

Huskers' Fyfe Driven By His Desire For Scholarship

BY ERIC OLSON

AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's Ryker Fyfe has turned his frustration over being a walk-on into positive energy.

To the surprise of many, but certainly not Fyfe, the redshirt sophomore has passed heralded 2013 recruit Johnny Stanton on his way to the No. 2 quarterback's job behind Tommy Armstrong Jr.

It's been quite the ascent for Fyfe, whose only scholarship offer coming out of Grand Island High was from Division II Nebraska-Kearney.

"It does fuel your fire," Fyfe said. "I thought after my senior year I'd have a bunch of offers. I was like, 'I feel I'm a D1 player.'"

Fyfe accepted Nebraska's invitation to walk on and brought with

him an "I'll-show-them" attitude. He hopes to be among the players awarded scholarships at the end of the week.

Offensive coordinator Tim Beck said Nebraska didn't have a scholarship available for Fyfe after Armstrong verbally committed to the 2012 recruiting class. That Fyfe wasn't offered by any Division I school surprised Beck.

"I thought he was a good enough player," Beck said, "but we didn't really have enough to take two. Getting him was like getting two."

It's helped Fyfe that he has a year's more experience than Stanton, who was on the scout team last year, and that the roster isn't packed with quarterbacks. Four-year starter Taylor Martinez and backup Ron Kellogg III exhausted their eligibility. Four-star recruit Bubba Starling signed in 2011 but

decided to pursue professional baseball, and Brion Carnes and walk-on Bronson Marsh transferred.

That left Fyfe the presumptive No. 3 QB last spring almost by default. Stanton led one of the nation's top teams at Rancho Santa Margarita (Calif.) Catholic High and was ranked among the top 30 quarterback prospects. With those credentials, he was considered the front-runner to be the top backup or maybe challenge Armstrong for the starter's job.

Fyfe ramped up his underdog approach to compete with and pull even with Stanton.

"I decided I'm going to go out there and attack it," Fyfe said. "I don't have much to lose. I'm a walk-on and I only get to do this once, so I'm going to go out and do it and prove myself."

After his strong showing in the

spring game, Fyfe was named co-No. 2 QB with Stanton, ahead of another big-time recruit, Zack Darlington. It became apparent early in preseason practice that Fyfe had separated himself from Stanton.

"He's a walk-on, and nothing is really given to him," Armstrong said. "He's earned everything. He's in the film room, and he's making the right decisions and he's leading the right way. He's in the same grade as I am, and we're making each other better by coming out here and competing."

Fyfe passed for 3,400 yards and 34 touchdowns his last two years of high school. He was 15-6 those two years and never advanced Grand Island past the second round of the playoffs.

That he wasn't offered a scholarship by Nebraska followed a trend. The last homegrown quarterback

who arrived in Lincoln on scholarship, and who took snaps in a game, was 2001 Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch. Kellogg, an Omaha native who split time with Armstrong last year, was put on scholarship for his final season.

"I'm sure Nebraska high school football isn't as good as it is down in Texas or in California and Florida," Fyfe said, naming the home states of Armstrong, Stanton and Darlington. "You've got kids like Johnny and Zack who won state championships, and that's appealing to the coach's eye. I didn't even win in Nebraska."

Now that he's the top backup, he refuses to slip into complacency.

"I have to keep hold of it right here to end fall camp," he said, "and still keep pushing Tommy every day for No. 1."

Bucks Blank Arrows In Opener

Former NFL LB Tim Shaw Says He Has ALS

WATERTOWN — The Yankton Bucks opened the 2014 season with a 2-0 victory over Watertown in Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' soccer action on Tuesday.

Cole Lewno put back a rebound for the first Yankton goal. John Dannenbring added an insurance goal off a penalty kick.

Gabe Wenzlaff stopped two shots, including one penalty kick, in goal for Yankton.

Yankton hosts Huron on Friday.

Pierre 7, Mitchell 0

PIERRE — Cole Cruse had three goals and two assists to lead Pierre to a 7-0 victory over Mitchell in Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' soccer action on Tuesday.

Marcus Hluchy had two goals and an assist, and Alan Garcia scored twice for Pierre. Cody Kuehl had two assists and Thomas Peitz added an assist for the Governors.

Pierre travels to Brookings on Saturday. Mitchell hosts Watertown on Thursday.

Harrisburg 6, Huron 3

HARRISBURG — Tarek Nour scored twice to lead Harrisburg to a 6-3 victory over Huron in Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' soccer action on Tuesday.

Tate Voss, Alex Sjovold and Jackson White also scored for Harrisburg. Harrisburg's other score was an own-goal.

Harrisburg hosts Aberdeen Central on Saturday. Huron travels to Yankton on Friday.



Boyd Tesch/Watertown Public Opinion
Watertown's Sawyer Strait and Yankton's Isaac Schulz battle for possession during their boys' soccer match on Tuesday in Watertown. Yankton scored two first-half goals in a 2-0 victory in the season opener for both squads.

Miller's Injury Sting Big Ten's Playoff Hopes

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

This is bigger than the Buckeyes. Ohio State quarterback Braxton Miller is done for the season because of a shoulder injury. The senior needs surgery to repair of torn labrum.

It's a crushing blow on a few levels:

— Miller is one of the best and most entertaining players in the country. He ran for 1,068 yards, passed for 2,094 and accounted for 36 touchdowns. He was a legitimate Heisman Trophy contender. In the statement released by Ohio State making the news official, he said he wants to return to Columbus for another season.

"I am on course to graduate in December and I want to attend graduate school, and then return to lead the Buckeyes next season. In the meantime, I want to give all the support I can to my coaches and teammates as they chase a championship this season," he said.

It's a nice sentiment, but after two surgeries on his shoulder in less than a year Miller's future as a quarterback at any level is in doubt. And that's unfortunate.

— For No. 5 Ohio State, a season that had championship hopes — both Big Ten and national — will now begin with a very different feel. The Buckeyes are still conference contenders, though it could be argued they have now ceded the role of Big Ten favorites to Michigan State. Maybe.

Urban Meyer and his staff recruit better than any program in the Big Ten. No roster in the conference has more talent. Of course, it didn't help the Buckeyes win the Big Ten last season.

Miller's injury makes the Buckeyes' prospects more uncertain. His presumptive replacement is redshirt freshman J.T. Barrett, a former four-star recruit. Ohio State was already entering the season with a rebuilt offensive line, looking for a No. 1 tailback to emerge, and trying to fix a defense that melted down late last season. And even with all that, a Big Ten championship doesn't seem out of reach.

The national championship? That's a very different story, and not just for the Buckeyes, but the whole Big Ten.

Fans Go Through Metal Detectors At Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK (AP) — Wearing a navy blue New York Yankees shirt, Jonathan Freedman lined up with other fans outside Gate 2 on Jerome Avenue and East 164th Street. Once he reached the front of the single-file line, he emptied his pockets into a plastic bin and was ushered through a metal detector.

Welcome to Yankee Stadium, where security measures now resemble those at the airport. And starting next season, that will be the case at every ballpark in the big leagues.

As part of Major League Baseball's security plan, metal detectors were added at some Yankee Stadium gates beginning Tuesday night, when New York hosted the Houston Astros. MLB has been working with the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate safety procedures, and all 30 big league parks will have metal detectors by opening day 2015.

The Yankees tried to prepare fans for the change, announcing last Friday they would start implementing the new system on this homestand. It will remain in place for the rest of the season.

Other stadiums have already put the metal detectors in place, too.

"I'm currently living abroad in Israel, so I'm very proud that they have security here. It's been needed for a long time," the 30-year-old Freedman said. "It took a half a second. It was really fast and thorough and they were very courteous. ... All professional. It was all well done."

Fans were asked to take cell-phones and large metal objects out of their pockets before walking through the detectors to enter the ballpark.

Those who didn't want to pass through the detectors could choose to be checked by security personnel with a hand-held device.

"It wasn't that terrible," said Matt Lurin, 48. "I think in the past when we used to have to take our hats off and show nothing was underside, and take our stuff out of the pockets, it was the same thing. You're less leaving this to chance now. You have a place to put your metal items. They slid it right by and we walked through. It was no problem."

But what about when it's a sellout crowd for a playoff game? Could de-

lays become aggravating?

"I think it'll be fine. I used to find it strange when they asked me to take my wallet out, and I really don't feel comfortable taking my wallet out in the middle of the Bronx for no reason," Lurin said. "Now they give me a little thing, I put it right in, and it slides right over. It's on the table and I can see what's going on. It seems fine."

About 30 minutes before the first pitch, the line was moving quickly and few fans were grumbling.

At least not out loud.

"It's frustrating when you see the door 5 feet away and they're making you wait to go through, but other than that I haven't heard any complaints," Lurin said.

At least not out loud.

Gazelles, Arrows Play To Scoreless Draw

WATERTOWN — The Yankton Gazelles played Watertown to a scoreless draw in Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' soccer season opener for both squads.

Yankton had a 17-6 advantage in shots in the contest. Haley Schild stopped five shots to preserve the shutout for Yankton.

The Gazelles host Huron on Friday. Yankton and Watertown played to a 2-2 draw in JV action.

Payton Wolfgram and Jaiden Boomsma each scored for Yankton. Sadie Fedders stopped four shots, with Miranda Winterringer stopping three shots for the Gazelles.

Harrisburg 10, Huron 0

HARRISBURG — Taylor Kelly scored a hat trick and had two assists, and five other Harrisburg players scored goals in a 10-0 victory over Huron in Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' soccer action on Tuesday.

Jordan Beiswagner and Darien Poelstra each scored twice and had one assist. Lindsay Farrell had a goal and an assist. Cait Kelly and Kori Fink netted goals. Mac Mertz added an assist in the victory.

Nicole Pierson earned the shutout in goal for Harrisburg. Jazmin Newton made 10 saves in goal for Huron.

Harrisburg hosts Aberdeen Central on Saturday. Huron travels to Yankton on Friday.

Pierre 6, Mitchell 0

PIERRE — Caelie Williams and Nikky Farnsworth each scored twice as Pierre rolled past Mitchell 6-0 in Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' soccer action on Tuesday.

Sydney Palmer and Katie Nielson each had a goal. Pierre travels to Brookings on Saturday. Mitchell hosts Watertown on Thursday.



Boyd Tesch/Watertown Public Opinion
Yankton's Brianna Benjamin, left, tries to keep the ball from Watertown's Jani Moran during their Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' soccer match on Tuesday in Watertown. The teams played to a scoreless draw.