

PLAYER	Ht.	Wt.	CLASS	Pos.	SCHOOL
Dustin Cline	6-0	175	Sr.	RB-S	La Crosse
Clint Cox	6-0	160	Sr.	QB-S	Northern Valley
Jeff Darnauer	6-6	220	Sr.	TE-DE	Goodland
Jason Dechant	6-4	220	Sr.	T-DT	TMP-Marian
Ben Forrest	6-3	224	Sr.	TE-DE	Logan
Travis Hogan	6-2	270	Sr.	G-DT	Northern Valley
Justin Montgomery	6-2	220	Sr.	FB-LB	Smith Center
Kevin Parich	5-10	145	Soph.	RB-DB	Bird City-Cheylin
Beau Rebel	6-0	180	Sr.	QB-LB	Ness City
Jay Reid	6-3	200	Soph.	QB-DB	Brewster
Travis Wagner	5-11	185	Sr.	RB-DB	Stockton

COACH OF THE YEAR — Roger Barta, Smith Center

Barta, Redmen enjoy journey

By STEVE BELL
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Roger Barta chuckled in answering a question in a phone interview. The long-time football coach at Smith Center had plenty of reasons to smile this season.

His team went 11-1 and came within a couple points of qualifying for its second consecutive Class 3A state championship game.

The No. 1-ranked Redmen were shocked by Conway Springs 9-7 in the sub-state title game.

Barta reaped the rewards of his team's great year by being named Coach of the Year on the 15th annual Hays Daily News Super 11 football team.

Smith Center didn't allow opponents a single point until Game 9 of the regular season. The Redmen rolled through two teams in the playoffs before stumbling.

"We had as talented a football team as we've had in a long time," Barta said. "We were all disappointed we lost to Conway Springs, but Conway Springs is a good football team."

"Wins and losses aren't as important as the journey getting there, and we had fun this year, had great kids. We never had a bad practice. It was a great ride."

The Redmen's season ended abruptly in the semifinals of the Class 3A state playoffs with the loss to eventual state champion Conway Springs,

COACHES OF THE YEAR

- 1984 — Tom Cross, Hays High
- 1985 — Larry Friend, Plainville
- 1986 — Neil Mellillo, Norton
- 1987 — Chuck Fessenden, Almena-Northern Valley
- 1988 — Doug Moeckel, Victoria
- 1989 — Dan 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, Kamsington
- 1995 — Matt Perry, Stockton
- 1996 — Tim Lambert, St. Francis
- 1997 — Gene Flax, TMP-Marian
- 1998 — Roger Barta, Smith Center

similar to what Kansas State University's football team experienced.

The Wildcats were knocked out of the national championship picture on Dec. 5 with a 36-33 double-overtime loss to Texas A&M.

"It was similar," Barta said of his team's and K-State's late-season fate.

"We both had high expectations, we didn't reach our goals. Sometimes, with good football teams, things have to break right for you."

Two of Barta's Smith Center teams won it all, capturing 3A titles in 1982 and '86.

Barta, who is originally from

Plainville, started coaching football in Atwood, where he spent three years as an assistant to Bob Briggs. He received a master's degree in math education at the University of Georgia before returning to coach in Kansas.

He spent a year as an assistant at Tonganoxie and was an assistant to Earl Barber at WaKeeney-Trego for seven years. He's spent the last 21 years as head coach at Smith Center.

Did he ever dream he'd be at Smith Center for that long?

"No, not really," Barta said. "When we were at WaKeeney, I thought we would have a dynasty there that would never end. It just so happened that this job opened up and I decided to take it."

"I never thought I'd be here that long. But we've been real fortunate here."

"I've had opportunities to leave, but my wife, Pam, and I have enjoyed raising our kids here. It's a nice community, good people, we've always had good kids. We've been blessed."

Barta said individual postseason honors happen because of the team's hard work.

"We tell our kids those individual honors come about because of what our team has done. Our kids recognize that. They appreciate each other, and they know they are not all going to get honors, but they are grateful for those that do get honored."

● COACH / SEE PAGE B2



Texas tailback Ricky Williams, winner of the this year's Heisman Trophy, poses with the trophy Saturday at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York.

Williams claims Heisman

Texas tailback is landslide winner over Kansas State quarterback Michael Bishop

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Ricky Williams ran away with it all — the rushing records, the recognition and finally, Saturday night, the Heisman Trophy.

Williams, who broke Tony Dorsett's career rushing record in grand style and set dozens more records along the way, was a landslide winner over Kansas State quarterback Michael Bishop, winning by 1,563 points — the fourth-largest margin in Heisman history.

The 6-foot, 225-pound San Diegoan with dreadlocks, pierced tongue and Mickey Mouse tattoo, ran for 2,124 yards and 27 touchdowns in one of the most sensational seasons in college football history.

"I want to thank my beautiful mother, she raised three kids alone," Williams said seconds after becoming the first Heisman winner with dreadlocks, bleached, no less. "It's a pleasure to be with so many great players present and past."

"On Thanksgiving, I woke up and gave thanks, just sat there for about an hour. I have a lot to be thankful for."

Not only did Williams win nearly every other individual award — the AP College Player of the Year and Walter Camp, Maxwell and Doak Walker awards — he also carried the Longhorns to an 8-3 record and a berth in the Cotton Bowl.

Williams set or tied 16 NCAA and 44 schools records, including career marks for yards (6,279), scoring (452 points), touchdowns (75) and all-purpose yards (7,206).

Williams collected 714 first-place votes and 2,355 points from the 920 Heisman voters in winning college football's most precious prize. Bishop had 41 first-place votes and 792 points.

UCLA quarterback Cade McNown was third with 696 points, Kentucky's Tim Couch was fourth with 527 points and Syracuse quarterback Donovan McNabb fifth with 232 points.

The largest margin of victory in the Heisman was in 1968, when Southern California's O.J. Simpson beat Purdue's Leroy Keyes by 1,750 points. In 1993, Florida State's Charlie Ward won the Heisman by 1,622 points over Tennessee's Heath Shuler; and in 1991, Michigan's Desmond Howard won by 1,574 points over Florida State's Casey Weldon.

The closest vote was in 1985, when Auburn's Bo Jackson edged Iowa's Chuck Long by 45 points.

Tigers to take on Hornets today

By NICK SCHWIEN
HAYS DAILY NEWS

The Fort Hays State University men's basketball team will get a break from Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference play after a win Friday night against Colorado Christian University.

But the break in RMAC play is a matchup against in-state rival Emporia State University.

The Tigers (6-3 overall, 3-1 RMAC) will travel to Emporia today to take on the Hornets (6-1) at 2 p.m. in White Auditorium.

Emporia State is off to a good start this season. The Hornets have already achieved the same number of wins so far as the did all of last season.

And FHSU coach Chad Wintz knows the Hornets are a different team from last year and will be pre-

Probable starters		
Fort Hays (6-3)	Pos.	Emporia State (6-1)
Meadows (6-4, Sr.)	F	(Jr., 6-5) A. Turner
Chery (6-5, Jr.)	F	(Jr., 6-4) Sims
Gwaltney (6-6, Jr.)	C	(Sr., 6-8) Markos
Danner (6-0, Sr.)	G	(Sr., 5-8) T. Turner
Smith (6-0, Jr.)	G	(Sr., 5-11) Forbes

Tipoff — 2 p.m., White Auditorium (5,000).
Series — Fort Hays leads, 81-72.
Last meeting — Fort Hays won, 82-57, (Dec. 20, 1997).
Broadcast — 1:40 p.m., KJLS Radio (103.3 FM).

pared for the game. "Emporia State is a good basketball team," Wintz said. "They're 6-1 and are playing well."

Wintz said the Tigers will have to put Friday night's win behind them and move on.

"We're going to have to regroup and put this one behind us and focus on the next one," he said. "It's easy to sit back and think about what just happened and mistakes that happened in that ball game."

"Now we have to go back and look forward to preparing for Emporia

State." The Tigers are led by senior forward Tywan Meadows. Meadows is averaging 15.1 points per game and is coming off of a 20-point performance Friday night.

Junior forward Robens Chery is averaging 13.4 points per game and scored 15 in Friday night's win.

Emporia State is led by a pair of junior forwards. Art Turner is averaging 12.9 points per game so far this season and Lucas Sims averages 11 points per game.

Tiger fans will see a familiar face on the ESU bench. Marc Comstock, who took over for long-time coach Ron Slaymaker this season, was an assistant coach for Fort Hays in 1982-83 and '88-89.

Fort Hays has won six consecutive games over Emporia State. Last year, Wintz's team took down the Hornets 82-57 at home.

Brown becomes first \$100 million man Kansas rebounds with win over Southern Cal

Dodgers push baseball's highest salary past Vaughn's \$13 million a year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Winning pays and it paid big for Kevin Brown on Saturday.

Brown, the pitching mainstay of the last two National League champions, broke baseball's \$100 million barrier Saturday when he agreed to a seven-year deal worth \$105 million with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The deal pushed baseball's salary ceiling to once unimagined limits, breaking recently set records for both total dollars and average annual value (\$15 million).

Less than two weeks ago, first baseman Mo Vaughn signed with Anaheim for an average \$13.33 million to establish the previous high. Brown zoomed past the next logical plateau — \$14 million — pushing the price \$1 million beyond that.

The contract also shattered the previous high for total dollars, set Oct. 23 when catcher Mike Piazza

signed a seven-year \$91 million contract with the New York Mets.

For Brown, the bonanza deal was the payoff for pitching Florida and San Diego to the last two NL pennants. He was traded by the World Series champion Marlins to the Padres as part of the franchise's payroll purge and went 18-7 with a 2.38 ERA for San Diego this year.

When he filed for free agency, Brown became a target of the Dodgers, one of the few franchises that can afford that kind of contract.

"We think Kevin Brown is a big part of our future," Dodgers general manager Kevin Malone said. "We're comfortable with the terms. We feel like we logically evaluated the marketplace. We needed the player, we wanted the player and we made the commitment to our fans to becoming a winning team."

Rupert Murdoch's willingness to break the \$100 million barrier is certain to make the Dodgers' new owner unpopular with this partners. Since purchasing the team from the O'Malley family, Murdoch has

spent freely in an effort to get LA back to the World Series for the first time since 1988.

"I never thought we'd see the day of a \$91 million player," said Dodgers senior vice president Tom Lasorda, who is Piazza's godfather. "There's only one thing certain in baseball — nothing is certain."

Brown's deal pays the pitcher a \$5 million signing bonus, \$10 million next year and \$15 million in each of the following six seasons.

As part of the deal, the Dodgers will give him the use of a private plane 12 times per season to commute to Los Angeles from Brown's home in Macon, Ga. He also gets a no-trade clause.

Also in the running for Brown were Anaheim, Baltimore, Colorado and St. Louis.

Agent Scott Boras was determined to get a seven-year deal for the 33-year-old right-hander.

"Everyone knows the value of a No. 1 pitcher," Boras said Friday night. "The premium is Kevin Brown has taken a good club and put it in the World Series."

Pendleton decides he's had enough

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Terry Pendleton, who had filed for free agency after one year with the Royals, has now decided to retire from baseball after 15 seasons.

Pendleton, 39, who backed up Dean Palmer at third base and played mainly a utility role for the Royals, told The Kansas City Star for its Saturday editions that he had considered leaving the game for the past three or four years.

"I'm going to stay at home and retire," Pendleton said from his home in Duluth, Ga. "It's time for me to be

home with my family. I think it's where the good Lord wants me."

The Royals did not offer salary arbitration to Pendleton, who hit .257 with three home runs and 29 RBIs in last season. Pendleton said his decision had nothing to do with the Royals.

"I talked with my family at the start of spring training, and I pretty much knew it was my last year," he said.

Pendleton had a career .270 average, 140 home runs and 946 RBIs. He was the National League MVP in 1991, won three Gold Gloves and started one All-Star Game.

ANOTHER COMEBACK FOR DIMAGGIO

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — What a guy!

Just when it seemed a comatose Joe DiMaggio had run out of luck, he was sitting up in bed Saturday, talking with friends and family, shaking hands and shrugging off a life-threatening illness like it was no big deal.

That's Joe D. for you.

It was just one more comeback, the most dramatic one of all, for the hero of a generation of

Americans.

"It's an unbelievable improvement," Dr. Earl Barron said. "He was awake and he was talking to us..."

Barron said the 84-year-old Hall of Famer's condition improved dramatically when doctors began administering his medication intravenously instead of orally after realizing that the medicine was not being absorbed into DiMaggio's bloodstream.

LAWRENCE (AP) — The Kansas Jayhawks will not soon repeat the mistake that ended their school-record 62-game home court winning streak.

Instead of relaxing Saturday night with a big lead over Southern California — the way they did in an 85-81 loss four days earlier against Iowa — the 10th-ranked Jayhawks kept working.

The result was a 107-78 victory against the previously unbeaten Trojans that purged the memory of Kansas' first home loss since any of its current players were in high school.

"In that last 10 minutes against Iowa we lost our aggressiveness and we lost an 18-point lead and we lost the game," senior guard Ryan Robertson said. "Tonight, we didn't let that happen. It was a pretty expensive lesson to learn, to lose our great, awesome streak."

In other games involving Big 12 teams: Colorado State 75, Nebraska 49; Baylor 69, McNeese State 66 in overtime; Missouri 66, Southern Methodist 55; Oklahoma State 88, Arkansas-Little Rock 41; Texas 73, Utah 68; and Texas Tech 80, Texas-Arlington 55.

Sophomores Kenny Gregory and Eric Chenoweth each had their career-highs in points as Kansas (6-2) took charge five minutes into the game.

"We were pretty down Tuesday, blowing a lead, losing the home court winning streak," Gregory said. "But we wanted to put that behind us. He came out with intensity tonight."

The Jayhawks took full advantage of the 7-foot Chenoweth against the smaller Trojans, who had nobody taller than 6-9 Brian Scalabrine.

The 235-pound sophomore had 15 points in the first half, then picked up two quick fouls in the second half and went to the bench.

He returned a few minutes later and immediately scored from inside as the Jayhawks took a 68-38 lead with 14:47 left. USC never got closer than 20 after that.

Chenoweth finished with 23 points while Gregory had 27. The 6-5 sophomore was 12-of-16 from the field and had 20 points in the second half.

"I think I was a little more active. I wasn't so worried about what was happening. I just let the flow of the game come to me," he said. "It was really sad the winning streak had to end. But this was a new one starting."

The Trojans (6-1), bidding for their first 7-0 start since 1974-75, took a 14-13 lead on consecutive baskets by Jarvis Turner until Chenoweth triggered a 10-0 run that put the Jayhawks in firm command en route to a 53-30 halftime lead.

Kansas' lead again hit 30 points when Chenoweth drove in for a layup, drew a foul from Turner and completed the three-point play to make it 80-50 with 10:48 to go.

Jeff Trepagnier led the Trojans with 22 points, while Adam Spanich had 13 and Scalabrine 12.

Since December 1996, the Trojans are 3-14 against ranked opponents.