

By The NUMBERS

BIG 12 STANDINGS

NORTH DIVISION

Big 12	All	Top 25	
Kansas	0-0	4-0	0-0
Missouri	0-0	4-0	0-0
Nebraska	0-0	3-1	0-1
Iowa State	0-0	3-1	0-0
Kansas State	0-0	2-2	0-0
Colorado	0-0	1-2	0-0

SOUTH DIVISION

Texas	1-0	4-0	0-0
Texas A&M	0-0	3-0	0-0
Oklahoma State	0-0	3-1	1-0
Oklahoma	0-0	2-1	0-1
Baylor	0-0	2-1	0-0
Texas Tech	0-1	2-2	0-2

TEAM LEADERS

(Average per game)

TOTAL OFFENSE

Texas A&M	574.3
Texas	521.3
Kansas	511.5
Texas Tech	475.8
Missouri	453.0
Oklahoma	452.7
Nebraska	440.0
Oklahoma State	419.8
Baylor	399.7
Iowa State	381.3

RUSHING OFFENSE

Texas A&M	244.0
Kansas	209.3
Baylor	209.0
Iowa State	207.3
Texas	207.3
Oklahoma State	202.8
Kansas State	196.5
Oklahoma	196.3

PASSING OFFENSE

Texas Tech	413.5
Texas A&M	330.3
Texas	314.0
Missouri	310.0
Kansas	302.2
Oklahoma	256.3
Nebraska	256.3
Colorado	251.0

TOTAL DEFENSE

Oklahoma	223.3
Kansas State	241.3
Texas	259.5
Nebraska	285.5
Baylor	299.7
Kansas	310.8
Texas Tech	345.8
Oklahoma State	351.5
Texas A&M	351.7
Missouri	351.8

RUSHING DEFENSE

Oklahoma	40.7
Texas	47.3
Kansas	59.3
Kansas State	91.5
Texas Tech	103.0
Nebraska	115.8
Oklahoma State	118.3
Missouri	133.8

PASSING DEFENSE

Baylor	135.0
Kansas State	149.8
Nebraska	169.8
Oklahoma	182.7
Iowa State	199.5
Texas A&M	206.0
Texas	212.3
Missouri	218.0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

(Season totals)

RUSHING YARDS

Roy Helu Jr., Nebraska	464
Alexander Robinson, Iowa State	453
Daniel Thomas, Kansas State	433
Toben Oporum, Kansas	320
Derrick Washington, Missouri	301
Keith Toston, Oklahoma State	280
Vondrell McGee, Texas	244
Jake Sharp, Kansas	240

PASSING YARDS

Taylor Potts, Texas Tech	1,602
Blaine Gabbert, Missouri	1,161
Colt McCoy, Texas	1,145
Todd Reesing, Kansas	1,137
Jerrold Johnson, Texas A&M	961
Zac Lee, Nebraska	927
Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State	791
Cody Hawkins, Colorado	753

RECEIVING YARDS

Jordan Shipley, Texas	436
Danario Alexander, Missouri	404
Jared Perry, Missouri	381
Kerry Meier, Kansas	335
Dezmon Briscoe, Kansas	331
Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State	323
Ryan Broyles, Oklahoma	309

TOTAL YARDS

Taylor Potts, Texas Tech	1,524
Blaine Gabbert, Missouri	1,241
Todd Reesing, Kansas	1,226
Colt McCoy, Texas	1,206
Jerrold Johnson, Texas A&M	1,157
Zac Lee, Nebraska	988
Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State	896
Austen Arnaud, Iowa State	863

SCORING

Grant Ressel, Missouri	45
Hunter Lawrence, Texas	44
Alex Henery, Nebraska	43

The BIG 12 this week

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GAME OF THE WEEK

Colorado at West Virginia



Illustration © 2009 Bruce Plante (planteink.com)

Bufs face a tough climb

It's not much of a stretch to say that Colorado's bowl hopes for this season likely hinge on the outcome of Thursday's showdown at West Virginia. A win evens the Buffaloes' record at 2-2 headed into Big 12 play. A loss drops head coach Dan Hawkins' squad to 1-3 and faced with finding five wins on an eight-game conference slate that includes four teams in the current AP top 25 and another at No. 26.

Colorado bounced back from losses to Colorado State and Toledo with a 24-0 shutout of Wyoming on Sept. 19. Other than that first convincing win, however, there's been little impressive about the Buffaloes' performance so far this season. They rank dead last in the Big 12 in total offense (342.7 yards per game) and total defense (410.0 ypg). Additionally, they allow opponents a conference-worst 25.7 points per game — even counting the shutout.

A lot of conjecture has been made about Hawkins' decision to tap QB Cody Hawkins, the coach's son, to start his third-straight campaign under center for the Buffaloes following a disappointing 5-7 season in 2008. The younger Hawkins eventually shared time with freshman QB Tyler Hansen last year, but it appears likely that Hansen will redshirt this season — leaving father and son to share an increasingly hot seat in Boulder.

Cody Hawkins needs a breakout game in Morgantown. Through three contests thus far, he has completed just 52.7 percent of his passes for a respectable 753 yards and five touchdowns, but with four interceptions. Not helping matters is an offensive line that has given up eight sacks.

But for all the doom and gloom, there are some bright spots. Sophomore RB Rodney Stewart has returned from a hamstring injury that kept him out of the first two games, and Colorado is a perfect 12-for-12 on red-zone scoring opportunities. They simply need to get there more often.

The Mountaineers won their first two games against Liberty and East Carolina before stumbling in a 41-30 loss at Auburn. Dangerous junior RB Noel Devine has 320 yards and five touchdowns so far, including a 128-yard, three-touchdown effort against the Tigers. Senior QB Jarrett Brown, on the other hand, has been rather inconsistent, completing 68.4 percent of his passes for 798 yards and five touchdowns, but five interceptions as well.

Records: Colorado 1-2 (0-0 Big 12 North); West Virginia 2-1 (0-0 Big East). **Coaches:** Colorado's Dan Hawkins (67-37); West Virginia's Bill Stewart (12-5). **Series:** Colorado leads 1-0. **Kickoff:** 7:30 p.m. ET Thursday. **TV:** ESPN.

Key for Colorado: A big defensive outing. The Buffaloes simplified their defensive package against Wyoming, and they'll need a stellar effort to counter a West Virginia team eager to avenge last year's 17-14 Colorado triumph in the Boulder. **Key for West Virginia:** Poise under pressure. The Mountaineers had six turnovers against Auburn, including four interceptions in the fourth quarter once Auburn had rallied from a 14-0 deficit to seize the lead, which it never relinquished.

THE REST OF THE MATCHUPS

Kansas St. vs. Iowa St. (in Kansas City, Mo.)

Records: Kansas State 2-2 (0-0 Big 12 North); Iowa State 3-1 (0-0 Big 12 North). **Coaches:** Kansas State's Bill Snyder (138-70-1); Iowa State's Paul Rhoads (3-1). **Series:** Iowa State leads 49-39-4. **Kickoff:** 2 p.m. CT Saturday. **TV:** FCS-Central.

Key for Kansas State: Get in gear. The Wildcats have struggled offensively, averaging just 23.5 points per game, which ranks 87th among FBS teams. Luckily, Iowa State isn't much better at 74th. QB Carson Coffman has thrown just two TD passes this season with four interceptions. **Key**

for Iowa State: Stop Thomas to win. Standout RB Daniel Thomas rushed 26 times to rip Tennessee Tech for 139 yards and two touchdowns. Without his production the Wildcats have been meek at best, and it could help the Cyclones capture their first conference win since 2007.

New Mexico at Texas Tech

Records: New Mexico 0-4 (0-1 Mountain West); Texas Tech 2-2 (0-0 Big 12 South). **Coaches:** New Mexico's Mike Locksley (0-4); Texas Tech's Mike Leach (78-40). **Series:** Texas Tech leads 33-6-2. **Kickoff:** 2:30 p.m. CT Saturday. **TV:** FSN.

Key for New Mexico: Keep the white flag handy. The Lobos have managed just five offensive touchdowns, while surrendering 17 to their opponents. **Key for Texas Tech:** Fill the big hole. Senior OL Brandon Carter was stripped of his captaincy and suspended indefinitely for an undisclosed violation of team rules. A first-team All-Big 12 selection last year, Carter was an All-American candidate this season.

Kent State at Baylor

Records: Kent State 2-2 (1-0 Mid-American); Baylor 2-1 (0-0 Big 12 South). **Coaches:** Kent State's Doug Martin (21-41); Baylor's Art Briles (40-37). **Series:** First meeting. **Kickoff:** 6 p.m. CT Saturday. **TV:** None.

Key for Kent State: Especially special teams. The Golden Flashes blocked a punt and ran a kickoff back 92 yards for a touchdown to minimize a lackluster night offensively in a 29-19 victory over winless Miami (Ohio) Saturday. **Key for Baylor:** Hold fast. Baylor's outlook for the rest of the season is up in the air with the loss of QB Robert Griffin, but the Bears are still capable of making noise in the Big 12. Yet senior QB Blake Szymanski, the full-time starter in 2007, was also hurt in the same game, and his status is unclear.

Texas A&M vs. Arkansas (in Arlington, Texas)

Records: Texas A&M 3-0 (0-0 Big 12 South); Arkansas 1-2 (0-2 SEC). **Coaches:** Texas A&M's Mike Sherman (7-8); Arkansas' Bobby Petrino (47-18). **Series:** Arkansas leads 38-24-3. **Kickoff:** 6:30 p.m. CT Saturday. **TV:** ESPN2.

Key for Texas A&M: Attack, attack, attack. The Razorbacks' defense has been woeful in its past two games, giving up a combined 955 yards of offense and 87 points to Georgia and Alabama. The Aggies lead the nation in total offense with 574.3 ypg to go with 18 touchdowns. **Key for Arkansas:** Give Mallett time. Sophomore QB Ryan Mallett has shown big-play ability, throwing for seven touchdowns with just one interception. But Alabama sacked him three times and held him to 160 yards passing with one score and one pick.

Oklahoma at Miami (Fla.)

Records: Oklahoma 2-1 (0-0 Big 12 South); Miami 2-1 (2-1 ACC). **Coaches:** Oklahoma's Bob Stoops (111-25); Miami's Randy Shannon (14-13). **Series:** Series tied 3-3. **Kickoff:** 8 p.m. ET Saturday. **TV:** ABC.

Key for Oklahoma: Time for the cream to rise. Regardless of whether Sam Bradford returns or not, it's imperative that Oklahoma's stars shine Saturday night. Bob Stoops' team has dropped its last two games against ranked opponents — BYU and Florida last season. If Miami is able to hobble the Sooners, the rest of the Big 12, particularly Texas, will start to smell blood. **Key for Miami:** A favorable forecast. Playing in a downpour in Blacksburg, QB Jacory Harris completed just nine of 25 passes for 150 yards and an interception as the Hurricanes fell 31-7 to Virginia Tech.

2-MINUTE DRILL

BAYLOR It was a Pyrrhic victory for the Bears on Saturday, as QB **Robert Griffin** tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and will miss the rest of the season. Griffin was injured on Baylor's first possession, but actually returned for the entire first half of a 68-14 demolition of Northwestern State.

COLORADO The return of Buffaloes RB **Rodney Stewart**, aka "Speedy," from injury has given Colorado a boost, especially after the sophomore ran for 127 yards and two scores in a win over Wyoming on Sept. 19. "Having a healthy Speedy is really going to help your chances on offense," head coach **Dan Hawkins** said.

IOWA ST. The Black Knights of Army rode into Ames Saturday night but couldn't stop the 1-2 punch of Cyclones RB **Alexander Robinson** and QB **Austen Arnaud**, who combined to account for all four Iowa State touchdowns in a 31-10 victory. Robinson totaled 127 yards and a score on 21 carries and also caught two TD passes.

KANSAS The Jayhawks outlasted a competitive squad from Southern Mississippi 35-28 on Saturday. QB **Todd Reesing** threw three touchdowns, two of them to WR **Kerry Meier**, and completed 30-of-43 passes for 332 yards with an interception, while Meier totaled 142 yards receiving.

KANSAS ST. K-State WR **Brandon Banks** became the 12th man in NCAA history to return a pair of kickoffs for touchdowns in the same game during a 49-7 blowout of Tennessee Tech. Banks' first return, a 91-yarder, came after Tennessee Tech scored its only points in the first quarter. His second was a 93-yard scamper to open the second half.

MISSOURI The Tigers took advantage of Nevada miscues to put down the Wolfpack 31-21 Friday night in Reno. With Mizzou up 20-13 early in the fourth quarter, Nevada RB **Luke Lippincott** fumbled at Missouri's 4-yard line. Tigers QB **Blaine Gabbert**, who finished with 414 yards on 25-of-40 passing with three touchdowns, then led a 97-yard scoring drive to seal the deal.

NEBRASKA A record Nebraska crowd of 86,304 celebrated the 300th consecutive sellout of Memorial Stadium Saturday night, and the football team provided a 55-0 shutout of Louisiana-Lafayette to mark the occasion. The sellout streak dates back to a 16-7 loss to Missouri on Nov. 3, 1962, but the Cornhuskers have gone 261-38 at home since then.

OKLAHOMA The status of injured QB **Sam Bradford** was still up in the air headed into this week's preparation for Miami. Bradford traveled to Birmingham, Ala., over the weekend to meet with a specialist for his right shoulder's sprained AC joint, but little information has trickled out.

OKLA. ST. The Cowboys cruised to a 56-6 win over Grambling State despite missing a pair of injured All-Big 12 performers in RB **Kendall Hunter** and WR **Dez Bryant**. Backup RB **Keith Toston** galloped for 84 yards and three touchdowns in the first half to pace Oklahoma State.

TEXAS Not much went wrong for the Longhorns in a 64-7 romp over UTEP. The Miners' only points came on a first-quarter interception of QB **Colt McCoy** that was returned for a touchdown. But McCoy wasn't fazed, and finished 28-of-35 passing for 286 yards and three touchdowns.

TEXAS A&M Aggies QB **Jerrold Johnson** accounted for six touchdowns — three rushing; three passing — as Texas A&M doused the Blazers of Alabama-Birmingham 56-19 Saturday night in College Station. The Aggies, who led the nation in total offense, again rolled up big numbers with 544 total yards.

TEXAS TECH The Red Raiders' fortunes turned on a critical fourth down at the Houston 1 with 11 minutes left in the fourth quarter. Rather than attempt a field goal to extend a 28-23 lead, QB **Taylor Potts** tried to sneak it in, but the play was blown dead when it appeared Potts' forward momentum was stopped short. Three series later, Houston QB **Case Keenum** led a 95-yard scoring drive for the 29-28 win.

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