **Tigers play Wildcats tough at home**

MANHATTAN (AP)—For reasons inexplained, Kansas State has recently taken better teams to Missouri and barely come away with wins.

Although the No. 10 Wildcats (9-2, 5-2 Big 12) have beaten their last four opponents by an average of 41 points, they're well aware of the Tigers' history of making highly ranked Kansas State teams sweat.

"They play very well at home," tight end Thomas Hill said. "It's a real hostile environment and they're looking forward to knocking us off. We have a tough game on our hands."

Although Kansas State has won eight straight against Missouri, three of its four road contests during that streak have been decided by six points or less. In 1994, the Tigers gave No. 11 Kan-

sas State a scare in a 21-18 squeaker. In 1998, the No. 2 Wildcats barely es-



caped with a down-to-the-wire 31-25 win, and the No. 9 Wildcats won 28-24 in 2000.

1993, Kansas State had lost three straight at Faurot Field.

"It's like the Bermuda Triangle,"

defensive end Andrew Shull said. "A lot of teams go in, but a lot of them don't come away with wins.'

of incentive to break the Wildcats' win- Manhattan. ning streak. The Tigers (5-6, 2-5) are one win away from securing bowl eligibility.

"They always have something big to play for," tight ends coach Matt Miller said. "This year it's for a bowl bid. In 2000, they were playing for Larry Smith's job and in 1998 they were playing for national respect.

"I know that when we were building our program we got a little more fired up when a big school like Colorado or Nebraska comes in," Miller Before the winning streak began in said. "The same is true for them."

> In each of their past two win at Missouri, the Wildcats were coming off huge wins against Nebraska. In 1998, the Wildcats beat Nebraska for the first time in 30 years, winning 40-30 at KSU Stadium. Two years later, Kansas State

Smith also leads all Division I fresh-

men in total offense, and is eighth over-

all. A season that began with a quarter-

back controversy between Smith and

senior Kirk Farmer has turned into one

Smith's season started with a 290-

yard performance in a win over Illi-

nois. Perhaps amazingly, coaches say

standing defenses and anticipating his

Denver's Dec. 1 game against the

Griese said Wednesday the knee is still

"I'd love to be back for the San Di-

ego, game and that's what I'm shoot-

ing for," he said. "So I'm just going to

do everything I can this week and next

week to get on the field, actually make

some cuts and put some stress on the

knee and see how it reacts."

sore and unstable, but he expects to be

back a week earlier than planned.

"He's got a lot better with under-

he has gotten better since then.

Jeff Handy in 1992.

Last weekend, the Wildcats beat Nebraska 49-13, and Kansas State coach Bill Snyder doesn't see his team having a post-Nebraska hangover this season.

"I'm pleased with the way we've responded week in and week out," Snyder said. "They have the appropriate mental preparation. I'd be surprised if they didn't come to play.'

The Wildcats lost their only challenging road game this season, giving up four big plays in a 35-31 loss to Colorado. Kansas State's other two road games were wins against the lastplace teams in the Big 12 North and South. The Wildcats beat Kansas 64-0 and admitted being off their game in a 44-10 win at Baylor.

"I don't think we will have a letdown," Shull said. "We're ready."

sition, that's what's improved dramati-

five games, Smith has improved his

passing efficiency, touchdowns, inter-

ceptions, completion percentage and

yards per game. He leads the team in

rushing, but Pinkel said Smith's pass-

ing ability will help determine how far

Smith said he has more work to do.

"It's important for every passer,"

Smith said. "Just to be able to throw the

ball down the field and strike quick.

The numbers back that up. In the last

cally in the past few games."

he can go.

throws a little earlier," quarterbacks It'd be good for our offense as a

## Hard-working Truluck finally gets big chance

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)-R-Kal Truluck, who was almost killed while defending a teenage girl from a knife-wielding attacker, is finally getting a chance to play in the NFL.

The Kansas City Chiefs added the 6-foot-4, 255-pound defensive end to their 53-man roster Wednesday and will use him on Sunday against Seattle, giving the 28-year-old Brooklyn native the opportunity he's been dreaming of since he played college football at SUNY Cortland.

"It feels good to have my chance, to have my opportunity," Truluck said Wednesday. "But regardless, I'm going to continue to work hard and do the things I need to do. I just want to come out and contribute and

pact." A pass-rush specialist who's made a detailed study of some of the game's greatest sack artists, Truluck was signed by the Chiefs last August and was placed on the practice squad after recording four sacks in the club's exhibition season.

do whatever I can to make an im-

Coach Dick Vermeil, whose defensive line has been depleted by injury, said Truluck will probably get 26-30 plays against Seattle.

"I'm not sure he's ready to step up. But he's the only available healthy defensive lineman we have to give us eight men to suit up and play on Sunday," Vermeil said.

"I think he deserves an opportunity. He's done a good job on our stabbed," Truluck said. "It was a practice squad. He's done a very good job on our one-on-one pass protection, pass-rush drills.

him take advantage of this opportunity."

Truluck appeared in 38 games for Saskatchewan of the Canadian Football League in 1998-2000 and then went to the Arena Football League, where he was rookie of the year in 2001.

He was signed by the Chiefs last August and was cut on the final cutdown day and placed on the practice squad.

"He shows a very good initial burst. He shows a very good feel for the pass rush, good use of hands," Vermeil said. "Now we want to see how he does against a quality football player in a game environment playing within the defensive scheme. If he does a good job, he's liable to stay on the active roster. If not, then when one of those (injured) guys come back, they'll replace him.'

A scar on Truluck's chest shows where a knife barely missed his heart when he was 19. On a street in New York one night, he saw a girl who was dating a good friend being hassled by another man.

"When I jumped in, he was about to do more than fight. He pulled out the knife and swung it and I was standing in the way," Truluck said.

The sharp blade sank about a quarter of an inch into his heavily muscled chest.

"He hit the sternum," Truluck said. "If the knife had slid over just a little bit more to the heart, ...

Truluck, whose first name means "ruler" in Swahili, kept coming at the attacker, who ran away.

He was in the hospital for four days. Doctors said he was lucky to survive.

"I saved her life but I got scary situation. But I'm here talking to you now.

The girl he saved and her boy-"We're optimistic. I'd like to see friend "were very appreciative that I stepped in," Truluck said. "They stayed with me all the time I was in the hospital."

He's never seen the attacker again. But if he ever does?

"It's over," Truluck said. "It's in the past. He did what he felt like he had to do."

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coach Dave Yost said. "Being able to whole.' Injured Bronco hopes to face Chargers Griese was hurt in Denver's 31-9 vic-DENVER (AP) — The swelling in Brian Griese's sprained left knee has tory over Seattle on Sunday, and the subsided enough that the Broncos Broncos initially said he could be out up quarterback is hoping to return for to a month. It was more optimistic Mon-

> day after tests showed a second-degree tear of the medial collateral ligament. Griese walked into his weekly news conference without much of a limp and

said the swelling, which was minimal to begin with, had gone down. "I've gotten a bunch of treatment the

past couple days, and it's better," Griese said. "I'm encouraged with the amount of swelling that's gone down and the range of motion I have in it. There's just some pain and instability in there I hope I can work through in the next week."

get the ball to receivers in a better po-

Smith is close — very close — to a major milestone.

Smith's 1-yard quarterback sneak to beat Texas A&M Saturday left the Missouri quarterback a single yard short of joining Clemson's Woody Dantzler as the second player in Division I history to throw for 2,000 yards and run for 1,000 in a season.

Barring injury, Smith will reach the milestone early Saturday, when the Tigers (5-6, 2-5 Big 12) host No. 10 Kansas State (9-2, 5-2). Missouri

### Mustangs win first two games

The Seventh Grade Mustangs traveled to Hoxie on Nov. 12 for the first game of the basketball season, and won 58-39

Coach Andy Scheopner said the team played really well for the first game of the year. High scorer for the Mustangs was Jance McKee who had 28 points.

On Thusday the Mustangs traveled to Atwood where they won their second game 41-15. High scorer for the Mustangs was Jance McKee with 15 points

Their next home match is at 3:30 p.m. on Monday when they will host 2), 2:30 p.m. Oakley.

Goodland at Hoxie Nov. 12, 2002 A - Team 2 4 Total Goodland 13 15 16 14 58 10 6 10 13 39 Hoxie Pts Rbnds Asts Steals 2 2 Preston Dautel 0 0 Grant Wilkens 0 0 0

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Brad needs the sixth win to stay in conten- and is 256 yards from breaking the team record for passing yards, set by tion for a bowl berth, which would be its first since 1998.

Coach Gary Pinkel jokingly blamed running back Zack Abron for Smith's missing yard. Abron's run to the 1yard-line set up Smith's plunge against the Aggies.

of continual highlight-reel plays. "If Zack would have run it down to the 3, then Brad would have had the record and we wouldn't be talking about it right now," Pinkel said. "I ripped Zack for that in team meetings." Smith's winning touchdown was

another part of perhaps the most impressive freshman year in Missouri history. In fact, Smith has enjoyed one of the best seasons by any Missouri quarterback.

He has set the single-season record for total offense by almost 700 yards,

#### playoff schedule

By The Associated Press Here are pairings for the next round of Kansas prep football playoffs: CLASS 4A

Sub-State Friday

Fort Scott (12-0) at Eudora (11-1), 5 p.m.

#### Saturday

Scott City (11-1) at Wellington (10-

Chargers.

#### This season, the Tigers have plenty upset No. 4 Nebraska 29-28 in snowy Tiger's Brad Smith just a yard short of rare distinction

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Michael Klinge

Jordan Albers

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