

## NEBRASKA 10, NO. 20 OKLAHOMA 3

## U-G-L-Y: Sooners look bad in loss

LINCOLN, Neb. — Once upon a time, the Oklahoma-Nebraska showdown produced such things as the 1971 Game of the Century.

Saturday night, the Sooners and the Cornhuskers produced the Ugly Game of the New Century, and perhaps one of the ugliest games in the 85-year history of a storied series that had often featured Top 10 teams fighting for a shot at the national championship.

There was only one ranked team in Saturday's contest at Memorial Stadium, and the No. 20 Sooners' 10-3 loss has to go down as one of the most embarrassing performances in coach Bob Stoops' tenure.

It was the Sooners who produced the majority of unsightly plays before 86,115 spectators, the second-largest crowd in Nebraska history.

How ugly was it? Nebraska led 7-3 at halftime even though the Huskers managed one first down the entire half. One!

The Sooners' sloppy offense didn't just repeatedly shoot itself in the foot, it blew the danged thing clean off with five interceptions, three missed field goals and



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several drive-killing penalties.

It was supposed to be Nebraska, which competes in the Big 12's woeful North Division, that would struggle against a team from the mighty South Division. After all, just three weeks ago, the Huskers lost 9-7 at home to Iowa State while committing eight turnovers.

If Stoops learned anything in this disaster, it should be that he needs to send his assistants on an all-out search for junior college offensive linemen. And while they're at it, they should also search high and low for a dependable field-goal kicker.

Nebraska's vaunted defense lived up to its reputation when it exposed OU's offensive line by dominating the Sooners when it counted.

OU piled up the yards while repeatedly driving deep into Nebraska territory before being stopped and forced to attempt three

### Missed opportunities

OU struggled inside the Nebraska 30-yard line Saturday night. A look at OU's possessions that reached the Cornhuskers' 30:

Quarter	Start at	End at	Plays	Yards	Result
First	NEB 45	NEB 29	7	16	Missed FG
First	NEB 30	NEB 28	4	2	Blocked FG
Second	OU 20	NEB 22	14	58	Turnover*
Second	OU 30	NEB 11	9	59	Field goal
Third	OU 49	NEB 25	7	26	Missed FG
Fourth	OU 33	NEB 24	9	43	Turnover*

\*Turnover on downs

Tress Way field goals, with none of them finding the mark.

Stoops has obviously given up on last season's kicker, Jimmy Stevens, who was benched two weeks ago in a win at Kansas.

That victory over the Jayhawks, by the way, remains the only win away from home for the Sooners, who saw their record drop to 5-4 overall and 3-2 in the Big 12.

The OU coach can't bench quarterback Landry Jones, who had his toughest game as a Sooner. The redshirt freshman, who had five of his passes intercepted, is the only scholarship quarterback the Sooners have with any experience after the loss of injured Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford.

The most obvious question now for OU is where do

the Sooners go from here? They have now lost four games in a season for only the third time in Stoops' 11 seasons.

Some good news is that two of OU's final three games are at home, against Texas A&M and Oklahoma State, with the final road trip of the regular season to Texas Tech sandwiched in-between.

Based on what the crowd and a split-national television audience witnessed last night, the Sooners would be wise to make sure they defeat Texas A&M (5-4, 2-3) if they want to continue Stoops' streak of going to a bowl game after every season in his OU tenure.

OU has often struggled on the road at Texas Tech (6-3, 3-2). And even though the Bedlam game will be on

Owen Field, OSU (7-2, 4-1) should enter confident of victory after the Cowboys rolled to an impressive win Saturday at Iowa State.

If the Sooners lose to the Red Raiders and Pokes, they will desperately need to defeat the Aggies to gain the sixth win required to become bowl-eligible.

So a season that started with hopes of playing for the BCS national championship at the Rose Bowl has dissolved into OU trying to win enough games to avoid playing in the unattractive Independence Bowl.

That was the site of the first of Stoops' 10 straight bowl appearances, and he undoubtedly would like to avoid a second visit in the last season the Big 12 has a contract with the bowl in Shreveport, La.

The only real positive for OU in last night's nightmare was the inspired play of a never-quiet defense. The Sooners allowed only 180 total yards and seven first downs, and gave the offense the ball in Husker territory numerous times.

But that was expected against a Nebraska (6-3, 3-2) offense which had slumped badly in its last three games, with two home losses and

a narrow road victory at Baylor.

Just a week ago, when the Sooners held off a determined second-half comeback against Kansas State, Stoops said he was excited because he saw "signs of becoming a complete team."

He was optimistic because the offense had finally held up its end when the defense surrendered 30 points against the Wildcats.

Jones seemed to be coming into his own after he was named the Big 12's offensive player of the week for his play against K-State.

Last night was just the latest chapter in a season-long story of the offense failing to produce.

It's a problem the Sooners have not figured out how to overcome after they lost Bradford and All-America tight end Jermaine Gresham.

But those other offensive struggles, however, didn't come close to resembling the bleak OU performance against a Nebraska team that the Sooners beat 62-28 last season.

There was one way to describe it — ugly.

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## OU:

Besides struggles on offense, Sooners also miss 3 field goals.

FROM B1

It was the fewest points scored by an Oklahoma team in 11 seasons under head coach Bob Stoops — worst since a shutout at Texas A&M in 1998. It also was the lowest-scoring game in the series since a 7-3 Nebraska victory in 1988.

"OU, we don't come in here to put up three points," said wideout Ryan Broyles. "That's not what we do. We have 12, we win the game."

For an OU team that set an NCAA record with 99 touchdowns last season, it was a nightmare.

"It's kind of happened enough," said offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson. "Somebody, or something's gotta



OU receiver Ryan Broyles had eight catches for 74 yards. STEPHEN PINGRY/Tulsa World

change. ... What you saw today was very similar to what you saw in the opener (a 14-13 loss to BYU). That's disappointing, because it's Week 9."

OU's defense was better than ever, but the offense committed crippling penalties on virtually every drive, and quarterback Landry Jones — who earlier this season set a school record with six touchdown passes in a game — tied a school mark by throwing five interceptions.

"I know y'all want to shoot at one person," Broyles said, "but he's just one player, and he's a young quarterback. We all need to play better."

The Cornhuskers improved to 6-3 overall and 3-2 in Big 12 Conference play, while the Sooners fell to 5-4 and 3-2.

A crowd of 86,115, the second-largest in the history of the stadium, roared its approval throughout the slugfest, despite the fact that their team managed just 180 yards of total offense and seven first downs.

With the Sooner offense abandoning an ineffective running game, Landry Jones had his roughest start of the season, completing just 26-of-58 passes — tying a school record for attempts — for 245 yards with no touchdowns and five interceptions.

"Didn't expect that from Landry," Wilson said.

The Sooners' hopes looked buried when a fourth-and-4 pass from Jones was intercepted by Nebraska linebacker Phillip Dillard — a Jenks

graduate — with 2:31 to play.

But OU's defense forced another three-and-out and Broyles gave the Sooners more one more breath with a 35-yard punt return to the Nebraska 49 with 41 seconds left.

"I knew we needed field position," Broyles said, "but if I could, I was gonna try and score."

Instead, Broyles was tackled on the sideline and, just two plays later, Jones threw his fifth interception, an inexplicable second-down Hail Mary to the 10-yard line with 27 seconds to play. Wilson said Jones missed Broyles open underneath for what might have been an 18-yard gain to keep the drive alive.

Instead, Jones heaved a bomb into a swarm of Nebraska defenders.

"I just rushed myself and didn't get the whole signal," Jones said.

In the first quarter, the teams combined for zero points, one first down and 32 total yards on 29 snaps.

The respective defenses undoubtedly caused much of the havoc. Nebraska came into the game ranked ninth nationally in total defense, and the Sooners ranked 11th, both yielding well under 300 yards per game.

"They have a heck of a defense," Wilson said.

But foundering offenses also shouldered the blame.

"I'd like to have a couple of those throws back," Jones said. "Left a couple high. Can't have that."

OU's defense wasn't perfect. Nebraska's Roy Helu rushed for 138 yards. And special teams were costly. Tress Way, who took over the placekicker duties for an inconsistent Jimmy Stevens two weeks ago, missed three of his four field goal attempts, including two on the Sooners' first two possessions.

In all, 11 of the Sooners' 16 drives ended up in Nebraska territory, but Sooner mistakes — and Cornhusker defense — made points scarce. OU finished with 325 yards

on 87 plays, but five interceptions, three missed field goals and three failed fourth-down plays were all too much to overcome.

The Sooners' only points came with 24 seconds left in the first half, when Way kicked a 28-yard field goal.

Nebraska's only points of the first half came after Prince Amukamara intercepted a Jones pass and returned it to the OU 1-yard line. From there, quarterback Zac Lee threw a 1-yard pass to Ryan Hill. Lee, formerly the starter, replaced freshman Cody Green, who was ineffective in the first quarter.

The Huskers' other points, a 28-yard field goal by Alex Henery, also came after a Jones interception.

Nebraska safety Matt O'Hanlon picked off Jones three times.

"Man, just give credit to Nebraska," Jones said. "They've got a great defense."

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## BIG 12 ROUNDUP

# K-State tops Jayhawks; Baylor outguns Mizzou

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Snyder orchestrated a massive turnaround in his first stint as Kansas State's coach, transforming a team with more losses than any other into a national title contender.

After a rough start, his second reclamation project seems to be going well, too.

Daniel Thomas ran for 185 yards and a touchdown, and the Wildcats harassed Todd Reesing into three turnovers to remain in control of the Big 12 North with a 17-10 victory over rival Kansas on Saturday in Manhattan, Kan.

Picked to finish at the bottom of the Big 12, Kansas State (6-4, 4-2) has won three straight games against Big 12 North opponents and is 5-0 in the Little Apple since Snyder returned to the stadium that bears his name.

The Wildcats stayed close against Kansas by forcing two fumbles and an interception by Reesing in the first half, then took over in the second behind Thomas' bruising running to end a three-game losing streak to Kansas (5-4, 1-4) in the 107th version of the Sunflower Showdown.

Two games from the finish, Kansas State is inexplicably in position to reach its first Big 12 championship game since 2003.

"It's about trying to build whatever it is you're trying to build, kind of put one stone on top of the other," said Snyder, who is 14-4 against Kansas. "Hopefully, over a period of time, it'll take us where we'd



Missouri's Danario Alexander (left) and coach Gary Pinkel watch the final seconds tick off the clock during Saturday's loss to Baylor. L.G. PATTERSON/Associated Press

like to be. This is a step."

Reesing had another forgettable game a week after being benched, undone by early turnovers, occasionally wobbly passes and a few drops.

Shibley's record day leads Texas: Jordan Shibley set a Texas record with 273 yards receiving, including an 88-yard touchdown, and the No. 2 Longhorns shook off a slow start for a 35-3 win over Central Florida in Austin, Texas.

The sixth-year senior broke the previous best of 242 yards set in 1987 by Tony Jones. The touchdown came early in the

fourth quarter on a drive that started at the 1.

Colt McCoy passed for 470 yards with two touchdowns. He was just shy of current Texas running backs coach Major Applewhite's school-record 473 yards in the 2001 Holiday Bowl.

Texas (9-0) led 14-3 at halftime on two touchdown runs by Cody Johnson. McCoy hit James Kirkendoll with a 14-yard TD pass in the third before the big strike to Shibley, who also shattered the previous regular-season mark of 198 set in 1979 by Johnny

"Lam" Jones.

Central Florida (5-4) managed just 151 total yards.

Texas established the McCoy-to-Shibley connection as one of the country's best long ago, but seldom have the two been as in sync as Saturday.

Long passes to Shibley kept Texas' two scoring drives moving in the first half. And when pinned on the Texas goal line early in the fourth, a pass to John Chiles got the ball to the 12 before Shibley made a double move to slip behind coverage and snared the ball from McCoy in stride.

Those two had to keep connecting on a day the Longhorns seemed to struggle on offense.

Colorado bounces back, beats A&M: Tyler Hansen overcame his second-straight eight-sack game to lead Colorado to a 35-34 win over the Texas A&M Aggies in Boulder, Colo.

Patrick Devenny's one-handed grab from 22 yards out tied it and Aric Goodman's conversion sailed through to put the Buffaloes ahead by a point with 2:04 left.

After defensive back Anthony Perkins picked off Jerrod Johnson's pass at midfield, the Aggies forced a punt, but Terrence Frederick muffed it and Buffs linebacker Marcus Burton recovered with 23 seconds to ice it.

Rodney Stewart ran 20 times for 118 yards and two touchdowns and Markques Simas caught seven passes for 135 yards for Colorado (3-6, 2-3 Big 12), which got the ball back with 3:53 left trailing 34-28.

Hansen had a delay flag and then was sacked for the seventh time, bringing up a second-and-25 from his 24. He was nearly dumped again but got off a shovel pass for 9 yards, then hit Simas for 45 yards to the Aggies' 22. On the next snap, he threw over the middle to Devenny for the score.

Then, their defense and special teams came up big.

The Aggies (5-4, 2-3) looked like they were about to become bowl eligible when Cyrus Gray, whose 99-yard touchdown on a kickoff return helped them take a 21-10 halftime lead, returned a kickoff 45 yards to midfield in the fourth quarter. Cornerback Jalil Brown shoved him late out of bounds, tacking on another 15 yards.

Florence's passing helps Baylor top Missouri: Freshman Nick Florence passed for a school-record 427 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a fourth as Baylor beat Missouri 40-32 in Columbia, Mo.

Kendall Wright set career highs with 10 receptions for 149 yards and two touchdowns as the Bears (4-5, 1-4) ended a 13-game Big 12 road losing streak and beat Missouri for the first time in eight tries in conference play. Baylor, worst in the conference

against the run, rallied from an 11-point halftime deficit and held Missouri to 10 yards rushing on 25 carries.

Danario Alexander had a career-high 13 receptions for 214 yards and two scores for Missouri (5-4, 1-4), which has lost three straight at home for the first time since 2004. Alexander's 84-yard reception in the second quarter, the last 65 yards after bouncing off a tackler, was the Tigers' longest play of the season.

Missouri's Blaine Gabbert passed for the second highest total in school history, going 30 for 51 for 468 yards and two touchdowns. But he was shut down along with the rest of the MU offense in the second half. The Tigers made it to the Baylor 16 in the final minute before running out of downs.

Baylor had been allowing 179.5 yards rushing per game, and the lowest opponent total before Saturday was Wake Forest's 126 yards in the season opener.

Baylor averaged 8.5 points in its first four conference games and went without a first-half touchdown three straight games before embarrassing Missouri behind Florence, who began the year as the third-string quarterback and moved up due to injuries.

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