3B

Nate Hybl proves that he is the man for OU

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) he Oklahoma Sooners have won 3 of the 14 games Nate Hybl has arted at quarterback.

He hasn't thrown an intercepion this season, and his coaches we praised his poise and leader-

nany, Hybl is e guy who ost his job a ar ago and is starting because an injury to

nal possess

doesn't sell

son White, ho's ability to run and throw ad coaches and fans excited

So be it, Hybl says. "I don't really sense it and I n't care, for sure," said Hybl,

who will lead No. 2 Oklahoma inst No. 3 Texas on Saturday. really don't care.' Offensive coordinator Chuck

ng says Hybl never got a fair ake from Oklahoma fans last eason, partly because he was urt much of the time and cause he followed Josh Heupel, who led Oklahoma to the 2000 "He's a lot more comfortable

ing into this Texas game than e was last year," Long said. We're very proud so far. Every week, he's come in with a great work ethic attitude. It's just fun to atch what he's been doing."

The Texas game is where gs began falling apart for lybl last year. One week after iviving a pounding in a victory over Kansas State, he hurt his left shoulder and had to leave the game in the second quarter.

White took over, led the only ouchdown drive of the game and Oklahoma beat Texas 14-3.

"I felt like I was, as a quarterback, starting to come into my own, then that happened," Hybl

The banged-up Hybl started the next game, against Kansas, but was ineffective. White threw our touchdown passes in relief and was named the starter. His lity to run is what set him apart from Hybl, and it added a dimen-

on to the offense. Two games later, against

Nebraska, White tore up his left knee and was lost for the season. The job became Hybl's again. After losing to Nebraska, the Sooners won three straight before getting upset by Oklahoma State in the regular-season finale.

Hybl threw three interceptions in that game and was roasted on radio talk shows. The rap was that he wasn't mobile enough and wasn't a difference maker at the

position. When this season began, White was named the starter. But early in the second game of the year, against Alabama, he blew out his other knee and Hybl stepped in.

So far this season, Hybl is 69of-116 for 1,014 yards and six touchdowns, with no interceptions. Including last year's Cotton Bowl game against Arkansas, he has thrown 148 passes without being picked off.

"I'm a lot more calm under the gun," said Hybl, who also grew accustomed to pressure as an outstanding junior golfer. "It's just from playing in a lot of big games. You just have a different outlook on these games. You're able to handle all the hysteria surrounding it.'

Long said Hybl's increased comfort and confidence are the result of added experience and knowing that this is his offense.

He also is benefiting from a more solid pocket, coach Bob Stoops said. Often last year, Stoops said, Hybl was forced to throw to his first receiver because he wasn't getting enough time to find his other options.

"He's been exceptional," Stoops said. "Not only is he taking care of the football, he's making big plays. He made some big throws the other night against Missouri. He's throwing the ball downfield deep. He's very poised and confident.

Stoops said this game is one in which the quarterbacks will have to be able to make big plays. He likes Hybl's chances

of coming through. "He's done it already," Stoops said. "He's been doing it for us all year. Hopefully he'll continue to do it.'

Guerrieri

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69

Continued from page 1B

eri brings a lot more to the table than his coaching expertise.

Off the field, Guerrieri's players are perfect.

"One hundred percent of the players that have come in and suck with the program have graduated," Guerrieri said. "One hundred percent of those players have been able to go and do whatever they wanted to do in life, whether it was to go onto medcal school, work for NASA, be an accountant, go into any other and of professional life, or just become a coach.

"I get the most pride out of the program I run being a positive

ife influence on these girls." Players flock to Guerrieri from not just Texas, but from all Over the nation. Four players on the 2002 Aggie team come from

outside of the state. "I never felt anywhere like I do here," said sophomore Emma smith, a native of Beaverton, Ore. "It's just a camaraderie that

you don't find in many places.' Guerrieri has provided a family-like environment to every under his tutelage, and professional careers are now not the

only goal for some of his players with the development of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA). "For me personally G. (Guerrieri) developed me as a player, aid former player Nicky Thrasher who now plays professionally

or the Atlanta Beat of WUSA. "I think (Guerrieri) is an incredible coach in the way he motivates the team to go out to practice deeps them at a high level of intensity day in and day out. He eps 25 girls happy, which is difficult.

in 2001, the Aggies made their first trip to the round of eight the NCAA Championships, where they fell to the University of ordand, 4-1. Guerrieri and the Aggies now are setting their ghts even higher to a final four berth, and the national

To get past the Sweet Sixteen and get into the Elite Eight at's great," Guerrieri said. "Now that has me thinking that we're a progression towards a national championship, and that proresion now is about learning from our past shortcomings and able to overcome those through hard work.

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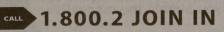
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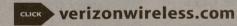
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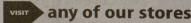
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