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Pittsburg State quarterback Jeff Moreland is sacked by North Alabama linebacker Ronald McKinnon in the first half of Saturday's NCAA Division II title game in Florence, Ala.

## Title game the pits for Gorillas

### North Alabama wins third straight championship

By KEN BERGER  
Associated Press

FLORENCE, Ala. — Watching North Alabama smother Pittsburg State on a quaint field in the northern Alabama hills Saturday was like looking through a window into the past.

There was no trickery involved, no razzle-dazzle or "Fun-n-Gun" in the Lions' 27-7 victory, which gave them an unprecedented third straight NCAA Division II championship. About 15,000 packed a stadium that moonlighted as a high school field and neighbors watched from homes behind the bleachers as North Alabama shredded Pittsburg State with a clinic in football like it used to be.

"This is an unbelievable moment," Lions coach Bobby Wallace said. "I'm really at a loss for words to explain it. I don't believe I can. I don't believe any of us will understand what just took place for a while."

The celebration began as the final few seconds ticked off the clock and North Alabama (14-0) completed a three-year run never before seen in college football at any level. The Lions are 41-1 over three seasons, losing only to the top-ranked team in Division I-AA.

Purple-clad North Alabama players danced at midfield, and hundreds of fans stormed the field when it was over.

The game appeared to be over long before that. At halftime, North Alabama led 21-0, limiting the Gorillas to only 18 plays and holding a 2-1 advantage in possession time.

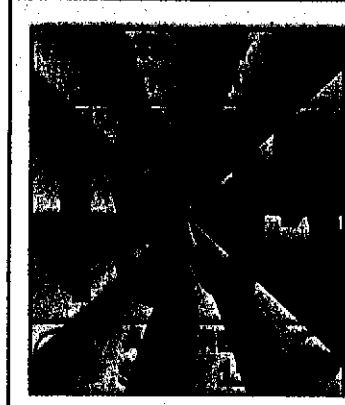
"I think we went out and played, under tremendous pressure, one of the greatest first halves of football I've ever seen," Wallace said.

Pittsburg State coach Chuck Broyles had only studied North Alabama on film. The real thing was even scarier.

"North Alabama has had a great run," he said. "While Division I teams have mostly abandoned the wishbone in favor of pro-style or passing schemes, it is still alive and well in the small-college ranks. The option was the name of the game Saturday, with each team daring the other to stop it."

Only the Lions were successful. North Alabama's top-ranked "Purple Swarm" defense held the Gorillas' No. 1 rushing offense (319 yards a game) to 99 yards. North Alabama held the ball for 40 minutes, 13 seconds, twice as long as Pittsburg State (12-1-1), and the Gorillas didn't drive inside North Alabama's 40 until the fourth quarter.

■ The Pittsburg State summary is in scoreboard, page B4.



PLAYER	HT.	WT.	CLASS	POS.	SCHOOL
Jerry Bana	6-2	180	Sr.	RB-DB	Smith Center
Monty Bebel	6-4	220	Jr.	RB-DE	Victoria
Deane Horinek	6-3	235	Sr.	P-K-OL-LB	Atwood
Israel Jirak	5-10	180	Sr.	RB-LB	Stockton
Shawn Maxwell	6-2	185	Sr.	RB-DB	Quinter
Brad McDougal	6-3	260	Sr.	OT-DT	Atwood
Andy Poling	6-2	185	Sr.	QB-S	St. Francis
Darren Schuster	5-10	185	Jr.	FB-LB	WaKeeney-Trego
Scott Wagner	5-10	170	Sr.	SE-CB	Stockton
Tyrone Wilkens	6-2	260	Sr.	C-NT	Bird City-Cheylin
Derek Wright	6-2	180	Jr.	RB-LB	Winona-Triplains

COACH OF THE YEAR — Matt Perry, Stockton

## Perry takes Tigers to title

By RANDY GONZALES

Hays Daily News

Matt Perry's Stockton prep football team had just come off a tough loss. And up ahead was a game with rival Victoria on the road.

The Stockton coach knew his team was in for a big test.

The Tigers passed with flying colors, winning that showdown with the Knights, 22-0, back in the third week of the season.

Nobody else could beat the Tigers the rest of the way, either, as Stockton won its third Class 2-1A state title in four years.

For his efforts, Perry is the coach of the year for the 12th annual Hays Daily News All-Area Football Team.

"After we got beat by Norton, where we didn't play as well as I hoped to, we went down to Victoria and things clicked," Perry said.

All-Area coaches of the year

1984	Tom Cross, Hays High
1985	Larry Friend, Plainville
1986	Nell Mallito, Norton
1987	Chuck Fessenden, Almena-Northern Valley
1988	Doug Moeckel, Victoria
1989	Darl Lankas, Atwood
1990	Chuck Fessenden, Almena-Northern Valley
1991	Glen Eberspecher, Sharon Springs
1992	Don Balluch, Quinter
1993	Larry Mills, Hays High
1994	Jesse Jackson, Kensington
1995	Matt Perry, Stockton

Perry said going into the season he thought the Tigers could be state contenders again after coming within a successful 2-point conversion of winning state again last year.

That 13-12 loss to Frontenac in the

1994 state title game would be used by some coaches to be a motivator all this year, Perry said it wasn't needed.

"We put that out of our mind," Perry said. "I talked about it early in the season, then stopped talking about it."

Instead, the Stockton coach just let his talent take over. The Tigers had most of their skill position players returning. The key was plugging the holes in the line with the graduation of three starters.

"I knew we had holes to fill, but with the skill kids we had, I knew we had potential," Perry said. "The game of football, it's lost up front. We only returned two kids (seniors James Mongeau and Matt McShea, on the line)."

The holes were plugged. And the

COACH / See page B2

## Buckeye wins the Heisman, by George

By RICK WARNER

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It wasn't a three-way race or even a two-way race. This Heisman Trophy was all Eddie George's.

The senior tailback, who led the nation with 24 touchdowns and rushed for an Ohio State-record 1,825 yards, won the award Saturday night by a comfortable margin over Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier and Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel.

Many thought it would be one of the closest races in history, possibly rivaling Bo Jackson's 45-point win over Chuck Long in 1985 for the slimmest margin ever.

It wasn't. George beat Frazier by 264 points and Wuerffel by 473.

After hearing his name called during the nationally televised ceremony at the Downtown Athletic Club, George buried his head in his hands.

"I'm glad this is over," he said after hugging his mother, Ohio State coach John Cooper and the four other Heisman finalists. "I'm just overwhelmed right now."

Winning college football's most coveted trophy may take the sting out of what happened just two weeks ago: Ohio State's perfect season and national championship hopes were dashed by a 31-23 loss to Michigan.

"It's going to take some time to sink in," George said. "I think once I'm with my family and we laugh a little



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio State running back Eddie George poses with the Heisman Trophy after winning the award Saturday in a ceremony in New York.

bit and cry a little bit, it will probably hit me."

George is the fifth Ohio State player to win the Heisman, joining Les Horvath, Vic Janowicz, Howard "Hopalong" Cassady and two-time winner Archie Griffin. Only Notre Dame, with seven, has more Heisman winners.

Griffin watched the ceremony in person, and pumped his fist to celebrate George's victory.

"I was overjoyed," said Griffin, who won in 1974-1975. "I have to admit some tears welled up in my eyes when I heard his name announced. I'm sure he appreciates it now, but I know he'll appreciate it even more in 20 years."

George, Frazier and Wuerffel seemed drained by the tense moments leading up to the announcement by

DAC president Francis Powers.

"Everything was going real slow," George said, drawing out the words for emphasis. "I couldn't believe he called my name, and I can't believe it's finally over. There was so much hype."

"That was the longest 10 or 15 minutes," Frazier said.

George received 268 first-place votes and 1,460 points in balloting by the media and former Heisman winners.

Frazier, who passed and ran for 31 touchdowns and led top-ranked Nebraska to its third straight undefeated regular season, got 218 first-place votes and 1,196 points.

Wuerffel, who set an NCAA record for passing efficiency and helped No. 2 Florida go 12-0, received 185 firsts and 987 points.

## Tiger men rally in 2nd half for win; FHSU women claim victory

FHSU men continue their winning ways this season

By STEVE BELL

Hays Daily News

The way things were going, Gary Garner had to be wondering if history would repeat itself Saturday at Chadron, Neb.

The Fort Hays State University men's basketball team had come up short in its last three trips to Chadron to play Chadron State College. And Saturday, the Tigers trailed 38-35 at the half and were in deep foul trouble.

But an 11-0 outburst midway through the second half keyed a 93-86 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference victory over the Eagles at Armstrong Gym.

Fort Hays, enjoying one of its strongest starts in history, improved to 4-0 in the conference. The Tigers (10-0 overall) are off to their best since the 1987-88 season when they won their first 12 games.

Junior center Alonzo Goldston scored 29 points, and junior forward Sherick Simpson added 21 points. Both also had 10 rebounds, while Goldston also blocked five shots.

Junior guard-forward Anthony Pope shot 6-for-10 from the field, including 4-for-7 from 3-point range, to add 16 points for the Tigers. Senior guard Geoff Eck, held to only two points in the first half, heated up in the second

### Fort Hays 93, Chadron State 86

FORT HAYS (10-0, 4-0)  
Simpson 9 16 17 21, Pope 6 10 9 0 16  
Goldston 4 12 19 5 9 29, Geoff Eck 5 10 12 13  
Cramer 1 3 12 4, Mark Eck 3 7 1 8, Thompson 1 2 0 2, Starkey 0 0 0 0, Kester 0 2 0 0 0. TOTALS — 36-69 12-21 93  
CHADRON STATE (4-6, 0-3)  
James Robinson 10 21 15 21, Hladky 7 9 1 2  
19, Jeremy Robinson 8 15 7 12 23, Topik 5 11 2 5  
12, Jaroma 4 5 0 1 8, Thompson 0 1 1 2 1  
Stonbeck 0 1 1 4 1, Vukovich 0 2 1 2 1. TOTALS — 34-65 14-31 86  
Fort Hays — 35 58 — 93  
Chadron — 38 48 — 86  
3-point goals — Fort Hays 9 (21) (Eck 2-5, M. Eck 1-4, Cramer 1-3, Simpson 1-2, Pope 4-7), Chadron 4 (12) (Jaroma 2-7, Hladky 1-3, Jar Robinson 0-2, Topik 0-1, Vukovich 0-2). Total fouls — Fort Hays 24, Chadron 27. Fouled out — Kester. Shortest Technical fouls — Fort Hays, M. Eck.  
Rebounds — Fort Hays 42 (Simpson, Goldston 10), Chadron 38 (Jar Robinson 8). Assists — Fort Hays 18 (Cramer 6), Chadron 6 (Jar Robinson 3). Steals — Fort Hays 8 (Simpson 3), Chadron 12 (James Robinson 6). Blocked shots — Fort Hays 7 (Goldston 5), Chadron 1 (James Robinson). Turnovers — Fort Hays 16, Chadron 13.  
Officials — Drew Lawrence, Carlos Flores, Mike McCreey. A — 950.

half to score 13.

Junior reserve guard-forward Mark Eck added 8 points and 9 rebounds.

Garner, in his fifth year as the Tigers' coach, said Saturday's win reminded him of an earlier road victory over Washburn University in Topeka. In both games, the Tigers used a stretch of about seven minutes to put away the competition on their home floor.

"I'm proud of the kids," Garner said. "The last six to seven minutes, we dominated the game. It shows the character of this group."

Garner said he was even more

proud of the team after witnessing the officiating at Chadron. He had one comment on that subject.

"Our league is going to have to do something about the officiating at Chadron," he said.

Goldston, Pope and junior reserve center Jeremy Kester all drew their third fouls in the first half. Kester finally fouled out with 6:20 to play and failed to score in the game.

The Tigers pulled away from the Eagles despite the high-scoring tandem of senior forward Jeremy Robinson, who scored 23 points, and sophomore guard James Robinson, who added 21. Jeremy Robinson scored 17 in the first half.

Junior guard Bubba Hladky scored 19 points for the Eagles (4-6, 0-3), including 12 from behind the 3-point line.

Chadron hurt itself from the free-throw line, making only 14-of-31.

Fort Hays continued to shoot strongly from the floor, making 52 percent.

"We missed a lot of easy shots," Garner said. "They were close-in shots. I'm thinking, 'Oh no, not again.'"

Fort Hays started a three-day road trip with a 80-61 victory over Colorado School of Mines on Thursday.

The Tigers will end the first semester with a game at Emporia State University after finals week on Saturday, and then a home game with Nebraska's Hastings College on Dec. 30.

Tiger women rebound Saturday after losing on road to Colorado Mines on Thursday

By STEVE BELL

Hays Daily News

A win over Chadron State College on the road was just what the Fort Hays State University women's basketball team needed Saturday.

Especially after the Tigers lost to Colorado School of Mines in a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference game on Thursday in Golden, Colo.

So the 70-63 victory over the Eagles at Chadron, Neb., was gratifying for Fort Hays and its coach, Tom Mahon.

"Of the four teams we've played in the conference, Chadron is the best," Mahon said. "The girls were disappointed with the loss to Mines on Thursday."

So disappointed, in fact, that the Tigers held a one-hour shoot-around on Friday and that session convinced Mahon his team was ready for business on Saturday.

"They really got after it. I knew they would come out and play well and they did that today," Mahon said. "I was really pleased with their effort."

Junior forward Mindy Lyne led the effort for Fort Hays (5-3 overall, 3-1 in the RMAC) with 23 points, 7 rebounds and 5 assists.

Three more Fort Hays starters scored in double figures — sophomore guard Mardy Robinson with 16, junior center Melissa Nulty with 12 and sophomore forward Crecia Reeves with 11.

The Tigers broke away from a 27-27 tie at halftime, outscoring Chadron 13-0 in a 4½ minute stretch of the second half. At the 9:07 mark, Fort Hays took a 54-37 lead on a Reeves layup.

Chadron rallied down the stretch. With the Tigers ahead by only 61-56, Robinson guined in a 3 pointer with a little less than three minutes to play, giving her team an eight-point lead.

### Fort Hays 70, Chadron State 63

FORT HAYS (5-3, 3-1)  
Reeves 4 9 3 4 11, Lyne 9 15 3 5 23, Nulty 5 10 2 3 12, Robinson 5 10 3 6 16, Hayden 1 3 3 5 6, Kennedy 1 5 0 0 2, Huggins 0 1 0 0 0, Maraz 0 1 0 0 0, Beckley 0 0 0 0 0, Shandy 0 3 0 1 0. TOTALS — 29-57 14-24 70  
CHADRON STATE (3-5, 1-2)  
Baird 2 8 3 4 8, Guzey 2 10 2 2 6, Weber 3 5 6 8 12, Hucklefeldt 4 10 2 3 10, Jeffers 3 11 5 7 14, Young 0 6 0 0 0, Ackerson 1 7 0 0 3, Satchell 1 2 1 2 4, Pickett 0 0 1 2 1, Bennett 1 7 3 4 5. TOTALS — 17-66 23-32 63  
Fort Hays — 27 43 — 70  
Chadron — 27 38 — 63  
3-point goals — Fort Hays 6 (11) (Lyne 2-3, Nulty 0-1, Robinson 3-6, Hayden 1-1), Chadron 6 (21) (Baird 1-1, Hucklefeldt 0-3, Jeffers 3-6, Young 0-4, Ackerson 1-3, Satchell 1-2). Total fouls — Fort Hays 20, Chadron 22. Fouled out — Hayden, Hucklefeldt. Technical fouls — Chadron Coach Anderson.  
Rebounds — Fort Hays 45 (Nulty 11), Chadron 46 (Baird 10). Assists — Fort Hays 14 (Lyne 5), Chadron 7 (Baird 2). Steals — Fort Hays 7 (Hayden 3), Chadron 9 (Hucklefeldt 4). Blocked shots — Fort Hays 3 (Nulty 2), Chadron 2 (Weber 2). Turnovers — Fort Hays 23, Chadron 20. A — 350.

A Reeves offensive rebound and basket off a missed free throw gave FHSU a 68-60 lead after the Eagles had closed to within 5 (65-60).

Lyne buried two more at the line as Fort Hays took a 70-60 lead.

Sophomore guard Patti Jeffers scored 14 points for Chadron (3-6, 1-2) and sophomore forward Tanya Weber added 12. Junior guard Ginger Baird added 8 points and 10 rebounds.

"I was happy the girls handled all the things you have to handle on the road to win," Mahon said. "Chadron is a good team defensively and their pressure bothered us in the first half. In the second half, we did a good job of handling it."

Mahon was particularly happy with Nulty's rebounding. The 5-11 junior from Jewell pulled down 11 rebounds — all of them off the defensive boards.

"We needed to get that split on the road before Christmas," Mahon said. "This win will give us a boost heading into a tough stretch of road games against the MIAA (Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association) teams and Regis."

The Tigers travel to Emporia State on Saturday, to Topeka to face Washburn University Dec. 19, and to Denver to face Regis Dec. 30.