



Cincinnati defense to challenge OU

Sooners hope their talented receivers can overcome a heralded unit.

BY JOHN E. HOOVER
World Sports Writer

NORMAN — This path looks familiar to Oklahoma players.

The Sooners open the season with an overmatched cupcake, then get a potential powerhouse in Week 2.

Last year, Miami followed North Texas, a game OU won 79-10. This year Cincinnati follows Tennessee-Chattanooga, a game OU won 57-2.

In 2007, the Sooners were focused

and determined and put a 51-13 beat-down on a Hurricanes team loaded with NFL-caliber talent.

The Bearcats (1-0) present a similar challenge. Can the No. 4-ranked Sooners (1-0) come out on Saturday — a 2:30 p.m. ABC-televised contest at Owen Field — and do it again?

“For the most part, through the summer and preseason, we felt that (OU players) embraced, for an experienced team, a levelness about them and a work ethic that you appreciate,” offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson said. “But I would hope our guys are excited about this opportunity.”

SEE **OU B9**

CINCINNATI AT OKLAHOMA

2:30 p.m. Saturday
Owen Field, Norman

TV: KTUL-8

Radio: KMOD fm97.5, KTBZ am1430

Weather: The forecast for today's Oklahoma-Cincinnati game calls for partly cloudy skies, a slight breeze and temperatures in the mid-80s. There is a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Records: Cincinnati 1-0, No. 4 Oklahoma 1-0

Series: First meeting

Stoops may deny it, but some stats don't lie

NORMAN — Bob Stoops is a charter member of the football coaching fraternity that subscribes to the theory that statistics are for losers.

Pass defense, in particular, is a stat that can make Oklahoma's coach get more than a little, well, defensive.

“That's such a foolish stat,” Stoops said. “When I was (co-defensive coordinator) at Kansas State, we led the nation in pass defense because everybody was



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running all over us and didn't have to pass.”

Good point. But that was only

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HOUSTON AT OKLAHOMA STATE



The west end zone of Boone Pickens Stadium is still under construction, but the stadium now holds 60,000. Completion of the west-end football complex is expected in August 2009. JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

Welcome to OSU's big house

HOUSTON AT OKLAHOMA STATE

6:05 p.m. Saturday

Boone Pickens Stadium, Stillwater

TV: None

Radio: KFAQ am1170, KRVT am1270

Weather: Temperature at kickoff is expected to be about 80 degrees. The big question is whether it will rain. There is a 40 percent of scattered thunderstorms.

Records: Houston 1-0, OSU 1-0

Last meeting: 2006, Houston, 34-25

Series: Houston leads 9-8-1

Cowboys and Cougars are set to collide at newly expanded Boone Pickens Stadium

BY BILL HAISTEN
World Sports Writer

EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY since every current Oklahoma State football players enrolled as freshmen, Boone Pickens Stadium has been a construction zone.

“It's part of the routine — dust and mud and gravel.” Cowboy senior cornerback Jacob Lacey said. “But it looks great now. Our old stadium (Lewis Field) looked like my high

school stadium.”

On Saturday in Stillwater, the Cowboys face Houston at 6:05 p.m.

It is more than just a game. It qualifies as an occasion — the first game played since the Boone Pickens Stadium seating capacity was increased from 44,700 to 60,000.

“It's our first game in the big house,” Lacey said. “I hope it's packed up to the top.”

OSU's expansion project first included

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THE TWO TODDS

Todd Graham (left) and Todd Dodge: The coaches for Tulsa and North Texas, respectively, honed their coaching skills on the high school level before taking college jobs.

Coaches paid their dues first

Graham, Dodge worked at high school programs.

BY MIKE BROWN
World Sports Writer

Coaching high school football was a formative experience for each of the two Todds who will guide their teams Saturday when the University of Tulsa visits North Texas.

TULSA AT NORTH TEXAS

6 p.m. Saturday

Fouts Field, Denton, Texas.

TV: Cox cable 3

Radio: KRMG am740

Weather: 92 degrees and sunny at kickoff, with temperatures dropping to the mid-70s overnight. Light winds out of the southeast.

Records: Tulsa 1-0, North Texas 0-1

Last meeting: 2006, Tulsa, 28-3

Series: Tulsa leads 15-6

Graham moved up gradually to become a college head coach after making high school coaching stops at Midwest City's Carl Albert (1994) and Allen, Texas (1995-00).

Dodge made the leap all at once. Two years ago, he was architect of the most successful high school program in Texas. Southlake

SEE **TU B9**

TU to be on TV

Cox Communications announced Friday afternoon that Tulsa's game at North Texas on Saturday will be televised at by Cox Communications' channel 3. Cox is picking up the feed from Dallas television station KTXA.

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