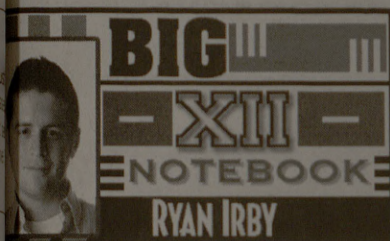


# Quiet weekend in the Big 12



well on defense and forcing turnovers." The game was moved from October to accommodate television broadcasting, which turned out to be a wise move for the streaking Red Raiders. Their bye week will now fall between the Nebraska and Texas games. When the Raiders begin to heat up, it takes a mighty wind to cool them down. Kansas may not be able to ice the Raiders, even with a home crowd. Tech and KU kick at 2:30 p.m. on Fox Sports Net.

ference rivalry." The Longhorns are undoubtedly looking ahead three weeks to the Red River Shoot-out with the Sooners, but will have to focus Saturday against a Rice team that will come to fight. Kickoff comes live from Austin at 6 p.m. on Fox Sports Net.

## Baylor (1-1) vs North Texas (0-3)

In Saturday's only other Big 12 action, the Baylor Bears will host the North Texas Mean Green in the pillow fight of the week. Baylor narrowly escaped a horrible Texas State squad last weekend, edging out the Bobcats, 24-17, in Waco. The Bears were flattened by Alabama-Birmingham in week one, 56-14.

UNT has started the season 0-3 and is without the services of senior running back and the NCAA's leading rusher in 2003, Patrick Cobbs, who sprained a knee two weeks ago against Florida Atlantic. North Texas was embarrassed in week one by Texas, 65-0, suffered a disappointing home loss to Florida Atlantic, 20-13, and was blown out by Colorado last week, 52-21. Both teams are looking to ignite their seasons against an opponent they both believe they can handle.

UNT defeated the Bears 52-14 in 2003, and would like to repeat against this year's weaker squad. It's Parents' Weekend in Waco on Saturday, but don't expect Floyd Casey Stadium to be anywhere near capacity for this one. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

## No. 5 Texas (2-0) vs. Rice (2-0)

The No. 5 Texas Longhorns return to action this week to face the Rice Owls at Darrel K. Royal Memorial Stadium in Austin. After taking a week off, Texas standout running back Cedric Benson and quarterback Vince Young are looking to tear apart a weaker opponent at home. Benson is second among Big 12 rushers to Vernand Morency of Oklahoma State and has compiled 369 yards on 44 attempts through two games (Morency has played three). Young is ninth among Big 12 passers, but recently engineered an impressive defeat of a scrappy Arkansas team in Fayetteville, 22-20. The Owls are coming into Austin 2-0 after beating intra-city rival Houston, 10-7, and Hawaii, 41-29.

"We got rested and watched a lot of college football last week," Brown said. "The Texas-Rice game is an old Southwest Con-

The Texas Tech Red Raiders put 56 consecutive points on the board after falling 21-14 behind the TCU Horned Frogs last weekend in Lubbock.

Tech ended up whipping the Frogs, 70-35, what was expected to be a close match-up in an offensive barrage. This week, Tech coach Mike Leach and the Raiders are looking to tear apart a weaker opponent at home. Benson is second among Big 12 rushers to Vernand Morency of Oklahoma State and has compiled 369 yards on 44 attempts through two games (Morency has played three). Young is ninth among Big 12 passers, but recently engineered an impressive defeat of a scrappy Arkansas team in Fayetteville, 22-20. The Owls are coming into Austin 2-0 after beating intra-city rival Houston, 10-7, and Hawaii, 41-29.

"We got rested and watched a lot of college football last week," Brown said. "The Texas-Rice game is an old Southwest Con-

ference foe. Kansas beat up on a weak Redo team two weeks ago, 63-14, but fell narrowly to Northwestern, 17-14, to post its first loss of the season Saturday. The Jayhawks are looking to fight back in the thick of the wide-open North division after losing standout quarterback Bill Rife to the NFL.

Last week was a hard-fought game," said Texas head coach Mark Mangino. "We need to play better fundamental football in the phases and play well for two halves as we head into conference play. Texas Tech has such an excellent offense, and they're playing pretty

# Rangers relievers drop suspension appeals

Arlington (AP) — Rangers relievers Frank Francisco, Doug Brocail and Carlos Almanzar dropped their appeals Wednesday of suspensions that stemmed from the altercation with fans near the Texas bullpen in Oakland last week.

Each suspension was reduced by one game, the Rangers announced at the start of the game against the Athletics.

Francisco threw a plastic chair into the stands near the visitors' bullpen in Oakland that broke the nose of a woman whose husband had been heckling throughout the Sept. 13 game. Francisco started serving his 16-game suspension Saturday, pending an appeal.

Francisco's suspension was reduced to 15 games, which still will carry through the final game of the regular season.

Almanzar began serving his four-game suspension Wednesday night, and will be eligible to return Sunday, the day Brocail will begin his six-game suspension.

Almanzar and Brocail both pitched Tuesday night. Almanzar left the game with two outs in the ninth inning with tightness in his forearm and his availability to pitch the next couple of days was in question anyway.

Each of the pitchers would be eligible for the postseason if the Rangers make the playoffs.



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Oakland Athletics fans wear costumes to make fun of Texas Ranger pitcher Frank Francisco.

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Garry Mauro, Texas land commissioner from 1983 to 1999, and veteran journalist John Lumpkin, Associated Press vice president for the southern United States, will open the conference of panels and workshops designed to enhance students' appreciation of public political discourse.

Register online at <http://battalion.tamu.edu> (one registration per student organization). Registration and lunch are free. Call 979-458-1207 or write [rongeorge@tamu.edu](mailto:rongeorge@tamu.edu) for more information.

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