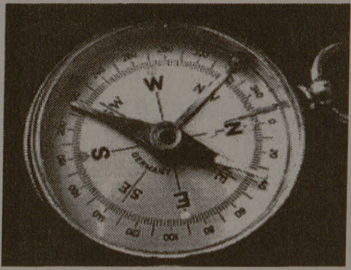


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Big 12 play starts full swing



of starting slow and working against an early double-digit deficit (0-21 to TCU, 5-30 to Kansas), it will probably be more along the lines of 77-0.

Texas vs. Baylor

Baylor is riding a wave of momentum into its Big 12 opener against the Longhorns. After losing a heartbreaker to perennial Conference USA juggernaut Alabama-Birmingham Saturday and pulling off the upset against the heavily favored Texas State Bobcats, the Bears look to capitalize on last week's dominance of the always-stout North Texas Mean Green.

The Bears had better hope their "A" game into Darrell Royal — Joe Jamail Earl Campbell Matthew McConaughey Ricky Williams burnt Orange — Stadium Saturday, or being knocked back down a point or seven.

Texas will look to its own dimensional offense (37 rushing yards per game) to get the job done against a Baylor team that will be outnumbered out-manned and outclassed. Look for Baylor to again make a case for expulsion from the Big 12 in favor of a more competitive program like, say, Odessa Permian.

Mack Brown will continue his dominance of teams named Sooners and his string of impressive victories in months between September and November. This game will be a Pay-Per-View, so only the most blindly optimistic Baylor fan will be watching.

Missouri vs. Colorado

There are major problems in Columbia, Mizzurah, as Dave South would say. Some doubts about the program stemming from an upset by the Troy State Trojans were soothed by beating up on the Ballers of Ball State. They take on Colorado this week, fresh off a bye week preceded by a 52-21 shellacking of North Texas, in the conference opener for both squads.

Missouri will be without the services of sophomore starting linebacker David Richard, whom coach Gary Pinkel suspended for undisclosed disciplinary reasons.

Colorado, meanwhile, will still be without the services of any sort of proven, battle-tested quarterback or the peace of mind that comes from a program not troubled by off-season turbulence.

Beleaguered Colorado coach Gary Barnett resorted to putting a scout team safety in at quarterback to simulate the athleticism of Missouri's Brad Smith. Pinkel has kept Smith in the pocket so far this season, severely limiting his effectiveness.

The winner of this game will have a step up in the hunt for the Big 12 North division crown, which is seemingly up for grabs to the team that does the least to mess up its chances.

There are a few reasons to watch Saturday's game in Norman, and none of them have anything to do whether it's more depressing to be from Lubbock or from Oklahoma.

First and foremost, anyone with "maroon blood" should be rooting for Tech to get absolutely destroyed at any opportunity, and let's face it: This is a really good one. Opening division play against the nation's fastest defense and best quarterback is one thing; doing so armed only with a wildly inconsistent offense and one of the nation's worst defenses is another.

Oklahoma quarterback Jason White will look to make a strong case for a second Heisman trophy against the softest defense outside of Waco.

Tech head coach Mike Leach, a protégé of Oklahoma head man Bob Stoops, will most likely see his vaunted spread offense (currently averaging 539 yards and 38 points per game) grind to a complete halt against Oklahoma's defense, which gives up just less than 15 points per game.

For Tech to win, the final score will have to look like Bob Knight was coaching the game: somewhere around 77-63. But if Tech continues its trend

Rivalry

Continued from page 1B

creates a nationwide spectacle every October. Florida State and Florida continue to match up every season despite being in separate conferences. Even the annual Army-Navy game is something that you don't want to miss. In college hoops, it's Duke and North Carolina. Two of the most decorated teams in NCAA history square off each year in an Atlantic Coast Conference match-up that leaves ESPN announcer Dick Vitale hoarse and fresh out of catchphrases.

In the NFL, the Dallas Cowboys and Washing-

ton Redskins are two teams that love to hate each other. Don't worry about missing out on them either; the major networks start screaming about these games weeks before they happen in most cases. October is a brilliant month for college and professional sports in that it marks the season of "the game" that teams circle on their schedules months before the season starts and began preparing for as last year's contest ended.

So on Oct. 9, tune in to the Red River Shoot-out and watch in awe as the Cotton Bowl is split right down the 50-yard line. There is speculation that another UT loss could cost head coach Mack Brown his job. Some would say those are pretty high stakes, but that's what a rivalry is all about.

Expos moving to Washington

By Joseph White
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was more pep rally than news conference, with the mayor and city officials wearing red Washington Senators caps, the ones with the curly "W" on the front.

"After 30 years of waiting and waiting and waiting," said Mayor Anthony Williams, adding dramatic pauses for emphasis, "and lots of hard work and more than a few prayers, there will be baseball in Washington in 2005!"

Baseball returned to the nation's capital for the first time in 33 years Wednesday, with an announcement from Major League Baseball that the Montreal Expos will move to Washington next season.

The announcement came one

day before the anniversary of the Senators' final game. The team moved to Texas after the 1971 season, the last time a major league team moved.

"It's a day when the sun is setting in Montreal, but it's rising in Washington," Expos president Tony Tavares told a news conference in Montreal.

More than 30,000 fans attended the Expos' last game at Olympic Stadium, about four times the normal number on a given night, and at least one person was unhappy with the move. The game against the Florida Marlins was delayed 10 minutes after someone threw a golf ball that landed near second base and players were pulled off the field.

Relocation of the Expos is subject to certain contingencies,

including a vote by team owners in November and passage of legislation by the Washington City Council to build a ballpark on the Anacostia River waterfront, south of the Capitol.

"There has been tremendous growth in the Washington, D.C., area over the last 33 years, and we in Major League Baseball believe that baseball will be welcomed there and will be a great success," commissioner Bud Selig said.

The team will play for three seasons at RFK Stadium while a new ballpark is built. The first home game will be April 15 against the Arizona Diamondbacks, according to the draft 2005 schedule that has been circulated to major league teams. The team opens the season April 4 at Philadelphia.

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