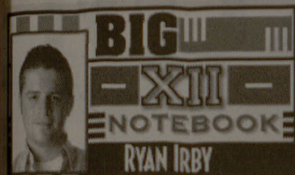


SPORTS

THE BATTALION



Texas Tech (1-1) vs. TCU (2-0)

Texas Tech head football coach Mike Leach is probably wishing he was living in the past.

Senior quarterback Sonny Cumbie proved Saturday that it takes a special kind of talent to succeed in Leach's spread offense system - the kind of talent that departed signal-callers Kliff Kingsbury and B.J. Symons possessed.

The Red Raiders fell to the New Mexico Lobos on a last-second field goal last weekend, 27-24, in a game that was marred by costly mistakes and drive-ending errors by Cumbie.

This week, the Red Raiders will face no less of a threat as they host a dangerous Texas Christian University team that has averaged 46 points of offensive production in its first two games, including a 44-0 drubbing of Southern Methodist University. Tech held on to beat the Mustangs in Dallas two weeks ago, 27-13. Leach knows that it takes time to adjust to his style of play.

"We had a tough ball game," Leach said in his weekly teleconference. "We have got to get everybody on the same page in game situations."

There could be another major upset in the works this Saturday as a potent Horned Frog team will take its chance at tackling a Raider squad that has been proven vulnerable, but expect a solid match-up

between these two. Kickoff is set for 11:30 a.m. in Lubbock and will be televised by Fox Sports Net.

Oklahoma (2-0) vs. Oregon (0-1)

If you are a fan of the lopsided victory over the down-to-the-wire even match-up, tune in to ABC at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday to catch the No. 2 Oklahoma Sooners as they look to destroy The University of Oregon in Norman, Okla.

This time, the Ducks will fly into Memorial Stadium looking for an upset, but this one could get ugly. Oklahoma has put up 103 points of total offense in two contests, drubbing weaker opponents Bowling Green and Houston.

The Ducks' wings were clipped last weekend as they took one on the chin from Indiana University at home, losing 30-24, in a loss that cost them their No. 25 national ranking.

Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops will field a team that carries powerful offensive weapons in senior quarterback and 2003 Heisman Trophy winner Jason White, freshman running back Adrian Peterson and senior receiver Mark Clayton. Stoops isn't considering Saturday's match-up to be a walk in the park, by any means.

"We realize that (Oregon) has an excellent tradition of winning a lot of big games," he said. "I know losing last week was a surprise, but I also know what they're capable of. Our players look at it as a challenge."

Saturday's contest in Nor-

man should provide the Sooners with their first true test of the season, as it has been obvious they have not been challenged at all thus far. Oregon will be fired up after being embarrassed at home, but Norman is the last place to go looking for redemption.

Nebraska (1-1) vs. Pittsburgh (1-0)


Redemption is on the minds of many teams in the nation this week, including the best three teams in the Big 12 North.

Last week, the division was shaken up when Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas State lost to weaker opponents. Missouri lost a Thursday night battle on ESPN with Troy, 24-14; Nebraska lost at home to Southern Mississippi, 21-17, and Kansas State was embarrassed at home by Fresno State, 45-21.

Nebraska will get its chance for salvation Saturday when it travels to Pittsburgh, Pa. to take on the Pitt Panthers in a game televised by ABC in the 11 a.m. slot.

Pitt cleaned out Ohio University last week in a sleeper, 24-3, and will be eager for the challenge that the Cornhuskers and their revamped West Coast offense will bring to Heinz Field. The Panthers are without the services of star receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who was drafted to the NFL, which played a large role in the team managing only 24 points against one of Division I-A's weakest teams.

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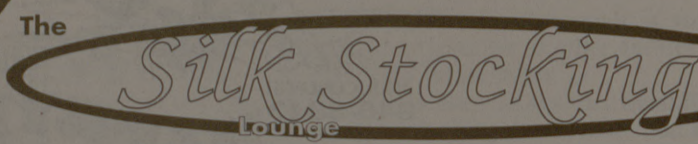


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