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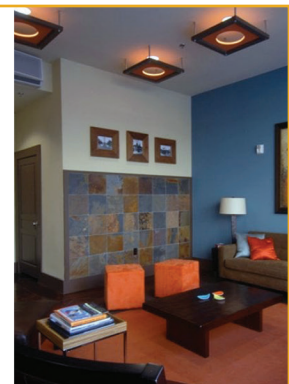
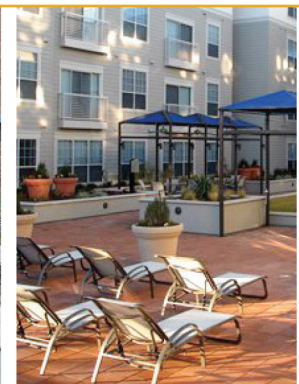
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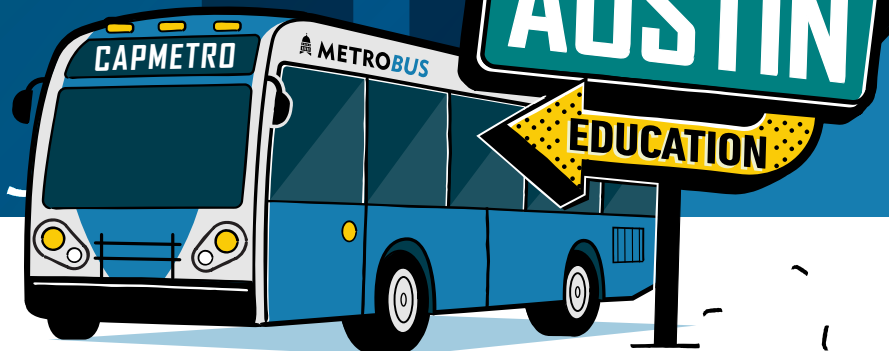


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9. Matthew Boncosky

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Texas @ Kansas State	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas
No. 15 Oklahoma State @ TCU	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State
No. 12 Indiana @ Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Indiana	Indiana	Wisconsin	Indiana	Indiana
No. 5 Texas A&M @ Auburn	Texas A&M	Auburn	Texas A&M	Auburn	Texas A&M	Auburn	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Auburn
Arkansas @ Missouri	Missouri	Arkansas	Missouri	Arkansas	Missouri	Arkansas	Missouri	Arkansas	Missouri
Nebraska @ Purdue	Purdue	Nebraska	Purdue	Nebraska	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue
South Carolina @ Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
Boston College @ Virginia	Boston College	Boston College	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia
Week 13 Results	5-3	5-3	5-3	7-1	5-3	5-3	3-5	5-3	5-3
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EDITOR'S NOTE

With no remaining hope for a Big 12 Championship or a New Year's Six bowl bid, Texas has little to play for besides pride. Still, head coach Tom Herman and his coaching staff have no doubt the team will find motivation heading into the final two games of the season. This week will be a test of the team's character, drive and commitment to finishing what they started, even as Herman's seat continues to warm. But a pair of wins against two bottom-dwelling teams and possibly a bowl game victory can still give the team a winning finish to the season for the fourth straight year.

Myah Taylor & Stephen Wagner

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GAMES TO WATCH

By Brittany Archer | @brittanyarcher_

NO. 1 ALABAMA AT LSU

Dec. 5, 7 p.m. CT, CBS

This time last year, LSU was on its way to nabbing the national championship and Joe Burrow was atop the Heisman watch list. This year, the Tigers are 3-4 and Burrow and much of last year's team is in the NFL. The Tigers and the Crimson Tide were originally scheduled to face off in Death Valley two weeks ago, but COVID-19 concerns postponed the game. Alabama handily defeated Auburn 42-13 in the Iron Bowl last week behind another impressive performance from Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback Mac Jones. The Crimson Tide was also without head coach Nick Saban, who tested positive for COVID-19 earlier in the week. Saban says he'll be able to make the trip to Louisiana after sitting out last weekend.

SYRACUSE AT NO. 2 NOTRE DAME

Dec. 5, 1:30 p.m. CT, NBC

Are the Irish back? The Irish have been on a roll, climbing to No. 2 in the polls after beating Clemson in early November. Notre Dame is set to clinch a spot in the conference championship in their first and possibly only season as an ACC member, likely with a rematch against Clemson. The Irish should be able to take care of business against the 1-9 Syracuse Orange.

TEXAS AT KANSAS STATE

Dec. 5, 11 a.m. CT, FOX

After a heartbreaking loss on Senior Day, the Longhorns travel to the Little Apple to face the Kansas State Wildcats. However, Texas will be without at least two key players. Junior safety Caden Sterns and junior left tackle Sam Cosmi opted out of the rest of the 2020 season earlier this week, which doesn't sit well for head coach Tom Herman's job security. While Herman says talks with athletics director Chris Del Conte have gone well, the fan base is calling for a changing of the guard. Will more Longhorns opt out of the season, or will they be able to get over the drama?

VANDERBILT AT NO. 8 GEORGIA

Dec. 5, 3 p.m. CT, SECN

It's been quite a week for the Vanderbilt Commodores. Vanderbilt made history Saturday after senior kicker Sarah Fuller became the first woman to play in a Power Five conference football game. On Sunday, the school fired head coach Derek Mason after seven seasons and a 0-8 2020 season. Offensive coordinator Todd Fitch will lead the team against the No. 9 Georgia Bulldogs. Can Kirby Smart and the No. 9 Georgia Bulldogs take advantage of the turmoil, or will the Commodores get their first win of the season?

NO. 12 INDIANA AT NO. 16 WISCONSIN

Dec. 5, 2:30 p.m. CT, ABC

Wisconsin opened the season with a decisive win over Illinois, but COVID-19 concerns caused the team to cancel the next two games. To make matters worse, Minnesota was forced to cancel last weekend's game against Wisconsin because of COVID-19 contact tracing. Those cancellations have made the Badgers ineligible for the Big Ten Championship on Dec. 19, though the Hoosiers haven't fared much better. After losing to Ohio State two weeks ago, redshirt sophomore quarterback Michael Penix Jr. tore his ACL in a bounce-back win against Maryland and will be out for the season. Will the Badgers show up even though there is no hope for a Big Ten Championship?

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NO BAD BLOOD

Sam Ehlinger expressed his support for teammates who declared for NFL Draft.



FOR OPT-OUTS

By Myah Taylor
@t_myah

Sam Ehlinger's left side might feel a bit different when he drops back to pass against Kansas State on Saturday.

Left tackle Sam Cosmi has been one of the senior quarterback's greatest protectors over the last two seasons, so Ehlinger said he'll miss the redshirt junior's presence in Manhattan, Kansas, this weekend. He'll also miss the challenge junior safety Caden Sterns has posed to him in practice.

Both Cosmi and Sterns declared for the 2021 NFL Draft early this week, so they'll forgo the remainder of the Texas football season. Now that the Longhorns are out of Big 12 title contention after Texas' loss to Iowa State last Friday, the general sentiment is that the team no longer has much to play for.

Critics have said Cosmi and Sterns are quitting on the team simply because the season didn't go their way, but they have the support of Ehlinger and other teammates.

"Everybody's situation, things are different," Ehlinger said.

Football is a game of odds, beyond the overs and unders. A high school football player has a 2.9% chance to play at the Division I level, according to data from the NCAA. That same player has a 1.6% chance to make it to the NFL.

Injuries, career-ending or not, might lessen those odds. NCAA data from the 2004-2009 seasons show that the overall injury rate for a football athlete is 8.1 injuries per 1,000 exposures, which includes both games and practices combined.

Sterns, who has been banged up throughout his Texas career, is taking a bet on himself now.

"After much thought and prayer, I've arrived at the decision that it is time to follow my lifelong dream and declare for the 2021 NFL Draft," Sterns said in a statement he tweeted Monday.

These aspirations aren't just for himself. Sterns said in a May media availability that his mother, Brandi Biddy, "deserves the world" for all the sacrifices she made for him and his older brother. The safety said he hopes to take care of her in the future.

Cosmi said in his announcement that he thought it would be in his "best interest" to opt out of the

remainder of the season after talking it over with family. A former three-star recruit, the left tackle exceeded expectations during his time at UT. He's projected to be a first-round draft pick.

"Coming in as a young skinny lineman and starting out on the scout team and ending up where I am now is a true testament to God, this program, and everyone who has helped me become the man I am today," Cosmi said in a statement he tweeted Sunday.

The negative comments directed at the two men, deeming them selfish, "me first" guys have become the norm in 2020 — the year of player empowerment.

As of Thursday afternoon, 139 players have opted out of the season in some capacity, either because of COVID-19 concerns or to prepare for the NFL Draft, according to The Athletic. On the flip side, numerous players spoke out during the #WeWantToPlay movement when the college football season was on the ropes late into the summer.

Ehlinger might get sacked a bit more this weekend, and he won't hear friendly trash talk on the practice field anymore, but all he has is love for Cosmi and Sterns.

"I have so much to be thankful for from both of those guys," Ehlinger said. "I can't be mad at them because of the impact they had on my life."



RYAN LAM / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

BIG 12

By Matthew Boncosky | @mboncosky

POWER RANKINGS



2. OKLAHOMA SOONERS

Oklahoma was scheduled to play West Virginia last week, but COVID-19 issues within the program forced the game to be postponed. Nevertheless, the Sooners appear set to face Iowa State in the Big 12 Championship game in a few weeks as they try for their sixth straight conference title.



4. TEXAS LONGHORNS

Texas lost a heartbreaker to Iowa State last week 23-20, ending the team's hopes at a conference title. It wasn't the Senior Day quarterback Sam Ehlinger hoped for, but the Longhorns have two more Big 12 games and a bowl game. There's still an opportunity for the seniors to go out on a high note.



6. TCU HORNED FROGS

TCU got its free win over winless Kansas last week, beating the Jayhawks 59-23 on the road. Sophomore quarterback Max Duggan contributed four touchdowns, and the team rushed for 337 total yards in the win. TCU needs to win its matchup with No. 15 Oklahoma State this week to finish the season above .500.



8. BAYLOR BEARS

Baylor ended its five-game losing streak with sophomore kicker John Mayers' game-winning field goal against Kansas State last week. The 32-31 win was the Bears' second on the season and could serve as a brief confidence boost before their matchup at No. 11 Oklahoma this week.



1. IOWA STATE CYCLONES

Iowa State has been the biggest story in the Big 12 this year. After losing to Louisiana to begin the season, the Cyclones have won seven of their eight Big 12 games and sit in a firm position to play for their first conference title in over 100 years. Star sophomore running back Breece Hall said it best after beating Texas last week: "It's five-star culture versus five-star players."



3. OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

Oklahoma State pulled out a close one over Texas Tech last week, winning 50-44. With the team's top two running backs out due to injury, redshirt junior running back Dezmon Jackson stepped up in a big way, rushing for 235 yards and three touchdowns in the win. The Cowboys will travel to TCU this week.



5. WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

West Virginia should be well-rested for its upcoming matchup with No. 9 Iowa State after last week's postponement, though a week off didn't seem to help Texas much. The Mountaineers have a slim opportunity to cause some chaos at the top of the Big 12 standings if they can beat the Cyclones on Saturday and No. 11 Oklahoma on Dec. 12.



7. TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

Texas Tech put up a solid fight against Oklahoma State last week, losing by six points. Sophomore quarterback Alan Bowman had his best game of the season, throwing for 384 yards and three touchdowns. The Red Raiders are likely to pick up their fourth win of the season against Kansas this week.



9. KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

Kansas State has completely fallen apart after a strong 4-1 start to the season. The Wildcats have lost four straight, including a heartbreaker to Baylor in the final seconds of last week's game. Kansas State will play its final game of the season against Texas this week.



10. KANSAS JAYHAWKS

Kansas lost to TCU 59-23 last week, dropping its record to 0-8 on the season. The Jayhawks only mustered 41 rushing yards in the loss. There's not much to say here, other than Kansas still stinks, but it will try to earn its first win against Texas Tech this week.

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DANIELA'S DIGGS

The 'Texas standard' has not existed in a decade.

By Daniela Perez
@danielap3rez

On Monday, reporters asked Texas head coach Tom Herman where he thought the program's standard should be this season after Friday's loss to Iowa State ended Big 12 Championship appearance hopes.

"I think the standard should be where I always have expressed it to

be, which is to be in the conversation and to be competing for conference championships," Herman said. "In the month of November and December, we were there this year. We were there a short two years ago. This year, we came up three points short in our opportunity to advance to play another game."

Texas hasn't won a Big 12 Championship or appeared in a national championship game in more than a decade. For fans, it's been a grueling decade filled with wincing, hesitations and anger. The "Texas standard" Herman refers to — a standard that was once hailed as Big 12 and college football's cream

of the crop — has been difficult to define this decade.

That's because defining the "Texas standard" is impossible when there isn't a definitive expectation the program will accept.

“

(Chris Del Conte) knows as well as I do that the main focus needs to be on preparing to beat Kansas State in Manhattan.”

TOM HERMAN
HEAD COACH

The bottom line used to

be a Big 12 Championship game appearance and an AP Top 25 finish. Texas sent 13 players to the NFL in the first round of the draft in the 2000s. This past decade, the fan base has been hit with a barrage of four-loss seasons and middle-tier bowls. Only three Longhorns were drafted in the first round.

Back-to-back head coaching blunders seem like the obvious reason behind the most forgetful decade in Longhorn football. But what's not clicking? Texas has had eight top-10 recruiting classes in the last decade and is the wealthiest program in college sports, yet the problems persist. Even the last four seasons under Mack Brown stooped below the standard.

Each season this last decade has followed the same pattern. Fans scream "This is our year!" after every out-of-conference early-season blowout. Then, hope falters after Texas loses its first game.

The blame game ensues.

Fans and alumni say the players aren't playing well and the coaching is horrible. They wonder who Texas can hire to make their dreams come true.

An obvious disconnect exists between the program's expectations and reality. The standard used to be championships, and now it's everything but — that's the reality.

Fans expect Texas to kick Herman, yet there hasn't been any clear evidence he will be hitting the road any time soon. The loss is reason enough, some say, but Herman said Monday that he and Athletics Director Chris Del Conte have a great relationship and had a positive conversation this weekend.

"(The offer to talk to recruits) still stands as per our last

conversation this weekend," Herman said. "And he knows as well as I do that the main focus needs to be on preparing to beat Kansas State in Manhattan."

This week, redshirt junior left tackle Sam Cosmi and junior safety Caden Sterns, two key cogs of Texas' arsenal, declared for the NFL Draft. Why wouldn't these players look out for their interests? There is little left of the 2020 season and little left of the program that once dominated college football.

So what is the standard? It's not clear. This season, it appears the standard was to skate by, to throw in hopeful wins and devastating losses and to sit on the outside looking in to the Big 12 Championship — not to win one.



ANTHONY MIRELES / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

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NOTES ON THE COACH

By Brett Hintz
@BHintzUT

Winning at smaller programs is often the way up to the top for many prospective head coaches across college football who hope to obtain head coaching status at a Power Five school.

Each opposing coach the Texas football team has faced thus far attained their position by winning extensively at a previous school. Kansas State head coach Chris Klieman is no exception.

It's tough to make an argument that any other head coach on the Longhorns' schedule is more deserving of their current position than Klieman, who was a proven winner before settling in Manhattan, Kansas.

The 53-year-old coach from Waterloo, Iowa, has a track record of success that's unmatched by the rest of Texas' opponents and nearly anyone across the vast playing field of college football.

Klieman led North Dakota State to unprecedented success prior to being named the Kansas State head coach. Serving first as North Dakota State's defensive backs coach in 2011 and then as defensive coordinator from 2012-2013, Klieman was named the Football Scoop FCS Coordinator of the Year in 2012 after leading the Bison to No. 1 rankings in both scoring defense and total defense.

Before being named head coach of North Dakota State for the 2014 season, Klieman had already led the Bison to three national championships. After his promotion, Klieman and the Bison continued their newfound tradition of absolutely annihilating the rest of the playing field.



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In Klieman's five years as head coach of the Bison, North Dakota State won the FCS National Championship four times. He's currently tied with Jim Tressel for the most FCS National Championships as a head coach and is first in NDSU history in winning percentage at .920 and third in total wins at 69.

It isn't like Klieman accumulated these impressive statistics against far lesser competition, either. Of Klieman's 69 wins, 39 came against ranked opponents. The coach also led the Bison to two wins in two tries against FBS opponents, beating both Iowa and Iowa State.

Klieman's deservingness of the Kansas State job goes beyond just winning. Prior to taking over the North Dakota State program in 2014, Klieman spent 19 years coaching defensive backs and serving as defensive coordinator at smaller, lesser-known schools such as Northern Iowa, Western Illinois and Loras College.

His previous history of sustained success and sheer experience notwithstanding,

filling Bill Snyder's shoes as head coach at Kansas State is a tough proposition for anybody. In his first year as head coach at Kansas State, Klieman impressively led the Wildcats to an 8-5 record while defeating tough opponents like Oklahoma and Mississippi State.

It's been an up-and-down year for the 4-4 Wildcats in 2020, as they've come out victorious against high-ranked Oklahoma while also losing to Arkansas State. More interestingly though, there appears to be some unknown internal strife.

When redshirt freshman Will Jones announced he was entering the transfer portal two weeks ago, he became the 10th Wildcat to do so this season. As Klieman is aiming to rebuild the Wildcats program into a winner, losing this many players can be a problem not only for winning games but attracting prospective recruits as well.

With that being said, Kansas State will be coming into Saturday's matchup against Texas with extra motivation to come out on top.

NOTES FROM THE OPPONENT

By Stephen Wagner
@stephenwag22

The Daily Texan spoke with Cameron Bradley, sports editor of The Kansas State Collegian, ahead of this weekend's matchup between Texas and Kansas State.

The Daily Texan: Kansas State got off to that awesome 4-1 start and beat Oklahoma early in the season, but it's lost four in a row and is out of the Big 12 Championship race. What happened?

Cameron Bradley: It was really weird at the start because there was that non-conference game against Arkansas State, and they lost that one, which was a really weird way to start the season. Then going back and beating Oklahoma after that, I wasn't really sure what to think about the team. Then they rattled off three straight wins against Texas Tech, TCU and Kansas. But really I think the pivotal moment in the season came against Texas Tech when they lost senior quarterback Skylar Thompson, who they really base a lot of the offense around. After that, the offense kind of just really struggled, minus the Kansas game. But Kansas, I mean, they really struggle everywhere. So it wasn't surprising that they put that many points up on Kansas, but if you look after that game, they scored a total of 28 points going into the Baylor game (last week).

DT: Speaking of quarterbacks, freshman Will Howard came on after Thompson was lost for the year due

to injury. How has he filled Thompson's spot, and does the offense miss its starter?

CB: Will (Howard), he started off well. He just doesn't really have that explosive playmaking ability that Skylar (Thompson) has. He's had a couple big plays here and there, but like I said earlier, his youth really shows on the field. (Kansas State) trusted Skylar with the offense, and he made some great decisions on the field. He was able to try and take off and run whenever on a passing play whenever he didn't see anyone. Will, on the other hand, I feel like he doesn't make the decisions as well as Skylar. It just kind of shows he's just young. Going from a senior quarterback that has had all that experience and going to a true freshman who's never started a college game in his life, there's definitely going to be some struggles on offense.

DT: Freshman running back Deuce Vaughn has been a jack-of-all-trades rushing and receiving. How much does this offense lean on him?

CB: A lot. When you look at the stats, it's pretty much Deuce Vaughn up there leading everywhere, with the rushing game, with the passing game. I believe the first three plays of the Baylor game were all (designed for) Deuce Vaughn, if that tells you anything about how the offense relies on him. He's a vital part to the offense. He's a jack-of-all-trades. He can kind of do it all, and they utilize him to be able to do it all.

DT: Do you feel like Kansas State's season has slipped away a little bit, and what would a win on Saturday mean for the team?

CB: (The season) 100% slipped away. They were coming off of a four-game win streak going into the game against West Virginia, ranked in the top 20 had a really good shot at possibly playing for the Big 12 title, and (those losses) to West Virginia and then to Oklahoma State really just kind of killed it. To end a season on a five-game losing streak compared to winning that last game, it's a massive difference going into the offseason.



RYAN LAM / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

HEAD -TO- HEAD

HISTORY

By Nathan Han | @NathanHan13

The Longhorns have held the all-time record advantage over every team they've played so far this season — that is until they face Kansas State on Saturday.

Texas is 10-10 all time against the Wildcats, but head coach Tom Herman has enjoyed recent success against the Big 12 foe that has repeatedly managed to beat Texas in the past.

Herman is 3-0 against Kansas State. Charlie Strong and Mack Brown were 1-2 and 3-7, respectively, in their tenures as former head coaches.

Those three wins under Herman haven't been blow-outs, however, with Texas winning by margins of six, five and three points from 2017-2019.

Last year, Texas needed a game-winning field goal from then-sophomore kicker Cameron Dicker to win 27-24 and defeat a No. 16-ranked Kansas State team. While this year's Wildcats might not be ranked, they have been a constant thorn in Texas's side throughout program history.

GAME TO REMEMBER:

Texas quarterback Sam Ehlinger was making just his third career start as a true freshman when the team played the Wildcats in 2017. In front of a packed Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, Ehlinger proved his mettle to the Longhorn fan base for the first time in his career.

Ehlinger's pass was intercepted in Texas's first down of the game. But on Texas' third possession, Ehlinger connected with wide receivers then-freshman Reggie Hemphill-Mapps and then-sophomore Lil'Jordan

Humphrey to set the tone for the Longhorns all game long. Hemphill-Mapps would set a Texas freshman record with 12 catches and had a career-high 121 receiving yards.

But Texas couldn't convert a fourth-and-goal from the 3-yard line, and Kansas State drove 97 yards to go up 10-0.

Facing a steep first-quarter deficit, Ehlinger wasn't fazed, answering right away by connecting with receivers then-sophomore Collin Johnson and Hemphill-Mapps to set up a touchdown run.

On the Longhorns' next drive, Ehlinger flashed the running and scrambling ability that would bail Texas out so many times over the next couple of years. He rushed for 24 yards on the first play and scrambled to make a brilliant

33-yard touchdown pass.

Texas and Kansas State continued to trade scores until the Longhorns, with the game tied up at 27-27, had a clutch interception. Ehlinger went to Hemphill-Mapps to set up a 45-yard field goal attempt.

But fortunately for the Wildcats, it would be a year before Texas boasted Cameron Dicker. The field goal attempt missed wide right.

In overtime, Ehlinger connected with then-junior receiver Jerrod Heard on the first play to score, but the Wildcats responded once again. In the second overtime, Texas's defense came in clutch. With an opportunity to win the game, Ehlinger set up the Longhorns by rushing to the Kansas State



ANTHONY MIRELES / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

4-yard line.

Then-junior running back Chris Warren III sealed the deal four plays later by barging into the end zone and giving Texas a statement 40-34 double-overtime win.

Ehlinger wouldn't win the starting job outright after the performance against Kansas State, but he certainly earned the respect of the Wildcat defenders after the game.

"Everybody is in shock

right now," Kansas State cornerback D.J. Reed said to the Associated Press. "I don't think we were ready for the freshman quarterback to be a good scrambler like that."

HISTORY IN THE MAKING:

Nov. 9, 2019

UT-Austin vs. Kansas State University, DKR Memorial Stadium, 27-24

Sept. 29, 2018

UT-Austin at Kansas State University, Bill Snyder Family Football Stadium, 19-14

Oct. 7, 2017

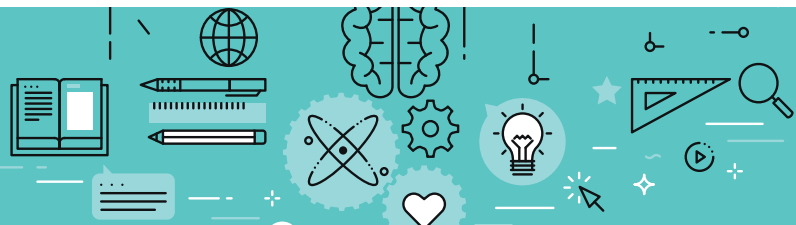
UT-Austin vs. Kansas State University, DKR Memorial Stadium, 40-34

Oct. 22, 2016

UT-Austin at Kansas State University, Bill Snyder Family Football Stadium, 21-24

Oct. 24, 2015

UT-Austin vs. Kansas State University, DKR Memorial Stadium, 23-9



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OPPONENTS TO WATCH

By Carter Yates
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The Kansas State Wildcats are in a free fall, dropping four straight contests after starting the season 4-1 and flirting with Big 12 Championship hopes. The Wildcats beat then-No.3 Oklahoma 38-35 in the second game of the season but

have declined since a shoulder injury in the third game of the year knocked senior quarterback Skylar Thompson out for the season. Despite an abysmal losing streak, Kansas State can secure a bowl game berth with a win over Texas in its final game of the regular season.

Here are four Wildcats to watch for Saturday:



No. 22 Deuce Vaughn — Running back

Deuce Vaughn may stand at only 5 feet, 5 inches and 168 pounds, but he makes up for his lack of size with his big-time production at the running back spot. The freshman out of Round Rock, Texas, currently leads the Wildcats in rushing and receiving yards, racking up 527 yards on the ground and 389 yards through the air. After flying under the radar as a three-star

recruit, Vaughn has exploded onto the scene with seven total touchdowns in his first nine college games. A two-time Big 12 Newcomer of the Week, Vaughn has set himself up to be the face of the Wildcats' offense for years to come. The Texas run defense has been stout in its last four games, but look for Vaughn to cause problems for the Longhorns on Saturday.

No. 56 Wyatt Hubert — Defensive end



Whereas the offensive side of the ball has been lifted by freshmen prospects, the defensive side of the ball is still led by junior defensive end Wyatt Hubert. The 6-foot-3-inch, 270-pound rusher leads the Wildcats with 7.5 sacks and two forced fumbles on the season. The Kansas State defense has had a rough year overall, ranking eighth in team defense in the Big 12, but Hubert is not to

blame. The 2020 Pre-season All-Big 12 pick has already notched more sacks in nine games at 7.5 than the seven he had in 12 games last year, when he was named First Team All-Big 12. Look for Hubert to wreak havoc in the Texas backfield this weekend, especially after Texas' star redshirt junior offensive tackle Sam Cosmi decided to opt out of the final two games of the season.



No. 31 Jahron McPherson — Defensive back

This Saturday, senior defensive back Jahron McPherson will run out of the tunnel at Bill Snyder Family Stadium for Senior Day and cap off his college career. After playing his freshman season at community college and redshirting in the 2017 season, McPherson has morphed into

one of the most important defensive players for the Wildcats as a senior. The defensive back out of Basehor, Kansas, leads the team with 51 total tackles and two interceptions. A captain for the 2020 season, McPherson has elevated his NFL Draft stock immensely by displaying his natural

ball-hawking instincts this season. The Texas passing game got back on track in last weekend's loss to Iowa State, but Longhorn senior quarterback Sam Ehlinger will not be able to take nearly as many deep shots as he did against the Cyclones with McPherson roaming.

No. 50 Cooper Beebe — Right tackle



Cooper Beebe has been a mainstay on the Kansas State offensive line this season after redshirting in 2019. The red-shirt freshman has performed admirably in multiple different positions during player absences due to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically when he filled in last week at right guard against Baylor. Beebe's tenacious blocking has opened up holes for star freshman running back Deuce Vaughn, and the 6-foot-3-inch, 326-pound lineman has been one of the long bright spots in a season that is officially off the rails. The Kansas City, Kansas, prospect will look to finish this season strong by handling Texas' star junior jack Joseph Ossai, as Ossai will provide Beebe with perhaps his toughest test of the year.