

## Kubiak rejects Colorado offer

DENVER (AP) — Gary Kubiak is staying with the Denver Broncos.

The offensive coordinator rejected an offer Monday to become coach of the University of Colorado, saying he did not want to leave the Broncos.

Kubiak had spoken with Colorado athletic director Dick Tharp and was said to be the choice to replace Rick Neuheisel. "Those kids need a commitment. They need someone that

would give them 100 percent. I'm not ready to do that," Kubiak said at a news conference at Broncos headquarters.

Kubiak, who interviewed with the Cleveland Browns last month and attracted the attention of other NFL teams, said he had no plans to leave the Broncos.

"This year Gary Kubiak will not be a candidate for any opportunities," Kubiak said. "I've got to grow as a coach."

Kubiak's announcement

came one day after the Broncos beat the New York Jets 23-10 to advance to the Super Bowl for the second straight year. Denver will play Atlanta in the NFL title game on Jan. 31.

Sunday, after Denver's victory, Kubiak said he planned to decide "within 24 to 48 hours" whether to accept the Colorado coaching offer, but that regardless he would remain with Denver through the Super Bowl.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Longhorns senior running back **Ricky Williams** carries the ball against Texas A&M. Williams led the University of Texas to a 38-11 victory over Mississippi State University in the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic.

## Bowled over

### Big 12 turns in disappointing postseason

By DOUG SHILLING  
The Battalion

For the Big 12 Conference, 1998 looked to be a breakout year.

With five teams consistently in the top 25 and as many as seven at times, a .733 winning percentage against non-conference opponents and a Heisman Trophy winner who set the NCAA all-time rushing mark, the league appeared ready to take its place as the so-called "superconference" it was billed as when formed in 1995.

All the league needed to do was have a stellar post season to make the jump to college football's elite. The seven teams from the Big 12 eligible for bowl games seemed up to the challenge.

The teams faltered, going 3-4 in the postseason and leaving the Big 12 conference wondering where it belongs in college football.

#### Jeep Aloha Bowl

The bowl season started off well for the Big 12 as the University of Colorado took on the University of Oregon in the Jeep Aloha Bowl on Christmas Day. Ben Kelly set the tone for the Buffaloes' 1000th game, running back the opening kickoff 93 yards for a score.

Colorado cashed in four times off six Oregon turnovers to post a 51-43 victory. The teams combined for the most points in the history of the Aloha Bowl. Mike Moschetti garnered the game's MVP, completing 11 of 23 passes for 213 yards and four touchdowns.

#### Insight.com Bowl

The University of Missouri kept the ball rolling for the Big 12 as they took on the University of West Virginia in the Insight.com Bowl. The 21st-ranked Tigers, led by senior quarterback Corby

Jones, who rushed for three touchdowns, held off a surge by the Mountaineers to win 34-31.

UWV quarterback Marc Bulger led the Mountaineers' comeback with four touchdown passes. He ended up going 34 of 51 for 429 yards, both Insight.com records.

#### Builders Square Alamo Bowl

Kansas State University headed into its game with Purdue feeling it had something to prove. After being in the title hunt all year long, an upset by Texas A&M in the Big 12 Championship Game and a snub by the Bowl Championship Series landed KSU in San Antonio.

The tenth-ranked Wildcats wanted to show they did not belong in the Alamo Bowl. The 24th-ranked Boilermakers took care of that, stunning Kansas State 37-34.

KSU overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit, and with 1:24 remaining, Michael Bishop found tight end Justin Swift on a 2-yard pass to take the lead, 34-30. Purdue was not done, however, as Drew Brees drove the Boilermakers 80 yards in 54 seconds, capping it off with a 19-yard touchdown pass.

#### Culligan Holiday Bowl

Coming into the Holiday Bowl, the University of Arizona wanted to prove its season was not a fluke. The University of Nebraska, under new head coach Frank Solich, was looking to avoid its first four-loss season in 30 years. The fourth-ranked Wildcats accomplished their mission, defeating the 19th-ranked Cornhuskers, 23-20.

Nebraska, playing in its first non-New Year's Day bowl since

SEE BOWLS ON PAGE 11.

## NCAA football plus BCS playoff system

When some Alabama fans went to the...

a solution for determining college football's national champion, the presentation must have been a hoot.

"Lookey here, boys," Roy must have drawled. "This mathematical system'll make dog break a log chain, tee!"

People laughed at Southeastern Conference commissioner Roy Kramer's Bowl Championship Series were accepted to determine the 1999 title.

The BCS rankings complicated and frustrating may seem, did rank according to an unbiased team. However, the BCS be adapted for a playoff of the first 16 teams in the rankings for a playoff.

Despite criticism in the first year, Kramer's plan accomplished the mission which it was drafted as crowned the undefeated University of Tennessee Volunteers (who came out of the SEC national championship — aside from a rather than from slighted Tulane fans — everyone agreed end that it worked.)

Getting the sports coaches who vote in the Associated Press Top 25 Today/ESPN coaches to agree on anything other than where to find the best chicken wings is worth a Prize consideration.

However, before Kramer take that prize and make spittle faster than your "strength of schedule" should be re-evaluated.

As anyone fluent in "speak" will tell you, the perfect system or perfect After breaking down game weaknesses appeared in Kramer's system.

The Green Wave posted season, yet the Tostitos who kept shoving a bag of in victorious coach Phil face, received more votes mythical "Doofus" national championship than Tulane earned in the football bowl.

The Green Wave's district representative of the globe Kramer's system. Tulane finished No. 7, surely deserved berth in the title game.

What if Kansas State University's Michael Bishop not fumbled against Texas and UCLA was able to University of Miami or flag football teams from

With four undefeated (KSU, UCLA, Tennessee-Tulane), a national championship could not be determined a playoff. That is why should be an advocate for his system.

Any good SEC comm should know a champion out a playoff is like Texas without cream gravy — not as sweet.

Jeff Webb is a senior journalism major.

THE BATTALION

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