



SPORTS

TULSA WORLD • B1 • Saturday, April 21, 2007 • www.tulsaworld.com

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Leader wants a big win

Nextel Cup leader Jeff Gordon is still reeling from last week's loss, but it's made him hungrier for his first win in almost a year.

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OU-Texas stays at Cotton Bowl

► Stadium renovations were essential to keeping the old rivalry there.

OU FOOTBALL

feel that tingle a few more years.

Dallas officials gathered on the old stadium's 50-yard line Friday to announce OU and Texas will continue their Red River Rivalry there through 2015. It was welcome news in both Norman and Austin.

"The University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas have nearly

80 years invested in this great tradition," OU athletic director Joe Castiglione said. "As we look forward to continuing in Dallas, we are genuinely excited about all of the plans to improve and expand the Cotton Bowl stadium."

Those plans, which cover everything from a 15,000-seat expansion to more spacious bathrooms, were good enough for Sooner and Longhorn officials to extend an agreement reached last May to keep the

game at the Cotton Bowl through 2010.

Traditionalists worried about an OU-Texas setting at JerryWorld, the Dallas Cowboys' state-of-the-art stadium complex scheduled to open in Arlington, Texas, in 2009. There was even a murmur about moving the series home and home, an idea said to have been favored by Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds if the

SEE OU B-5

By GUERIN EMIG
World Sports Writer

NORMAN — Bob Stoops has said an Oklahoma-Texas football game in the Cotton Bowl "gets the hair up on the back of your neck."

Looks like the Sooner coach will



MICHAEL WYKE / Tulsa World

Former TU star and McLain coach Shea Seals (right) hugs Booker T. Washington principal Debi Boyles after Seals was announced as BTW's boys basketball coach.

Seals is welcomed as coach

► Despite his ties to rival McLain, BTW coach gets warm greeting.

By BARRY LEWIS
World Sports Writer

After spending his entire high school career as either a player or coach at McLain, Shea Seals never expected to get a standing ovation from students and supporters of archrival Booker T. Washington.

But that's what the former University of Tulsa standout received on Friday afternoon in the BTW lobby when principal Debi Boyles introduced him as the Hornets' head boys basketball coach.

"It (the reception) was very surprising and it feels good," said Seals with a smile.

Seals, 31, replaces Nate Harris, who led the Hornets to 10 state titles and 22 state tournaments in 25 seasons.

"He's a legend in his own right," Seals

SEE SEALS B-5

Dylan Kinkead started his senior season thinking he was out of shape. He ended it with a pacemaker in his chest. Quitting soccer just wasn't an option.

Brave heart

By ERIC BAILEY
World Sports Writer

DYLAN KINKEAD CELEBRATED Senior Night with a dozen Memorial soccer teammates Friday night.

Kinkead looked like another healthy teenager among the smiling group of young men. But this day nearly never came.

The 18-year-old had a pacemaker implanted in his chest last winter, which has helped him live and continue his athletic career.

"I've played soccer since I was 5 years old and exercised every day and I had a heart problem," Kinkead said. "You can't take things for granted."

"Thank God for pacemakers."

Memorial played its regular-season finale against visiting

Bartlesville on Friday.

The 2-0 win vaulted the Chargers into the playoffs, but everyone understands that there are more important things than soccer.

"I'm just thankful that he's out there," said his mother Carol Kinkead. "Winning and losing, I don't care. I just want him to be successful and proud of himself."

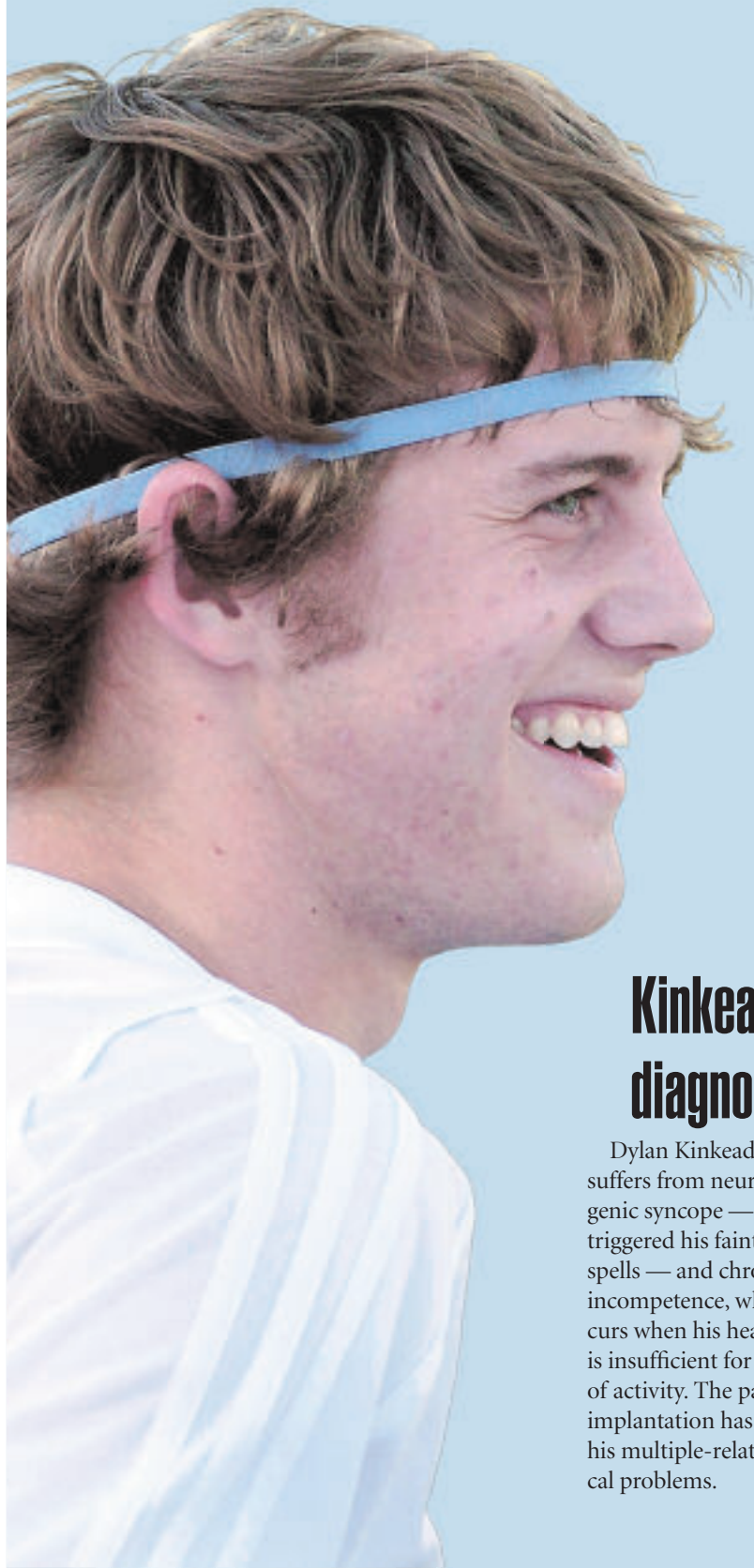
It's been a scary five-month journey for the Kinkeads.

Dylan Kinkead knew something wasn't right last fall when he felt cold and faint. At times, he'd pass out.

During soccer conditioning, he'd run 10-15 yards and be tired.

"We used to always joke and thought he was out of shape and not conditioned," team-

SEE KINKEAD B-8



Kinkead's diagnosis

Dylan Kinkead, 18, suffers from neurocardiogenic syncope — which triggered his fainting spells — and chronotropic incompetence, which occurs when his heart rate is insufficient for the level of activity. The pacemaker implantation has resolved his multiple-related medical problems.



Kinkead (right) goes for a header during Memorial's game Monday against Booker T. Washington. He hasn't missed a game with the Chargers this season, and he plans to enroll at the University of Oklahoma after graduating from Memorial next month.

TOM GILBERT photos / Tulsa World

Pegues next at McLain?

IN THE TULSA AREA, three high school coaching jobs would be considered most prestigious.

In no particular order: Jenks football. Union football.

Booker T. Washington basketball.

It was a front-page story when Washington hired Shea Seals on Friday. Booker T. hadn't changed coaches since Nate Harris took the job in 1982. Harris captured 10 state championships. Seals will feel the pressure to win at a comparable level.

Another layer of significance is that Seals had been the McLain High School coach. McLain is Washington's No. 1 rival and Seals' alma mater. His move to Washington

SEE HAISTEN B-5



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TU offense gets chance to shine at spring game

By ERIC BAILEY
World Sports Writer

Quarterback Paul Smith often has been asked by fans to describe Tulsa's newly installed hurry-up, no-huddle offense.

"I can't sum it up," Smith said. "I tell them you just have to come and see it."

Golden Hurricane fans won't only get an opportunity to watch the offense, but also call some plays during Saturday night's spring game. Kickoff is approximately 6:15 p.m. at Skelly Stadium.

Activities — including a flag football game pitting former lettermen versus last year's outgoing seniors — will begin at 4:30 p.m.

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FanFest schedule

4:30 p.m.: FanFest begins on the plaza area east of the stadium with music, food, free ice cream and inflatable games. Included is the "Spring Cruisin' Festival," featuring classic and collector cars on display.

5:30 p.m.: TU assistant coach Bill Blankenship will quarterback former TU lettermen in a flag football game against last year's outgoing seniors.

6:15 p.m.: Spring game. Fans will be able to meet the team and gather autographs afterward.

Admission is free

Cardinals first baseman leads team past Drillers

By BARRY LEWIS
World Sports Writer

Joe Mather is rewarding the patience the St. Louis Cardinals have shown in him.

Mather, a third-round draft choice in 2001, is making his Double-A debut in his seventh pro season.

During the first two weeks of the season, Mather has been one of the Texas League's top hitters. On Friday night, he continued his hot start with two hits, including a homer, to help the Springfield Cardinals pound Tulsa 7-0 before a paid crowd of 4,952 at Drillers Stadium.

Mather's homer was his fifth, tying him with Craig Brazell of Wichita for the league lead. He raised his batting



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CARDINALS

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DRILLERS

0

average to .357 as he went 2-for-2 with a sacrifice and was hit by a pitch.

"It's been a great run so far," Mather said. "It took a while to get here and I am trying to do as much as I can. I am usually a slow starter. I'm usually around .200 at this point of the year. I hope it doesn't reverse this year."

Mather, 24, is a 6-foot-4, 195-pound right-handed hitter who is playing first

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