

Cowboys take first plane trip since fatal crash

By Doug Alden
The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — One day after an emotional win in Oklahoma State's first game since a plane crash killed 10 people, the Cowboys boarded a plane again.

All three planes carrying players, coaches and staff arrived safely Tuesday evening in Lincoln on Oklahoma State's first road trip since the Jan. 27 crash that killed two players and eight other members of the traveling party.

The team left Stillwater, Okla., late in the afternoon aboard three corporate jets. The original plan was to take two jets and a Beechcraft King Air — the kind of plane that crashed late last month while returning from Colorado — but coach Eddie Sutton said a friend of the program came forward Tuesday and provided a third jet.

The players who arrived on the

first two planes were ushered away from waiting media at the Lincoln Municipal Airport by Oklahoma State staff and not allowed to talk.

"We just felt it would be better this way," said Tom Dirato, radio and television coordinator for the school.

"It just didn't serve any purpose to have to live this over and over again," he said. "We're trying hard to heal and every time this comes back up, it sets us back a little."

Sutton's plane took off later than planned because Cowboy forward Andre Williams had car trouble and was delayed in getting to the airport. Players Victor Williams, Fredrik Jonzen and Maurice Baker also flew on Sutton's plane.

Members of a support group called the Spurs, who act as hostesses for the basketball program, gave small gifts to the players as they arrived at the Stillwater air-

port. The players wore black warm-up suits and were quiet as they boarded the jets.

Reserve center Jack Marlow carried an Indian symbol called a Dreamcatcher, a round hoop with weavings and hanging feathers. Another player, Jason Keep, walked around the front end of the first plane and looked the plane over before getting on board.

The Spurs applauded Sutton as he arrived with his wife, Patsy. He shook hands with the pilot and copilot and got on board. A man and a young woman prayed together on the patio area where people can watch the planes take off and arrive.

Sutton said he and athletic department officials were still working to secure larger charter planes for remaining road games. Sutton called the NBA on Monday, trying to get access to one of the league's

planes, but all of them were in use.

"The only one we could find seats 127 passengers, and I didn't think we could take that many people to Lincoln," Sutton said.

On Tuesday, he called the president of Ozark Airlines, the company used by Missouri's basketball team.

"I gave them our dates, and he's going to see if there's any way he can help us out," Sutton said.

The Cowboys played their first game since the crash Monday night, beating Missouri 69-66. After the game Sutton and his players cried in celebration.

Nebraska coach Barry Collier expected more emotions Wednesday.

"Every time the thought of their team comes to mind I think of the tragedy first. I can only imagine what they're going through," Collier said.

Three days after the crash, Williams said it would probably be awhile before any of the players wanted to get on a small plane. But Sutton said Monday night that the players opted to fly on the small jets as opposed to taking a bus, which he said he would have done if they wished.

"They all thought that 55 minutes (by plane) sounds better than eight hours, so all of them were OK with it," he said.

Jonzen, whose roommate Nate Fleming was among those killed, said last week that the crash was "a tragic accident" that shouldn't deter the team from continuing to travel as it always has.

"Even though it's going to be tough right now to get on a plane, you still have to remember accidents can happen any day," he said. "They can be in a car, in a plane, whatever."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 7). Your partner wants to take control, so there's a battle pending. Don't worry, you'll both emerge stronger and wiser. Opposites definitely attract in February. Heed a dear friend or sibling's advice in April and play by old-fashioned rules in May. Set long-term goals together in June and formalize your agreement in August. By November no obstacles can stop you. In December celebrate your new status.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Listen to a loved one who may oppose your team strategy. The opposition is most likely right. A surprising development will probably convince you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 5 — If you thought you were stubborn, you ought to see who's hassling it out today. In fact, you probably will. You might be just off to one side of the argument. That's a good place to stay. Don't offer advice unless they ask for it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Set priorities or you'll spend all day running back and forth. Organize your list so you can be more efficient.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 5 — Be careful if you're a wheeler-dealer. First you have the advantage, then the other person does, then you. Just remember what the other person did before, and you can come out the winner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — You're pretty confident, but are you realistic or just full of bravado? Ask yourself that question. The other person's not swaggering quite as much but could be a little smarter. Initially, anyway.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 4 — No one seems to know what you're supposed to be doing at work. You might figure it out before they do. Wait until they stop arguing; it's hard for them to listen when they're hollering at each other.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — You're looking pretty good. And you could be quite useful. You're a natural arbitrator, and people nearby need one. They may ask you to intervene if their negotiations are breaking down. Perhaps you could make a tactful suggestion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — You're a great strategist, but first figure out which side should win. A current battle can help you achieve your objectives. First make up your mind, then watch for your opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — You're not one of the students or one of the teachers. You're monitoring this class and have nothing to lose. You already know most of the answers, too. Be gentle.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 4 — Pay attention to where your money is going. If anybody else is spending it, make sure it's being spent wisely. The other person may have the authority, but you have the common sense.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — You'll need to use your imagination, your creativity and also your wit. Take care, however. If this is the same person you've argued with before, an old trick might not work this time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 4 — Stop and think before you act. What you do now might be hard to undo later. An old carpenter's motto says, "Measure three times and cut once." There's a reason for that.

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