

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggies dismiss defensive back

Senior defensive back Mike Pinesette has been dismissed from the Texas A&M football team for violating team rules, head coach R.C. Stocum announced Monday.



PINESETTE

Pinesette transferred to A&M from Blinn College, where he earned honorable mention All-America honors.

He saw action in all 12 games last season and made seven tackles, mostly on special teams.

Tech mascot put to death

(AP) — Texas Tech's mascot horse, Black Phantom Raider, was put to death Monday because of injuries suffered in a traffic accident on Friday.

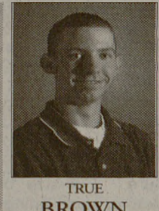
Katie Carruth, Texas Tech's masked rider who rides the horse at Texas Tech football games, was returning to Lubbock with an assistant and Black Phantom Raider from a parade in Fredericksburg.

Officials said the horse trailer was hit by a car and overturned on U.S. 87 near Mason, which is about 40 miles northwest of Fredericksburg and about 110 miles northwest of Austin.

The horse was examined by a veterinarian, and officials decided Monday on euthanization.

Big 12 powerhouses?

The Big 12 finished opening weekend of football with a 2-1 record, something not surprising when you look at the teams involved.



TRUE BROWN

As expected, defending National Champion Oklahoma tallied a 41-27 victory over North Carolina. No one really expected North Carolina to be close — OU was a 23-point favorite — but the Tar Heels made it interesting after two fourth-quarter touchdowns, their only offensive scores of the night.

But there may be some cause for concern in Norman. Last season, only Texas A&M and Kansas State scored more than 24 points against the Sooners, and both A&M and KSU are a few rungs higher on the offensive ladder than North Carolina,

a team that finished one game over .500 last season.

OU averaged six more first downs per game than its opponents last year, but the Sooners finished their season opener with eight less first downs than the Tar Heels, a ratio that was never close to happening a year ago.

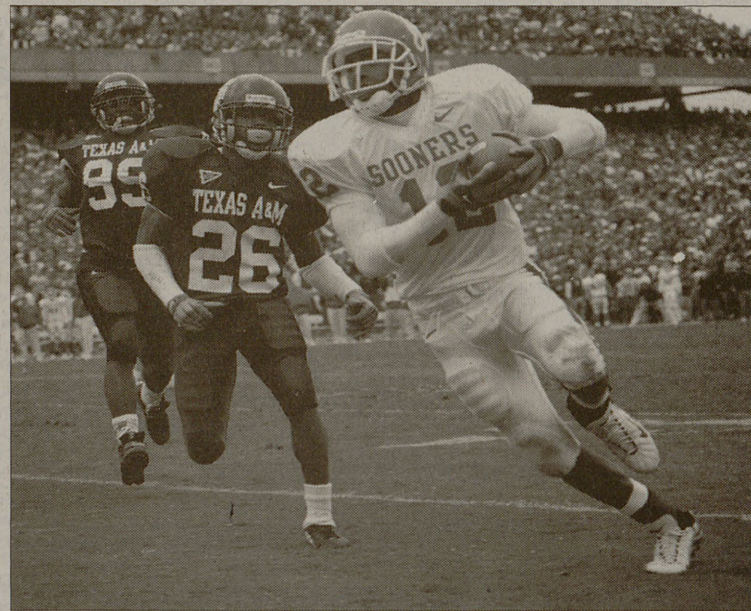
OU also racked up 104 yards in penalties, 39 more per game than it did during last season's championship run.

The No. 4 Nebraska Cornhuskers recorded the Big 12's other win with a less-than-spectacular 21-7 victory over Texas Christian University. The vaunted Nebraska running game was unable to produce typical Cornhusker-type ground numbers and were held to just 159 yards on 50 attempts. By comparison, the Huskers averaged 349 yards per game on the ground last season, an average of six yards per carry. Nebraska barely averaged three yards per carry on Saturday against a TCU defense that is returning only five starters.

The Huskers were without their starting running back Dahrnan Diedrick, who was suspended one game for his role in a disturbance outside a bar in Lincoln, Neb.. But if All-American candidate Eric Crouch, Nebraska's most prolific rushing quarterback in school history, can only manage 69 ground yards, a running back who has never started an NCAA game cannot be expected to fare much better.

The Colorado Buffaloes recorded the Big 12's sole loss, falling to Fresno State for the first time ever in a 24-22 contest in Boulder, Colo. The Buffs, a nine-point favorite, had a chance to win, but a fourth-quarter interception on a second-and-goal play was the backbreaker.

After finishing 2000 with a 3-8 record, many people expected Colorado to make an impact in the Big 12 North this season, but looked ragged during Sunday night's game, never recovering after falling behind 14-0 in the first quarter.



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Junior Curtis Fagan and the Oklahoma Sooners began play Saturday. Both OU and Nebraska have some unanswered questions after week one.

CU's sophomore quarterback Craig Ochs threw for 346 yards and two touchdowns, but effectively canceled that out with a first-quarter fumble that was converted into a touchdown and a late interception.

After the first games of the season, there are a few un-

answered questions about some of the stronger teams in the conference who are expected to dominate.

With the bulk of Big 12 teams starting their seasons Saturday, do not be surprised to see more uncertainties entering the entire Big 12 picture.

AP panel not impressed with Georgia Tech

(AP) — Georgia Tech won its opener, but not impressively enough to hold its Top 10 spot in the Associated Press poll.

In the only change from the preseason rankings, the Yellow Jackets fell from No. 10 to No. 11 in the AP's first regular-season Top 25 on Monday despite a 13-7 win over Syracuse the day before.

Oregon State, 11th in the preseason, is the new No. 10 team.

Florida remained a solid No. 1, with Miami close behind in the voting at No. 2. The Gators and Hurricanes start their seasons Saturday.

Oklahoma, the defending national champions, opened with a 41-27 victory over North Carolina on Saturday night to stay at No. 3; Nebraska held the No. 4 spot with a 21-7 win over Texas Christian on Saturday.

Florida, which opens at home against Marshall, had 21 first-place votes and 1,723 points from the 72 sports writers and broadcasters on the AP panel.

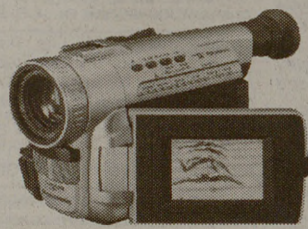
Miami, at Penn State on Saturday night, had 33 first-place votes and 1,710 points. Oklahoma had 10 first-place votes, Nebraska had 3, Texas 4 and Oregon 1.

Florida picked up one first-place vote this week; Nebraska and Texas each lost a first-place vote; and Oregon received its first vote for No. 1.

After Georgia Tech, it's No. 12 Michigan, No. 13 Kansas State, No. 14 LSU, No. 15 Washington, No. 16 Northwestern, No. 17 UCLA, No. 18 Notre Dame, No. 19 Clemson and No. 20 Mississippi State.

South Carolina is No. 21, followed by Wisconsin, Ohio State, Colorado State and Alabama.

Top games involving ranked teams on Saturday include No. 17 UCLA at No. 25 Alabama and No. 22 Wisconsin at No. 7 Oregon.



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