

Gator QB wins Heisman

Iowa State's Davis finishes 2nd in voting

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even while he was becoming the most accurate passer in NCAA history, Florida's Danny Wuerffel never sought the spotlight. On Saturday night, it found him when he was awarded the Heisman Trophy.

An articulate and thoughtful young man off the field, Wuerffel was the perfect triggerman for coach Steve Spurrier's 'Fun 'N' Gun on the field. He threw for 3,625 yards and led the nation with 39 touchdowns while guiding the Gators (11-1) to a fourth straight SEC title and another shot at Florida State in the Sugar Bowl.

Wuerffel, an Air Force chaplain's son who is always quick to praise others, beat out Iowa State running back Troy Davis, Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer and Ohio State left tackle Orlando Pace.

In a historic Heisman twist, Wuerffel became the first winner to be coached by a former winner. In 1966, Spurrier won the Heisman as the Gators' quarterback.

After the announcement, Wuerffel hugged his father and mother and smiled when he stepped up to the podium. He was true to form.

"If you guys are watching," Wuerffel said, talking to his teammates, "I hope you have a sense of accomplishment. This is just as much you as it is me."

Many people expected a close race between Wuerffel, the most accurate passer in NCAA history, and Davis, the first player to have two 2,000-yard rushing seasons. And it was, with Wuerffel winning by 189 points over Davis.

The 22-year-old from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., probably clinched the Heisman last week with a six-touchdown, 401-yard performance in a 45-30 SEC title game victory over Alabama.

He beat Davis in the closest vote since 1989, with Plummer third, Pace fourth and Florida State running back Warrick Dunn fifth.

Wuerffel, third in last year's



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel won the Heisman Trophy on Saturday.

Heisman, received 300 first-place votes and 1,363 points in balloting by media and former Heisman winners.

Davis, who ran for 2,158 yards despite the Cyclones' 2-9 season, received 209 first-place votes and 1,174 points. The 5-8, 185-pound junior was fifth in last year's Heisman voting, and was trying to become only the second player from a losing team to win the Heisman. Notre Dame's Paul Hornung won in 1956 when the Irish were 2-8.

Plummer, the Sun Devils' daredevil quarterback who led them to a perfect regular season and Rose Bowl berth against No. 4 Ohio State, had 116 first-

place votes and 665 points. Plummer threw for 2,575 yards and 23 TDs.

Pace, trying to become the first offensive lineman to win the Heisman, had 87 first-place votes and 599 points. He won the Outland Trophy on Thursday night as the nation's top lineman to go with the second Lombardi Award he captured earlier in the month.

Wuerffel and Davis each won three of the six regions, with Wuerffel taking the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and South and Davis winning the Southwest, Midwest and Far West.

The closest Heisman vote was in 1965, when Auburn's Bo Jackson edged Iowa's Chuck Long by 45 points. The largest victory margin was in 1968, when USC's O.J. Simpson beat Purdue's Leroy Keyes by 1,750 points.

In 1989, Houston's Andre Ware beat Indiana's Anthony Thompson by 70 points.

Rounding out the top 10 were Texas Tech running back Byron Hanspard, Northwestern running back Darnell Autry, Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, Wyoming wide receiver Marcus Harris and Air Force quarterback Beau Morgan.

Wuerffel, who graduates Dec. 21 with a public relations degree, gets a chance to avenge his team's only defeat when No. 3 Florida plays the top-ranked Seminoles on Jan. 2 in New Orleans.

■ Heisman voting, past winners are in scoreboard, page B4.



PLAYER	Ht.	Wt.	CLASS	POS.	SCHOOL
Jeff Boyce	6-2	245	Sr.	OT-LB	Norton
Tony Kemper	6-4	200	Sr.	QB-DB	Logan
Justin McAtee	5-9	170	Jr.	RB-LB	St. Francis
Clint Merritt	6-0	212	Sr.	RB-LB	Smith Center
E.J. Ocha	6-0	195	Jr.	G-LB	WaKeeney-Trego
Troy Schenk	6-2	215	Sr.	OT-DT	Smith Center
Wes Simons	6-0	165	St.	PK	Hays High
Todd Slavik	6-2	215	Sr.	G-LB	Kensington
Thane VanEaton	6-0	205	Sr.	RB-LB	Stockton
Jesse Williams	6-0	160	Sr.	RB-DB	Norton
Derek Wright	6-3	195	Sr.	RB-LB	Winona-Triplains

COACH OF THE YEAR — Tim Lambert, St. Francis

Lambert is top coach by doing what he knows best

By RANDY GONZALES
Hays Daily News

When he got the head coaching job at St. Francis, Tim Lambert decided to stick with what he knows best.

Now, four years later, Lambert is the Coach of the Year on the 13th annual Hays Daily News Super 11 football team.

Lambert guided St. Francis High School to its first-ever playoff berth to win the honor.

When he took the job before the 1993 season, Lambert knew what he wanted to do: install the wishbone offense.

Lambert was the starting quarterback his senior year for Smith Center High School, when it won the Class 3A state title in 1986. The Redmen ran the wishbone ... and ran it ... and ran it. Then ran it some more.

Smith Center coach Roger Barta helped out, giving his years of expertise to Lambert. When Lambert was in college, he would help Barta out at the coach's summer camp.

At St. Francis, despite a 1-8 record his first year running the 'bone, Lambert kept the faith.

The following year, the Indians were 5-4, then went 6-3 last year followed by a 10-2 season this fall.

"It was pretty easy for me," Lambert said of his prep years running the option attack. "To teach oth-

• Coaches of the Year •

1984	Tom Cross, Hays High
1985	Larry Friend, Plainville
1986	Nell Melillo, Norton
1987	Chuck Fassenden, Almena-No. Valley
1988	Doug Moeckel, Victoria
1989	Dan Lankas, Atwood
1990	Chuck Fassenden, Almena-No. Valley
1991	Glen Eberwischer, Sharon Springs
1992	Don Butkus, Quinter
1993	Larry Miller, Hays High
1994	Jesse Jackson, Kensington
1995	Matt Perry, Stockton
1996	Tim Lambert, St. Francis

ers, you have to know it. (Running the wishbone at St. Francis) was a no-brainer.

"You have to have a strong belief, too. I knew it would be successful." Those beliefs in football, and what it can do to mold a player or coach, carried over into the playoffs.

It was there where the team and its fans ran the gamut of emotions.

On Nov. 9, St. Francis defeated Johnson-Stanton Co. 22-12 to advance to the Class 2-1A sub-state title game. A win there would propel the Indians into their first-ever state championship game.

But on Nov. 10, tragedy struck this small town of 1,500.

Shawn Henderson, a junior on the team and the Indians' starting center, was killed in a car accident involving five other members of the squad.

"We were coming off a big victory,"

Lambert said. "On Saturday, we were so high we could walk on water. On Sunday, there's the accident. It feels like we're drowning."

Lambert said the team learned about life, and how fleeting it can be, after what happened. Football helped the team get through the ordeal, Lambert said.

Playing football may have helped the healing process.

"The thing that makes football so great," Lambert said, "is it teaches you a lot of things."

"We learned a lot." Having to play less than a week after the tragedy was better than sitting around without a game to play, Lambert said.

"We didn't have time to take off," Lambert said. "We had a tough game." "The best thing was to get back to business."

Lambert has taken care of business in his four years as the head coach at the school. He credits his two assistants who were there when he started to help get the program on the right track. Lambert also acknowledges the school's administration for helping to get the weight lifting program off the ground.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I

COACH / See page B2

Buffalo wins Butkus Award

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Colorado's Matt Russell was selected Saturday night as winner of the Butkus Award, given to college football's best linebacker.

Russell, a 6-foot-2, 245-pound senior middle linebacker for the Holiday Bowl-bound Buffaloes, received 88 points from a 25-member selection committee to edge finalists Pat Fitzgerald (76) of Northwestern and Canute Curtis (52) of West Virginia.

"This is, without a doubt, the greatest moment of my life. ... This is something I'll remember forever," Russell said after

being announced as the 12th winner of the award.

"It's neat to be in these guys' company and in Mr. Butkus' company."

As a four-year starter at Colorado, Russell set a school record with 282 solo tackles and ranked second with 446 tackles overall. This season, he had 83 solos among 137 tackles, 10 tackles for losses, three sacks, three fumble recoveries, two passes broken up and one pass interception.

Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel described Russell as "Eddie Haskell meets Arnold Schwarzenegger."

Mason leaves Kansas for Minnesota job

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Glen Mason is leaving Kansas again.

Almost exactly one year after he accepted — and later turned down — the coaching job at Georgia, Mason was named the new Minnesota coach at a news conference Saturday.

Mason said a top priority will be recruiting players within Minnesota.

"We want to recruit so good, they (other colleges) don't want to come up here any more and try to get our guys," he said.

Mason was given a seven-year contract with a salary of \$140,000 per year and supplemental income of \$280,000 annually. Other incentives yet to be worked out could push the deal to more than \$500,000 per year, the university said. Mason had a five-year rollover contract at Kansas worth about \$350,000 per season.

Mason, who replaces Jim Wacker, will be taking over one of the Big Ten's worst football programs. His career at Kansas had been considered a success until last December's bizarre developments.

Preparing for the Aloha Bowl after a 9-2 regular season in 1995, Mason stunned Kansas by accepting the Georgia job. He even was introduced as the new coach at a news conference, but a week later changed his mind without giving specific reasons.

It was an embarrassing situation for both schools and Mason, and hard feelings lingered in Kansas athletic circles.

"I feel very bad about that, because whatever embarrassment I brought on the University of Kansas and those fine



Mason

people at Georgia, I felt bad about that," Mason said today. "But a lot of people change their mind; I had to do it on national television."

Still, Mason is credited with turning around the Jayhawks' program, although they finished 4-7 this year and lost six of their last seven games. The Jayhawks lost their last four at home and were outscored 78-7 after halftime in those games.

They won just two Big 12 Conference games this season after tying for second behind Nebraska in the old Big Eight last year.

But Mason's credentials are firmly established. Prior to his arrival at Kansas in 1988, the Jayhawks had lost 15 straight conference games and had a winning record just once in 11 seasons.

They went 1-10 in his first season, but improved to 6-5 in 1991. The next season they went 8-4 and wound up ranked 22nd after beating BYU in the Aloha Bowl.

The Jayhawks slipped to 5-7 in 1993 but had winning records the next two seasons. Their 1995 record of 10-2 represented the most wins in school history, and the Jayhawks wound up ranked ninth after beating UCLA 51-30 in the Aloha Bowl on Dec. 25, the day Mason announced his decision to turn down the Georgia job.

The 46-year-old Mason had a 47-54-1 record at Kansas.

May leads K-State to 62-54 win

MANHATTAN (AP) — Ayome May scored 13 points to lead Kansas State to a 62-54 victory over Bethune-Cookman Saturday.

Mark Young hit a 3-pointer one minute into the game to spark a 21-8 run that put Kansas State (6-1) up by 11. But Bethune-Cookman fought back behind four 3-pointers, two apiece from Alistair Henry and Joseph Harrell, to trail by just 27-25 at halftime.

Bethune-Cookman (14) retook the lead early in the second half and then stretched the lead to 37-34 on a 3-point play by Henry.

But Kansas State went up for good 41-38 on a 3-pointer by Aaron Swartzendruber with 10:27 to go in the game.

Mario Miller scored two fast-break layups in a 6-0 run that brought Bethune-Cookman within 56-53 with 1:47 remaining but the Wildcats held off any further rally.

Swartzendruber had 12 for Kansas State, all in the second half. Young finished with 11. Manny Dies led Kansas State with 10 rebounds.

Bethune-Cookman was led by Henry's 14 points. Richard Leonard led all rebounders with 12.

■ The game's boxscore is in scoreboard, page B4.



CHARLIE RIEDEL / Hays Daily News

Fort Hays senior center Alonzo Goldston, left, chases a loose ball with New Mexico Highlands senior forward Brandon Heckroth in Saturday night's game at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Tigers don't need to play well to win again

By W. WAYNE MARLOW
Hays Daily News

It's surely news to New Mexico Highlands University that Fort Hays State University didn't play that well Saturday night.

But that's the assessment the Tiger coach and the game's leading scorer gave after the Fort Hays men thrashed Highlands 84-43 in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference action at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Fort Hays' 42nd straight victory spanning two seasons improved the Tigers to 8-0, and set up a showdown between a pair of unbeaten teams with Emporia State University this Saturday in Emporia.

"We had a lot of guys play OK. I just felt as a team we didn't step it up like we should," Fort Hays coach Gary Garner said. "I'm not sure we did anything real well. There are a lot of things we can learn from it."

Garner did allow that his squad played solid defense, especially in the first half, when it held Highlands to 14 points.

"We're a good defensive basketball team, no question about that. Some nights we're better

• Fort Hays 84, Highlands 43 •

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS (1-7)
Sibbery 3-10 1-1 7, Portillo 4-17 2-3 11, Heckroth 5-7 3-9 13, Martin 0-1 0-0 0, Black 0-8 0-1 0, Valdez 1-3 0-0 2, Chaves 0-2 0-0 0, Lowery 1-2 0-0 2, Altman 0-4 0-0 0, Perez 1-3 0-0 3, Black 1-3 0-0 3, Campbell 1-1 0-0 2. Totals — 17-59 6-14 43.

Fort Hays (8-0)
Simpson 5-9 3-5 10, Eck 3-10 0-0 7, Goldston 5-7 3-4 13, Pope 6-13 2-2 20, Tyson 5-9 0-0 13, Collins 6-7 1-2 13, Newton 0-0 0-0 0, Nunnery 1-5 2-2 4, Kruse 1-1 0-2 2, Starkey 0-1 0-1 0, Coops 1-2 0-0 2. Totals — 31-64 11-18 84.

New Mexico Highlands 14 29 — 43
Fort Hays 35 48 — 84

3-point goals — Highlands 3-15 (Portillo 1-3, Black 0-5, Valdez 0-2, Chaves 0-1, Perez 1-3, Black 1-1); Fort Hays 11-33 (Simpson 1-4, Eck 1-5, Pope 6-13, Tyson 3-7, Nunnery 0-3, Coops 0-1). Total fouls — Highlands 16, Fort Hays 18. Fouled out — None. Technical fouls — None.

Rebounds — Highlands 39 (Portillo 7); Fort Hays 46 (Goldston 14). Assists — Highlands 8 (three with 2); Fort Hays 15 (Simpson 4). 3's: Stale — Highlands 10 (Martin 4); Fort Hays 14 (Collins 4). Blocked shots — Highlands 0; Fort Hays 3 (Goldston 3). Turnovers — Highlands 24, Fort Hays 18.

Attendance — 2578. Officials — Gary Tranbarger, Chris Hill, Mark Roudhouse.

than others," he said.

Fort Hays trailed 3-1 when junior guard Earl Tyson led the Tigers on a 16-0 run.

Tyson put Fort Hays ahead for good by knocking home a 3-pointer, which senior center Alonzo Goldston followed with a slam.

Senior Mark Eck made a steal and dished to Tyson for a layup. Tyson then dove to the floor for a swipe and, still down, flung a pass to senior Sherick Simpson who overcame a draping defender to convert a three-point play.

Tyson and senior Anthony Pope continued the surge with 3-pointers, and Fort Hays led 17-3. The Tigers enjoyed a double-digit lead the rest of the way.

Pope halted a Tiger cold spell by swishing a pair of 3-pointers for a 26-10 lead with eight minutes left in the first half.

The 6-foot-4 swingman connected on 6-of-13 shots, all from beyond the arc, to lead all scorers with 20 points.

"They gave me the wide-open shot, so coach told me to knock it down," Pope said. "After I made two or three, I thought they'd come out, but I guess not."

With Goldston dominating the inside on his way to 14 rebounds and three blocked shots, Highlands had to try its luck from the perimeter. But Fort Hays' suffocating man-to-man defense yielded lit-

FHSU / See page B3