

UNT's Brown not playing his hand

The second Saturday in October has arrived, and with it, the annual Red River Shootout between No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 1 Texas will be this weekend.

The annual feud between the bitter rivals has varied in significance, depending on whom you ask.

For the Sooners (5-0, 4-1) and Longhorn faithful, the yearly showdown at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas marks the beginning of the college football season, even though the teams have been playing for almost two months.

For the players, it's undeniably the biggest game of the year. So much is at stake: national title hopes, the inside track in the Big 12 South standings and interstate bragging rights.

And for Texas coach Mack Brown and Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, it's time to renew their annual game of chicken.

For the second time in three years, Brown finds himself at the center of a quarterback controversy in Austin. Will he start junior Chance Mock, who has started every game for Texas (4-1, 1-0) this season? Or will he start freshman backup Vince Young, who led the Longhorns to a 24-20 win over Kansas State last week?

Much to Stoops' dismay, Brown isn't talking. He also won't reveal the status of Young's ankle, which was injured in the second half against K-State.

Brown did say both Mock and Young will play Saturday, which presents a tough task for Oklahoma's vaunted defense. Mock and Young both have the versatility to stay in the pocket and scramble.

Meanwhile, Stoops, who is 4-1 against Texas since arriving at Oklahoma in 1998, has said this is his strongest Sooner team yet, and it appears to be peaking at the right time, having blown out Iowa State 53-7 last week.

One concern for Stoops is the loss of senior linebacker Pasha Jackson, who sprained his right knee against the Cyclones.

Texas leads the series, 55-37-5. Kickoff for Saturday's game is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on ABC.

Power Shift in North

The college football "experts" predicted a down year for the Big 12 North division this season, but they didn't expect this.

With the exception of division leader Nebraska (5-0, 1-0), the north is experiencing a power shift. Former conference cellar-

dwellers Kansas (4-1, 1-0) is in second place, thanks to the Jayhawks' offensive explosion this season under second-year coach Mark Mangino. Perennial underachiever Missouri (4-1, 0-1) also has been a pleasant surprise, save for last week's 35-14 loss to Kansas.

Meanwhile, preseason national title contender Kansas State (4-2, 0-1) and two-time reigning North division champ Colorado (2-3, 0-1) have been utter disappointments. The Wildcats and Buffaloes have dealt with injuries to their starting quarterbacks and have dropped winnable games to Marshall and Baylor, respectively.

Bears Get Redemption

After a horrific summer mired by Patrick Dennehy's murder and a scandal within its basketball program, Baylor had reason to celebrate last Saturday's 42-30 upset win over Colorado, as well as the program's first-ever 1-0 start in Big 12 conference play.

The Bears, who have lost 37 of their last 38 conference games, scored five touchdowns in just 17:15 to beat the defending division champs.

While the school's basketball program is in shambles, first-year coach Guy Morriss appears to have resuscitated the Bears on the football field.

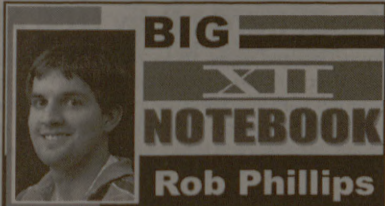
Baylor will attempt to make history - win back-to-back Big 12 games - against Texas A&M Saturday.

Volleyball

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while holding it to a hitting percentage of just .047. The average hitting percentage for Tech was the second lowest the Aggies have allowed this year.

"Our one and only (sweep) was against Centenary," Jones said. "We need to get back in the swing of getting momentum through the whole match."



BIG XII NOTEBOOK
Rob Phillips

Swimming

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growing pains that often plague young programs.

However, last year proved to be relatively successful for North Texas as the Mean Green won their first swim meet in the program's history.

Despite last year's successes, the Mean Green lost nine letterwinners, and they have 13 fresh faces that will be seeing college competition for the first time.

However, the Mean Green is not without their own set of veterans. All-Sun Belt conference junior swimmer Bethany Pipes and All-Sun Belt

Conference sophomore swimmer Elizabeth Johnson return this year.

"I expect A&M to be strong like they have been for a very long time," said UNT coach Mona Nyheim-Canales. "I think we'll hang on better than we did last time, but the main things with dual meets like this are to see how the team is going to look, and where our strengths and weaknesses are. From there, we can see what we need to focus on down the road."

The Aggies will need a good showing this weekend, as they will head out to Ames, Iowa, next week for the Big 12 relays.

Friday's meet begins at 5 p.m. at the Texas A&M Natatorium.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bryant expected to waive hearing

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — Kobe Bryant's lawyers are expected to waive his preliminary hearing to keep potentially damaging evidence from being heard publicly.

If the hearing scheduled for Thursday is not waived, prosecutors will present evidence they say proves the NBA star raped a hotel worker in his room at a mountain lodge on June 30.

"If they have the hearing the public is going to hear basically all the details of what happened that night and it's going to be told from the prosecution's per-

spective," said Karen Steinhauser, a former prosecutor and law professor at the University of Denver.

"There's a lot of unfavorable evidence going to be brought out in public."

Denver defense attorney Dan Recht also expects Bryant's legal team to waive the preliminary hearing and acknowledge there is enough evidence for a judge to order a trial.

"There's no way the defense will win a preliminary hearing. No way. None," Recht said.

Documents containing details of the investigation have been sealed since Bryant's arrest July 4, and everyone involved in the case has been silenced by a gag order.

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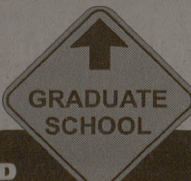
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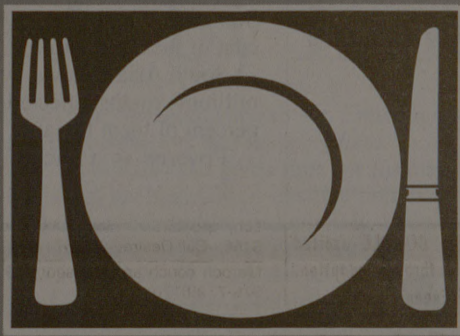
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