Tuesday, 12.4.12 sports Sports Press&Dakotan Sports Department: sports@yankton.net 7 Frazier Sticking With Ponder As Vikings Quarterback ON THE WEB: www.yankton.net

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The only passes from Christian Ponder that didn't sail over a receiver's head or bounce harmlessly out of bounds seemed to land in the arms of a Green Bay defender just as the Minnesota Vikings were approaching the end zone.

At one point, the beleaguered quarterback went nearly 39 minutes of game action without completing a pass, rendering moot another breath-taking performance from Adrian Peterson.

Yet through all the struggles, all the poor footwork and all the back-breaking mistakes that allowed a winnable road game against a division opponent to swirl down the drain, coach Leslie Frazier stuck with Ponder. And he sticks by him still.

Frazier said Monday he never considered pulling Ponder against the Packers and believes he is the QB that gives the team the best chance to win against Chicago this week.

"It hasn't come up any time this sea-son where I thought we needed to pull him out of a game," Frazier said. "That hasn't occurred."

Frazier acknowledged such unwavering support, whether solely his decision or a result of a directive from the front office that drafted Ponder in the first round last season, has the potential to rankle other players in the locker room - players who seem to be held to a different standard of accountability.

"I've thought about that a lot because when you're struggling at a position, the guys know how we talked about everybody doing their jobs and why it's important for us to have our success,' Frazier said. "You don't want to send

mixed messages at any position." The Vikings led the Packers 14-10 at halftime, jumping on Peterson's broad shoulders to move into position for a commanding lead early in the third quarter when Peterson ripped off a 48yard run to the Green Bay 12-yard line. Ponder was intercepted in the end zone on the next play.

With Percy Harvin missing his third straight game, Ponder didn't complete a pass to a wide receiver until late in the fourth quarter. The putrid air game allowed the Packers to weather a 210-yard day from Peterson and a shaky performance from their own offense to drop the Vikings to 6-6.

Ponder's struggles were so glaring that Frazier was asked repeatedly Monday about his reluctance to play backup Joe Webb in the second half. Webb has provided a spark periodically over the past two seasons, including games at Philadelphia in 2010 and at Washington last year.

Frazier has shown a willingness to rotate players during games at other positions, including safety with Jamarca Sanford and Mistral Raymond, and right guard with Brandon Fusco and Geoff Schwartz. But the coach said Monday he approaches quarterback with a different view, one that values continuity above all else.

"I think there's something there where in my mind you don't want to get into a situation where you're not sure who your No. 1 is," Frazier said. "We believe that Christian is our No. 1. ... That being said, if things get to a point where your No. 1 is really costing you some situations that could preclude winning, you do have to do what's best for the football team.'

It's getting harder for Frazier to argue that Ponder remains the right choice for the Vikings. They started the season 5-2 thanks in part to Ponder's steady play, but have dropped four of the last five while he has crumbled.

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Huskers Roll Past USC, Face **Creighton Next**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Ray Gallegos scored 20 points and made a career-high six 3-pointers to lead Nebraska to a 63-51 victory over Southern California on Monday night.

The Cornhuskers (6-1), off to their best start since 2008-09, led by as many as 20 points in the most lopsided game in the fourgame series with the Trojans.

The Huskers, who came into the game shooting just 29.8 percent on 3s, made a season-high 11 of 17.

Dylan Talley, who made three 3s, finished with 14 points. J.T. Terrell scored 14 points,

Byron Wesley had 12 and Jio Fontan scored 11 for the Trojans (3-4).

Nebraska had beaten USC each of the past three years by a total of eight points, and it looked like it would be another close game early. Then Gallegos went on a tear, scoring all 11 of his first-half points in a row to give the Huskers a 33-25 lead.

He hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 25, put Nebraska ahead with a jumper inside the arc and then hit two more 3s to make it an eightpoint game.

The Huskers were just getting started.

Andre Almeida's bank-in, tipin, inside bucket and Talley's 3pointer helped extend the run to 19-3 early in the second half.

USC had a 10 1/2-minute fieldgoal drought end when Fontan swiped the ball from Gallegos and drove the length of the floor for a layup, ending a stretch in which the Trojans missed nine shots and committed five turnovers.

Gallegos' fourth and fifth 3pointers, along with Shavon

THREE-PEAT BID OFF TO 3-0 START

Heisman Finalists: Manziel, Te'o, Klein BY RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Johnny Manziel and Manti Te'o are in position to make Heisman Trophy history.

Manziel, the redshirt freshman quarterback from Texas A&M, and Te'o, Notre Dame's star linebacker, along with Kansas State quarterback Collin Klein, were invited Monday to attend the Heisman presentation ceremony.

Manziel is the favorite to win college football's most famous player of the year award on Saturday night in Manhattan. He would be the first freshman to win the Heisman and the first Texas A&M player since halfback John David Crow won the school's only Heisman in 1957.

"I'm overwhelmed by this tremendous honor of representing Texas A&M, the 12th Man and all my teammates in New York," Manziel said in a statement. "This is a dream come true for me, and I know it's a credit to all my coaches and teammates. I definitely wouldn't be a Heisman finalist without my teammates and coaches.'

Three sophomores have won the award (Tim Tebow in 2007, Sam Bradford in 2008 and Mark Ingram in 2009), but the best a first-year player has ever done is second.

Adrian Peterson of Oklahoma finished second to Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart in 2004. Peterson was a true freshman. As a redshirt freshman, Manziel attended A&M last year and practiced with the team but did not play.

man race on Nov. 10, when he passed for 253 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 92 yards as the Aggies upset then-No. 1 Al-abama 29-24 in Tuscaloosa.

Manziel and Texas A&M will play No. 12 Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl

Te'o is trying to become the first defense-only player to win the Heisman. The Fighting Irish have seven Heisman winners, tied for the most with Ohio State and Southern California, but none since Tim Brown in 1987.

Te'o became the face of the No. 1 team in the country and leader of a defense that has been the toughest to score upon in the nation. The senior intercepted seven passes, second-most in the country and tops for a linebacker. He also led the Fighting Irish with 103 tackles, and earlier Monday won the Butkus Award as country's best linebacker.

Te'o and the Irish face No. 2 Alabama in the BCS championship game on Jan. 7 in Miami.

Klein would be the first player from Kansas State to win the Heisman.

"I'm just honored with this opportunity that the Lord has provided me here at K-State," Klein said in a statement. "I'm so proud to represent K-State in this because I feel like my road is very synonymous and in line with the K-State way. It has been a process, it has been a journey. There have been a lot of ups and downs, as well as a lot of hard times and growing pains through it. I'm just very proud to represent the K-State family and our heart and spirit in this environment.'

He seemed to be the front-run-



Shields' short jumper, stretched Nebraska's lead to 52-32 with 10 minutes to play.

The Huskers committed 15 turnovers but were still more than good enough against a USC team that has been woeful on the road. The Trojans, who were playing their first true road game of the season, have lost 11 straight on the road and 29 of 37

Nebraska, picked to finish last in the Big Ten, posted a second straight convincing victory. The Huskers won 79-63 at Wake Forest last Tuesday for their largest margin of victory on the road since ž003.

They'll face their toughest test to date when 16th-ranked Creighton visits on Thursday.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Wynot's Zoey Heimes, 35, goes up for a layup around the defense of Omaha Nation'-s Brenna Parker, right, during their game Monday night in Wynot, Neb. Wynot, which has won the past two Class D2 girls' basketball titles, improved to 3-0 with a 92-37 victory.

Wynot Girls Cruise Past Omaha Nation

WYNOT, Neb. — Defending Class D2 champion Wynot forced 40 turnovers in a 92-37 girls' high school basketball victory over Omaha Nation on Monday night in Wynot, Neb.

Maggie Schulte scored 19 points to lead the Lady Blue Dev-

ils (3-0), who led 43-20 at halftime. Sam Wieseler added 12 points, while Kelsie Higgins and Shelby Hochstein both scored nine points. Twelve players scored in the game for Wynot.

In the loss for the Lady Chiefs, Teonah Randol, Keiley Miller and

Keisha Grant all scored eight points.

Wynot hosts Osmond on Friday. Omaha Nation, 1-1, travels to Winnebago on Thursday. OMAHA NATION (1-1)8 20 25 37 ...23 43 66 92 WYNOT (3-0).

Michael Vick of Virginia Tech came in third in 1999 as a redshirt freshman and Herschel Walker was a true freshman for Georgia in 1980 when he finished third in the Heisman balloting.

Nicknamed Johnny Football, Manziel quickly became a national sensation this season, putting up huge numbers in first-year Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin's spread offense. He led the 10th-ranked Aggies to a 10-2 record in their first season in the Southeastern Conference.

With a knack for improvisation, Manziel racked up an SECrecord 4,600 yards of total offense, including 1,181 rushing to lead the conference. The 6foot-1, 200-pound Manziel zoomed to the front of the Heis-

ner for several weeks until Manziel's late push. When Klein threw three interceptions in the Wildcats' late-season loss to Baylor, Manziel moved to the front of the race.

Klein is a multitalented quarterback like Manziel, but with a different approach. The 6-5, 226pound senior is a bullish runner who scored 22 touchdowns and threw for 15 more, while leading the seventh-ranked Wildcats (11-1) to the Big 12 title. Earlier in the day, Klein won the Johnny Unitas Award given to the top upperclassman quarterback in the nation.

Klein will finish his Kansas State career against No. 5 Oregon in the Fiesta Bowl.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Wynot's Austin Lange, 32, goes up for a put-back between two Omaha Nation defenders during the first quarter of their game Monday night in Wynot, Neb.

Utah To Hang Replica Majerus Sweater From Rafters Wynot Boys **Survive Slow** Start To Stay Unbeaten

WYNOT, Neb. - The Wynot Blue Devils overcame a five-point first quarter to claim a 52-34 victory over Omaha Nation in boys' basketball action on Monday.

Wynot led 5-4 after one quarter, then stretched the lead to 24-16 by halftime and 42-22 after three quarters.

Jackson Sudbeck scored a game-high 20 points to lead Wynot. Nathan Wieseler finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Austin Lange added nine rebounds in the victory.

For Omaha Nation, Marcus Walker scored 13 points.

Wynot, 3-0, hosts Osmond in a Lewis & Clark Conference matchup on Friday. Omaha Nation, 0-2, travels to Winnebago on Thursday. OMAHA NATION (0-2) ... 4 16 22 34

...5 24 42 52

WYNOT (3-0) ...

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — University of Utah officials will honor the legacy of Rick Majerus by hanging a replica of his trademark white sweater from the rafters at the basketball arena where he coached from 1989 to 2004 and regularly led the Utes to the NCAA tournament.

A moment of silence will be held at Utah's next game Wednesday and players will wear black patches in honor of a man Utah athletic director Chris Hill remembered as a "basketball savant.' Majerus died Saturday in Los Angeles while awaiting a heart transplant. He was 64.

"To retire his jersey and put a No. 1 up there, it just doesn't make any sense," Hill said Monday.

The replica sweater will be created to fit in with the select names already hanging from the rafters.

We want people to know it's Rick,' Hill said. "You'll know it's a sweater, but at the same time it won't diminish anybody else who is out there.

Majerus had been invited back previously to be inducted into Utah's Hall of Fame but the timing wasn't right last year as he was coaching at Saint Louis and his health had taken a turn for the worse. Hill said the induction is still planned for a man who led the Utes to the 1998 NCAA final and had only one losing season in 25 years with four schools.

"His career exploded during his time here and the University of Utah's recognition exploded following his wake," Hill said. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to have worked with somebody that was one of a kind."

Hill said he hopes to sit down with former players, coaches and supporters to discuss other ways to recognize Majerus, especially since there are plans to expand the Huntsman Center and upgrade facilities.

He also is working with the athletic director at Saint Louis, where Majerus most recently coached, to have him inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

"Essentially he was a genius and a savant in basketball," Hill said. "He died way too soon at 64 and many of us maybe knew that day was coming.'

Hill said he definitely knew by the fourth game of Majerus' tenure at Utah that he was a great coach because of his passion and planning - even if he sometimes couldn't find his own shirt in his messy office.

"Somehow he was able to make it happen," he said.

Hill said he intends to attend Majerus' funeral Saturday in Milwaukee, where Majerus was born.

Current Utah coach Larry Krystkowiak, who played five years in Milwaukee and also coached at the NBA level there, remembers seeing Majerus at practices and training camps.

Krystkowiak called Majerus a "basketball junkie," living out of a Marriott near campus so he wouldn't be distracted by rent and coaching players he saw as an extension of his own family.

"Rick did it his way," Krystkowiak said. "He wasn't interested in making everybody happy, but if you were part of that basketball fraternity, then he had a special way to touch everybody."

Krystkowiak, 5-2 in his second season as Utah coach, recalled a vivid dream he had involving a healthy Majerus a year ago.

It wasn't long after that he spoke with Hill and the coach's longtime friend, Jon Huntsman, about bringing Majerus back to honor him.

'I fly all over the country, recruiting and doing various things and I'll run into people with my Utah gear on and it's unbelievable the people who want to know where Rick is," Krystkowiak recalled. "If you think about Utah basketball, he's the first name that comes to mind.

Though they weren't able to bring Majerus back for a special game, he said his passing will inspire and motivate everyone involved with the program.

"We're going to represent the program in grand fashion," Krystkowiak said, while adding that he doesn't believe anybody can live up to what Majerus did during his run at Utah.

"It's really beyond words what he did basketball-wise," Krystkowiak said of Majerus' 323-95 record with the Utes.

Sophomore center Dallin Bachynski said Monday that he regrets not ever having the chance to meet Majerus.

"Even though he's passed, he's still a big part of what (Utah) is now," he said. "He drives us forward, drives coach forward. It's one of the things as a team we want to do — play so we kind of respect what he did. Not play to get the amount of wins he got, but the way he did it, the kind of people that we are... (that) is the way we respect his memory.'