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Bad news Bears BU scoreless last three games

WACO (AP) — Forget winning some games. Baylor would just like to score some points before October ends.

This month has felt like an eternity for Baylor, which has been shut out in three straight games. The Bears (2-5, 0-4 Big 12) have not scored in 192 minutes — since Darrell Bush scored on a 1-yard run with 12:11 left in a 31-17 loss to Iowa State on Sept. 30.

To make things worse, Baylor has only now gotten into the meat of its Big 12 schedule.

After shutout losses to Texas Tech (28-0), Texas A&M (24-0) and last week to top-ranked Nebraska (59-0), Baylor's last chance to avoid a scoreless month comes Saturday at No. 22 Texas, which beat the Bears 62-0 last year in Waco.

Baylor then begins November at home against No. 3 Oklahoma.

These are not easy times for the Bears, even though they have doubled their win total of a year ago and second-year coach Kevin Steele insists progress is being made within the program.

"I still absolutely, unequivocally have no doubt where this program's headed in the long term and the future successes," Steele said. "I believe that much in the plan, the direction that we know we are heading."

"But that still doesn't ease the pain of the present of what all of these injuries have caused."

The biggest injury was to Greg Cicero, the quarterback hand-picked by Steele after the Bears went 1-10 a

year ago. The California junior college transfer was in the freshman class at Texas with Major Applewhite before going home.

Cicero broke his collarbone on the opening series of the game against Minnesota. He is the most notable of five offensive starters who have been injured on a unit that was already lacking for depth.

Since Cicero was injured, Baylor's offense has been out of sync with two freshmen among three different quarterbacks. Cicero completed 19 of 30 passes for 228 yards in limited action. The trio replacing him is combined 76-of-201 passing (38 percent) for 886 yards and eight interceptions.

Admittedly, none of the other quarterbacks had been prepared like Cicero, who was still learning the system himself.

"It's reality from the aspect of Greg needed to have a number of reps in preparation for the games because he had not been in our system," said offensive coordinator Greg Meyer.

"It wasn't a situation where we had opportunities to give other people repetitions at that position."

Baylor is hopeful of a medical redshirt for Cicero, who will have at least one season of eligibility remaining regardless.

That will not solve the problems of this season.

"I've looked across the country at people who lost their starting quarterback and what's happened. I was looking at those things to see if anybody had any answers, and it doesn't appear they do," Steele said.

"... that still doesn't ease the pain of the present ..."

— Kevin Steele second-year Baylor coach

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TWO FOR ONE

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State to a NCAA Division II National Championship in diving.

In the Big 12 Relays on Friday, the A&M swimming teams will face teams from Kansas, Iowa State, Missouri and Texas.

The meet is made up of only relay races and will include several relays that are not held in normal meets.

"It is a really fun event," Holmes said. "We have seen guys swim above themselves in the middle of a relay when they knew others are counting on them."

Holmes said that, since this is the first conference meet, teams will use the meet to see where the other Big 12 teams are and how good their swimmers will be.

The team competing in the Big 12 relays that everyone will be trying to beat is Texas. The Texas women finished ninth in the NCAA championships in 2000, while the men are the defending national champions.

Holmes said that there have been years in which Texas has won every relay of the Big 12 Relays. Last year, Texas won both the men's and women's team competitions at the relay meet.

A&M's dual meet against Kansas will start at 3 p.m. today. The Big 12 Relays will begin at 9 a.m. Friday and will last all day.

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