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## KANSAS VS. KANSAS STATE

# Role reversal: Wildcats roll into Sunflower Showdown

MANHATTAN (AP) — Kansas and Kansas State face each other Saturday in one of college football's longest-running rivalries, 107 years and counting.

One team is leading the Big 12 North Division, the other reeling through a losing streak — just like always.

Well, not quite like always. This year, the roles are reversed, at least from recent years.

Kansas State is the team on a roll. Kansas needs a win.

This is the Sunflower Showdown, circa 2003.

"You never know where somebody's going to be at this

point in the season," Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing said. "I didn't think we'd be where we are now, so it just goes to show you never know how things are going to play out."

Kansas State probably didn't figure it'd turn out this way, either.

Picked to finish at the bottom of the Big 12 North, the Wildcats are the surprise leaders in the division after winning three of its first four conference games. Even in a loss to Oklahoma last week, Kansas State didn't embarrass itself, scoring 30 points and gaining 364 total yards

— both season-highs against the Sooners' defense.

Not bad for a team that couldn't beat Louisiana-Lafayette and lost to Texas Tech by 52 points.

"From where we started to where we are now, we've improved quite a bit, but I knew all along that we had potential to be a decent team," said Kansas State quarterback Grant Gregory, who opened the season as a backup to Carson Coffman. "We're just starting to become a decent team."

Kansas has gone in the opposite direction.

Behind Reesing and a strong senior class, this was supposed to be the year of the Jayhawk. It started off that way: Kansas opened the season 5-0, reached No. 16 in The Associated Press Top 25, its offense rolling like it always has.

Then came an inexplicable loss to Colorado, followed by lopsided setbacks against Texas Tech and Oklahoma.

Now, the Jayhawks face their first four-game losing streak since 2006 and need to beat their instate rivals to have any chance at getting back into the Big 12 North race.

"I do not think you can look at the North standings," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said. "I think you have to look at yourself and how we are going to get better. We can't sit around and talk about winning the North, we have to talk about winning a game. I think that is what is really important to our team and to our players."

Getting that win will likely hinge on Reesing.

The senior who holds nearly every significant school quarterbacking record was benched

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# NCAA denies Bryant's appeal

By McClatchy-Tribune News Service

STILLWATER, Okla. — The NCAA has denied Oklahoma State's appeal to have Dez Bryant reinstated, a school official confirmed on Thursday.

Last week, the NCAA ruled that Bryant's suspension would be extended until September 2010. OSU immediately filed an appeal with the NCAA's Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee.

Likely, because it is expected that he will enter the 2010 NFL draft, Bryant's OSU career has ended.

"We're obviously disappointed for Dez," Cowboy coach Mike Gundy said. "As a team, we'll move forward from here."

OSU released this statement from the NCAA: "The Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, an independent membership committee, has upheld the NCAA staff decision regarding Oklahoma State University football student-athlete Desmond Bryant.

"With this decision, Mr. Bryant will be required to sit out a season while being charged a season of eligibility as a condition for his reinstatement. The student-athlete was declared ineligible by the university for violations of the NCAA ethical conduct and preferential treatment rules."

An All-American junior wide receiver, Bryant played in only 28 college games but ranks No. 4 on OSU's career lists for total receptions (147) and receiving yards (2,425).

Bryant had 29 touchdown catches, sharing the No. 2 spot on that career list with Hart Lee Dykes. Rashaun Woods remains the leader with 42.

On what may have been the final reception of his career, in the Sept. 19 Rice game, Bryant gained 38 yards and set up a Cowboy touchdown. On what may have been the final punt return of his career, in the Sept. 12 Houston game, he scored on an 82-yard dash.

On Oct. 7, OSU ruled Bryant ineligible after he admitted lying to an NCAA investigator about an offseason meeting with former NFL star Deion Sanders. During the summer, the NCAA became interested in the Bryant-Sanders interaction because of a rule prohibiting student-athletes from entering into any type of agreement with an agent until their eligibility has been exhausted.

Sanders is a longtime associate of Eugene Parker, a prominent sports agent. As an NFL player, Sanders was Parker's client.

Bryant has admitted to participating in a training session with Sanders at a Dallas-area gym and to having dinner at Sanders' home. Sanders recently claimed to have been "a mentor" to Bryant.

During interviews with an NCAA official on July 24 and Sept. 15 in Stillwater, Bryant denied having spent time with Sanders. Bryant admitted he lied because he believed the Sanders interaction was an NCAA violation.

## OU FOOTBALL

# BACKBONE OF TEAM



Photo by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

Ottawa University senior Corey Schultz is closing in on the school record for reception yardage with 1,033 yards. He is 51 yards shy of the 1,083 mark set by Tom Stark in 1997 and Kim Kendrix in 1978. Ottawa plays 1:30 p.m. Saturday at home against Bethany.

# Seniors turn around Ottawa's fortunes

By GREG MAST  
Herald Sports Editor

Ottawa University senior football players have been a focused group. Many of them have been the mainstays of the program the past four years.

The team has progressed each season. In their freshman season, Ottawa went 1-9. The next year, the Braves improved to 4-6 and last year went 8-2.

The seniors have guided Ottawa to a No. 7 national NAIA ranking and a perfect 8-0 mark so far.

Ottawa will honor its seniors at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the final regular-season home game against Bethany.

Senior linebacker Casey Calhoun remembers the hurt of the 1-9 campaign and how those players' mindset was to not let that happen again.

Last season, Ottawa was so close to getting a playoff berth, but

stubbed its toe in the final game against Sterling.

That hurt was felt throughout the winter, spring and summer.

Calhoun said those kinds of things helped bring the players closer together and imbued them with a lot of resolve.

Junior fullback Michael Wickley, who redshirted with those seniors during the 2006 season, said this is an important game.

"We want to send the seniors off right," he said. "This program has come a long way. It is special [for them]."

Ottawa coach Kent Kessinger said it will be nice to recognize the seniors before the game. He said those four-year players have been through a lot, but they have grown from those experiences.

"They got a lot of playing time [early]," Kessinger said. "That is benefitting them now."

Some of the seniors have been the glue of the program, not necessarily stars.

"I want to help the team anyway I can," Calhoun, who switched from offense to defense the past two seasons, said. "You always have to be ready."

Ottawa is closing in on the best season in the program's history. Ottawa has broken 11 school records this season and is close to several more.

No Ottawa team ever has gone 10-0 during the regular season. Ottawa also never has been the host of an NAIA playoff game.

All of those things are within the grasp of the Braves in the final two weeks of the regular season.

"We need to take care of ourselves," Kessinger said.

One way is to look for ways to im-

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