

College Football

Baylor rolls over Boise State at Cactus Bowl

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

PHOENIX — KD Cannon had 14 catches for a Cactus Bowl-record 226 yards and two touchdowns, helping Baylor end a difficult season with a 31-12 victory over Boise State on Tuesday night.

Baylor (7-6) went into a downward spiral the last half of the season after opening with six straight wins. Quarterback Seth Russell suffered a season-ending ankle injury, the sexual assault scandal that cost coach Art Briles his job continued to linger and the losses piled up, six straight to end the regular season.

The Bears ended on a positive note by revving up their quick-hitting offense again behind freshman quarterback Zach Smith, who threw for 375 yards and three scores.

“I couldn’t be more proud of these guys,” Baylor interim coach Jim Grobe said. “We’ve been through a lot of adversity together. I love every one of these guys and they know that. This is a family win.”

Boise State (10-3) tried to keep up with the Bears, but struggled in the red zone: two field goals, an interception in the end zone and a failed fourth down try.

Boise State started with single coverage on Cannon and the Bears exploited it throughout the first half.

The Baylor junior scored on a 30-yard pass from Smith in the first quarter, out-leaping Boise State’s Jonathan Moxey in the end zone, then beat him on a 68-yard score in the second to put Baylor up 14-3. Cannon had eight catches for 182 yards and two TDs by halftime.

“We just had to prove a point,”

Cannon said. “Coming off a bad season, we had to finish strong for Baylor Nation and coach Briles.”

Smith had some ups and downs in three games after Russell broke his ankle, but had a month to prepare for the Cactus Bowl. The freshman from Texas was sharp with the extra work, completing 28 of 39 passes. He also threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Ishmael Zamora in the fourth quarter to put Baylor up 31-6.

Boise State’s Brett Rypien moved the Broncos up and down the field, but had his share of mistakes.

He threw an interception at the Baylor 5-yard line on Boise State’s second drive and had an overthrow on what would likely have been a touchdown later in the first quarter, forcing the Broncos to settle for a field goal.



Baylor defensive end Tyrone Hunt (90) stands over Boise State quarterback Brett Rypien (4) after a sack during the second half of the Cactus Bowl NCAA college football game, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2016, in Phoenix. Baylor won 31-12.

AP Photo/Rick Scuteri

FANTASY CAMP: College players go from campers to instructors

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nothing more than a text message to enlist the talents of former PHS standouts Tommy Lane, Alex O’Rourke and Lane Richards to headline the hitting, catching and fielding portions, respectively.

Spots in the camp were limited to about 15 players, and were items placed up for bid at the Buck Booster auction held in February.

“This was something that the opportunity was afforded and we probably could expand on it, but it’s something we do to help promote Buck Boosters who support Pendleton athletics in general,” Zander said. “It’s something that we want to keep fairly exclusive to people who go to Buck Boosters and support Buck Boosters.”

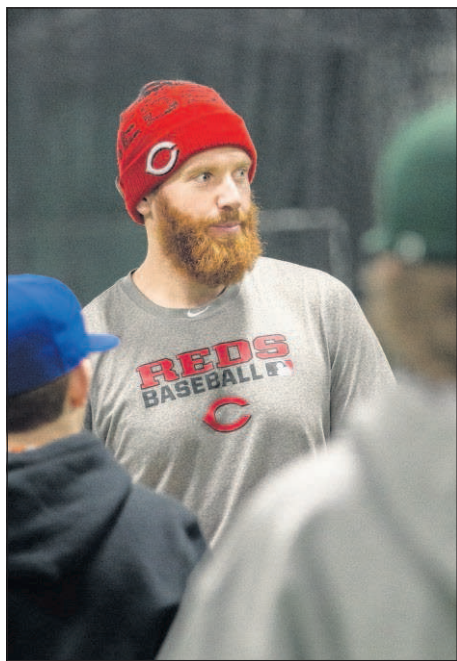
With just a few hours to work with the players, Straily said he wanted to keep things simple and focus on showing them exercises and drills they could do on their own and indoors.

“You don’t need a big facility, you don’t need the Arizona weather. You can get better at baseball in a facility just like this,” he said of the cozy indoor practice facility at Bob White Field. “This has everything you need to get better.”

“As long as these kids come here and I can motivate them, or teach them one thing, I feel like I’ve done my job. That’s all it’s really about for me, is coming back here and showing them something that I wish I would have known at their age.”

If that’s the case, Straily can mark this one in the win column.

Kyle Field, an eighth-grader at Sunridge Middle School, attended the inaugural fantasy camp in 2015



“That’s all it’s really about for me, is coming back here and showing them something that I wish I would have known at their age.”

— Dan Straily, Cincinnati Reds pitcher who grew up in Pendleton before his family moved away while he was in high school.



TOP: Dan Straily is shown during a brief moment of inactivity during Tuesday’s pitching camp. BOTTOM: Alex O’Rourke, who just signed to play baseball for George Washington University, tosses a ball to Clayton Cooley, an aspiring young catcher who attended Tuesday’s baseball clinic.

and said he asked his parents to bid on the item again this year.

“It was a no-brainer, I really

wanted to come, it’s really fun pitching with Dan,” he said. “I learn a lot of stuff about training and recovery, not so much pitching in games but what to do before and after.”

Straily’s largest impact may have been not what he taught, but just his presence.

“It’s pretty cool just for him to come here to Pendleton. I mean it’s pretty small, so to have a big leaguer all the way from Cincinnati come over here, it’s pretty neat,” said Field, who also said he’d like to one day pitch in the majors. “I mean, if he did it why can’t anybody else?”

That’s a good question, and one Lane and O’Rourke are still pursuing the answer to at the collegiate level. They were both participating as instructors for the second time during their holiday breaks.

“I would have loved to have something like this when I was a kid,” said Lane, the PHS home-run record holder who is going into his final season at Marshall University. “I’m going to teach them the same thing I’m being taught right now, make them learn muscle memory and become good hitters.”

O’Rourke, who took a redshirt as a freshman at Oregon State, is playing a transition season at Linn-Benton Community College before transferring back to Div. I at George Washington University.

“It’s always important seeing the kids have fun, and they like hanging out with us so we try to be good role models and show them what it takes, and try to keep the dream alive for them,” he said. “It seems like I should still be in high school, and I’m still their age, but it’s fun to be back and help the kids get better.”

Richards, a four-year starter at shortstop for Notre Dame (2013-16)

who now works for an accounting firm in Seattle, said these types of camps were crucial to his development as a player so he’s always willing to give his time when it’s available.

“Dating all the way back to Little League, every year I went to the local high school camp and I loved doing those,” he said. “I loved seeing the older guys and what they’re doing, just feeling like I was part of the community. And I think that’s just something that our community does really well with baseball. We grow as a whole and the older guys are always helping the younger guys.”

And at least in one way, the younger guys gave an assist to one of the vets as well.

“I’m learning a little bit better on how to coach and do a little bit of stuff like that, because that’s definitely not my forte,” Straily said. “But it’s helped me. Talking about baseball helps me become a better baseball player, a better pitcher.”

For Zander, watching that interaction play out has been the true dream come true during this fantasy camp.

“Nobody in Pendleton coaches for money,” he said. “It’s for the relationships they build with other people and the youngsters they help raise. And it’s nice when they come back and you can actually call them your friends and sit down and have adult conversations with them, and then watch them execute and pass down things they’ve learned to the future Buckaroos. It’s very, very rewarding.”

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EAGLES: Defense keys win for girls

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quarter.

Case finished with just five points but had a team-high 10 rebounds. Mick Schimmel scored a game-high 17 points to lead the team.

Austin Carter was high-point for Ione with 13.

Next up for Nixyaawii is a tournament game against South Wasco in Echo on Thursday at 6 p.m. Ione is at Riverside for a non-league game on Thursday at 4 p.m.

IHS	7	4	10	13	—	34
NCS	12	9	5	21	—	47

IONE — A. Carter 13, T. Carter 8, D. McElligott 8, H. Aguilera 5, C. Hollis, T. Epperson, M. Orem, J. Heideman.

NIXYAAWII — M. Schimmel 17, D. Barkley 7, J. St. Pierre 6, N. Enright 6, C. Case 5, J. Church 3, A. Matamoros 3, S. Hoisington.

3-pointers — IHS 2; NCS 5. Free throws — IHS 4-12; NCS 6-11. Fouls — IHS 15; NCS 10.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

NIXYAAWII 68, IONE 24 — AT Mission, the undefeated Golden Eagles used their full-court press to rack up some quick points and kept the tempo fast even after backing off to pick up a non-league win on Tuesday.

Mary Stewart led Nixyaawii (6-0) with 31 points, 10 steals and seven assists, and Milan Schimmel added 12 points and seven assists while Kaitlynn Melton chipped in 18 more points.

As a team the Golden Eagles had 29 steals, 18 assists and only four turnovers, and coach Jeremy Maddern said he was pleased to see everyone getting involved on the defensive end.

Maggie Flynn had 13 points to lead Ione (0-7), which trailed 26-11 at the end of the first quarter.

Nixyaawii’s next game is Thursday against South Wasco. They’ll play the game



Ermia Butler (30), of Nixyaawii, comes down with a rebound Tuesday night in a non-league girls’ basketball game against Ione in Mission.

in Echo with a 6 p.m. tip-off as part of the annual Bounc’n Cancer Tournament to raise funds that will go toward helping local cancer patients.

Ione will be at Riverside on Thursday for a non-league game starting at 4 p.m.

IHS	11	2	4	6	—	24
NCS	26	15	23	4	—	68

IONE — M. Flynn 13, M. Orem 5, K. Gilbert 2, S. Knop 2, S. Qualls 2, I. Sandford, M. Heideman, E. Taylor, A. Medina.

NIXYAAWII — M. Stewart 31, K. Melton 18, M. Schimmel 12, T. Melton 4, E. Looney 3, S. Fitzpatrick 2, A. Tonasket, S. Patrick, T. Broncheau, E. Butler, K. Mountainchief.

3-pointers — IHS 3; NCS 4. Free throws — IHS 3-10; NCS 6-7. Fouls — IHS 9; NCS 8.

HOLIDAY BOWL:

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players were suspended after a sexual assault investigation, won 17-12 on Tuesday night.

The Golden Gophers (9-4) were looking to regroup after backing down from a threat to skip this game if their teammates suspended after the investigation weren’t reinstated. Their boycott lasted less than 36 hours, with university leadership never blinking. The players backed down amid pressure from many who read details of the allegations.

“I don’t think it’s a matter of anybody not wanting to be here. It’s just a matter of wishing our brothers could be here with us as well,” Leidner said. “I love this team, these coaches. You couldn’t ask for a better way to go out. I’m just really proud of these guys.”

Brooks’ TD catch was one of the few exciting plays in an otherwise pedestrian edition of what traditionally has been one of the country’s most exciting bowl games.

WSU cornerback Marcellus Pippins reached up with his right hand and deflected Leidner’s pass in the end zone but it went right to Brooks for the TD and a 10-6 lead. That capped an 84-yard, 10-play drive on Minnesota’s first possession of the second half.

The Gophers had to face Falk and WSU’s normally high-powered Air Raid offense without starting defensive backs KiAnte Hardin and Antoine Winfield Jr., and key backup Antonio Shenault, who were among the suspended players.

Their replacements stepped up.

“You’ve got to go off practice, and those kids practiced awfully well,” coach Tracy Claeys said. “They did a tremendous job. All of them played their tails off. When you get in those situations and you’re missing people, it all goes back to that the next person’s got to step up and you ask them to do things, they’re going to do it. Nobody’s going to be successful if you ask them to do things you’re not very good at.”

WSU (8-5) ended on a three-game losing streak and was held to its lowest point total of the season. The Cougars had

scored more than 50 points four times this season, a school record.

The Golden Gophers frustrated Falk most of the game, holding him to 264 yards — 86 below his average — on 30-of-51 passing. Falk didn’t crack 200 yards until the final minutes, when he led a drive capped by an 8-yard TD pass to Kyle Sweet. After three tries due to Minnesota penalties, the conversion attempt failed. Minnesota then recovered an onside kick.

Falk came in having completed 71 percent of his passes in throwing for 4,204 yards and 37 touchdowns. The Cougars were ranked second in the nation in passing.

Falk was intercepted by Adekunle Ayinde on fourth down with 3:05 left. That set up Rodney Smith’s 9-yard TD run with 2:06 left for a 17-6 lead.

“I don’t think we played well offensively at all,” coach Mike Leach said. “We never got any rhythm. We were frantic. You can say we were rusty and had some time off, whatever it is. We tried to make things happen and then when it didn’t happen, we got frantic. We unraveled. We were putting on the sidelines.”

WSU lead 6-3 after a lackluster first half that included just three field goals.

The Cougars crossed the 50 just twice, getting field goals of 26 and 41 yards by Erik Powell.

Powell’s second field goal was set up when Nnamdi Oguayo hit Leidner and forced a fumble that Isaac Dotson recovered at the Golden Gophers’ 38.

Minnesota got a 43-yard field goal by Emmitt Carpenter in the second quarter.

TAKEAWAY

Minnesota: The Golden Gophers had only 110 yards of total offense in the first half before finally coming alive in the second half. Smith gained 74 yards on 17 carries. He came in averaging 90 yards.

Washington State: The Air Raid offense was a no-show. After Powell kicked a field goal to cap WSU’s first drive, the Cougars went three-and-out on their next four possessions. The Cougars had to settle for Powell’s 41-yard field goal at the end of the first half after Falk’s pass to Tavares Martin Jr. to the 1 was overturned after review.