

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Friday, October 31, 2003

BATT SPORTS FRIDAY LINE

TEAM	PTS.	TV
Oklahoma St.	2:30	
Oklahoma	-16	ABC
Batt Pick: OU by 10		
Nebraska	11:00	
Texas	-6	ABC
Batt Pick: Nebraska by 1		
Miami (Fla.)	-4	7:45
Virginia Tech		ESPN
Batt Pick: Va Tech by 1		
Michigan	-4	
Michigan St.		
Batt Pick: Michigan by 5		
Pittsburgh	-1 1/2	
Boston College		
Batt Pick: Pittsburgh by 1		
Arkansas	-4	6:00
Kentucky		ESPN2
Batt Pick: Kentucky by 3		
Washington St.	6:00	
USC	-12	ABC
Batt Pick: USC by 10		
Georgia	-2 1/2	2:30
Florida		CBS
Batt Pick: Florida by 2		
Florida St.	-12	
Notre Dame		
Batt Pick: Florida St. by 14		
Ohio State	-7 1/2	2:30
Penn State		ABC
Batt Pick: Ohio State by 8		

Kansas
Texas A&M -11
Batt Pick: Texas A&M by 20

All point spreads are according to www.bodog.com

Ags look to regroup against Jayhawks

Kansas hopes to pick up big win without offensive leader at QB

By Michael Crow
THE BATTALION

This season, the Big 12 has seen its share of surprises. Notably among them has been the sudden emergence of the Kansas football program.

Just a year ago, the Jayhawks finished 2-10 overall without a conference win. Already this season, Kansas has five wins, including two impressive conference victories against Missouri and Baylor, and the Jayhawks came within a field goal of another Big 12 upset when they fell to Colorado, 50-47.

Still, the last week has provided obstacles that could blur KU coach Mark Mangino's optimistic vision for this year. On Saturday, Kansas was blasted by in-state rival Kansas State, 42-6. What's worse, the Jayhawks lost starting quarterback and the Big 12's Offensive Newcomer of 2002, Bill Whittemore, to injury.

Whittemore had passed for 1,921 yards this season, and his 413 yards on the ground made him the team's second-leading rusher.

"When you have a guy who has put up the kind of numbers he has and shown the kind of leadership he has, (the loss) has an impact," Mangino said. "How much of an impact it has will depend on how much we let it have. We have a lot of kids on the team but he is an important guy."

The Jayhawks trailed only 7-3 when Whittemore went down in the first quarter. He was replaced by junior John Nielsen, who finished the game 8-of-12 for 33 yards.

Nielsen, sophomore Brian Luke and freshman Adam Barmann will likely

share the quarterback spot this weekend on the road against Texas A&M (3-5, 1-3).

"We are working on it and we aren't exactly sure how we are going to do it," Mangino said. "We have a plan for this week's practice and how we are going to handle it. We will prepare all three of those kids in some way, shape or form. The option is there to play the game as a quarterback by committee."

The Jayhawks (5-3, 2-2) can still rely on a strong running game led by Clark Green. The sophomore running back has 681 yards and is averaging 4.8 yards per carry this season, and his workload should increase with Whittemore's absence.

Sharing the burden will be the Kansas defense, which was embarrassed by KSU last week. The unit allowed 257 rushing yards, a statistic sure to catch the eye of A&M running backs Courtney Lewis and Derek Farmer.

Still, on the whole, Mangino said he feels his defense has been making improvements in recent weeks. Sophomore linebackers Gabriel Toomey and Nick Reid are first and second on the team, respectively, in tackles, while an injury-plagued KU secondary has managed to hold opponents to only 209.9 passing yards per game.

"We are really making some gains," Mangino said. "Our linebackers are coming along quite well, and I'm very pleased overall with the defense. They are making the types of strides we hoped for, and that's a very positive sign for us."

The Aggies should look to their running game early and often this week as



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Kansas junior quarterback Bill Whittemore goes down in the Aggies' win over the Jayhawks last year in Lawrence, Kan. Whittemore was the 2002 Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year last year and was the Jayhawks' offensive leader again this year before being injured.

they continue to seek an elusive second Big 12 victory.

"They have hung in there, they stayed the course, kept doing what they are doing," said A&M coach Dennis

Franchione. "They got some success early in the season, and this is where they have gotten themselves to."

Saturday's kickoff is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. at Kyle Field.

WE'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER
2003-04 Texas A&M University Campus Directory
Listing of departments, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and other information about A&M, plus yellow pages.

STUDENTS: If you ordered a 2003-04 Campus Directory, check the name of the Reed McDonald Building to pick up your copy. Look for the distribution table. Please bring your Student ID. If you did not order a Campus Directory as a fee option when you registered for Fall '03 classes, you may purchase a copy for \$3.00 plus tax on your A&M Student ID card. Cash, check, Aggie Bucks or credit card.

DEPARTMENTS: If you ordered Campus Directories and Departmental Directories, deliveries will be made within the next week. If you did not order Campus Directories, you may change and pick them up at 015 Reed McDonald, Suite 88, 830 W. 10th, Plaza Building, 9 Student Service Work Order.

Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

It's time to pick up your book.

GETTING YOUR 2003 Aggieland yearbook is easy. If you ordered a book, stop by Room 015 Reed McDonald Building (in the basement). Please bring your Student ID.

If you did not order last year's Texas A&M University yearbook (the 2002-2003 school year), you may purchase one for \$40 plus tax in Room 015 Reed McDonald.

Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Cash, check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express, Aggie Bucks accepted.

2003 Aggieland

The ring source for hopeful couples everywhere.
Come in, get comfortable and make her dreams come true.

THE BRIDAL EVENT
Featuring designs by David Gardner, Scott Kay, Alfred Levitt, Natalie K and Simon G.

Friday and Saturday
November 7 and 8
Extended hours Friday - open until 8 p.m.
12 months free financing on purchases made during the event

DAVID GARDNER'S
JEWELERS + GEMOLOGISTS

widest selection • original designs • exceptional service
522 University Drive E. | 979-764-8786 Between the Suit Club and Audio Video