

Martinez Might Need Title To Rank With Husker Greats

Nebraska Junior About To Become Program’s All-Time Total Offense Leader

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska’s Taylor Martinez is set to break 2001 Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch’s school career total-offense record Saturday against Michigan State.

Only a junior, Martinez could finish his career as one of college football’s most prolific quarterbacks ever.

But can he be judged as one of the Cornhuskers’ all-time great quarterbacks if he doesn’t win a championship of some kind?

“That’s the golden question that people are going to have to ask themselves,” Crouch said Wednesday.

The 21st-ranked Huskers (6-2, 3-1 Big Ten) lead the Legends Division, and Martinez could put himself into the conversation if he leads them to the conference championship game and Rose Bowl this season, next season or both.

The closest he’s come to winning a title was in 2010, when the Huskers lost the Big 12 championship game to Oklahoma after blowing a 17-0 lead.

Martinez goes into the Michigan State game 23-10 as the starter, a modest record by program standards. He’s had mixed results in the most important games. He’s yet to win a bowl game.

The Huskers’ days of dominance are well behind them, and Martinez simply doesn’t have the same level of talent surrounding him as some of his predecessors.

Tommie Frazier (1992-95) and Jerry Tagge (1969-71) are revered among the Nebraska faithful because each won two national championships.

Turner Gill (1981-83) is beloved for winning three straight Big Eight titles, never losing a conference game. He also threw the memorable failed two-point conversion pass in the 1984 Orange Bowl that cost the Huskers the national

title but won coach Tom Osborne respect for having the guts to go for a win instead of a tie against Miami.

Scott Frost (1996-97) would get mention from fans as an all-time great for sending Osborne into his coaching retirement with a share of the national championship — even though some folks still hold a grudge against the homegrown Frost for going to Stanford before transferring to Nebraska.

Crouch won just one Big 12 title and lost to Miami in the national championship game after the 2001 season but did, after all, win the Heisman.

Martinez will have better numbers than all of them by the time he’s finished. That’s largely because he’ll be a four-year starter, unless the unexpected happens, and will have played in an offense that lends itself to big quarterback statistics.

Gill, Frazier, Frost and Crouch operated in the triple-option and, thus, didn’t

throw nearly as many passes as Martinez.

Martinez has generated 7,801 yards in total offense, 114 shy of Crouch’s record of 7,915.

He eclipsed 5,000 career passing yards against Northwestern two weeks ago. He’s on track this season to become the 15th player in NCAA history to throw for 5,000 yards and rush for 2,500. He would be the fourth to do it before his senior year.

Martinez has earned the respect of teammates for his toughness and ability to direct the no-huddle offense.

“Taylor’s a phenomenal leader and a phenomenal quarterback, in my opinion,” offensive lineman Jeremiah Sirles said. “I think he’s done a really good job managing the game as far as the tempo goes.”

Still, Martinez is still looking for that elusive championship — not to mention a season that ends with fewer than four losses.

“The numbers don’t mean a whole lot if the wins aren’t there,” Crouch said. “So a lot of it comes down to winning. You say it’s spectacular and it’s a great accomplishment to have great numbers, high numbers. I’m sure Martinez would trade those in for conference championships and national championships if you asked him.”

Martinez isn’t much for talk.

Nebraska quarterbacks always have lived in a fishbowl. But Martinez is playing at a time when college football players, and athletes in general, are endlessly scrutinized through traditional and social media.

“I think Taylor has taken a lot of hits,” coach Bo Pelini said this week. “I think he’s done a lot of great things since he’s been here. I think the best part about it is there is still a lot more out there for him... I think he’s become mentally tougher through all the things he’s gone through.”

Martinez has been skewered for his

MARTINEZ | PAGE 9

Cougars, Cubs Advance To Dist. 8B Final

VIBORG — Viborg-Hurley advanced to the District 8B championship with a sweep of Centerville. The scores were 25-14, 25-14, 28-26.

Katelyn Graber led the Cougars with eight kills, seven digs, and two aces. Kayla Anderson contributed 14 digs, four aces, and two assists. Leacadia Christensen had 18 assists, five digs, and two aces.

For the Tornadoses, Brittany Austin had 20 digs and two aces. Kiera O’Malley recorded 11 digs, five blocks, four kills, and an ace. Logan Weiseler tallied six kills, two blocks, and two digs.

With the victory, Viborg-Hurley advances to the District 7B championship on Thursday.

VIBORG-HURLEY	25	25	28
CENTERVILLE	14	14	26

Alcester-Hudson 3, Gayville-Volin 0

VIBORG — Alcester-Hudson rolled through Gayville-Volin in the semifinals of the District 8B tournament in Viborg. The scores were 25-11, 25-20, 25-20.

Courtney McKee led the Cubs with 17 assists, four kills, three digs, and an ace. Shenia Doering added eight blocks, seven kills, and four aces. Skylar McConnel tallied eight digs and two aces.

Kelia Barta led the Raiders with eight kills and four digs. Vanessa Ryken contributed 17 assists, 10 digs, and two aces. Nikki Guy posted five kills and five digs.

With the victory, Alcester-Hudson will advance to the District 7B championship game against Viborg-Hurley on Thursday in Viborg.

ALCESTER-HUDSON	25	25	25
GAYVILLE-VOLIN	11	20	20

Centerville 3, Irene-Wakonda 2

VIBORG — Centerville defeated Irene-Wakonda in five sets on Tuesday night in the opening match of the District 7B tournament. The scores were 25-19, 23-25, 23-25, 25-20, 15-13.

Kiera O’Malley led the Tornadoses with 25 digs, seven kills, four blocks, and two aces. Britany Austin also had 25 digs on the night. Gabby Larson added 23 assists. Kristine VanHerde posted 10 kills, nine digs, and a block.

Trisha Kathol led the Eagles with 10 digs and four assists. Cailltin Hinseth had 16 digs and three kills. Bailey Hinseth contributed 13 assists on the night. Chloe Nielsen tallied 12 digs, four kills, and four blocks.

CENTERVILLE	25	23	23	25	15
IRENE-WAKONDA	19	25	25	20	13

District 7A

Canton 3, Lennox 0

CANTON — Canton defeated Lennox on Tuesday night in 7A volleyball action. The scores were 25-22, 25-14, 25-18.

Atlanta Lundstrom led Canton with 11 digs and 10 kills. Kristen Tweedt also had 11 digs. Janet VanDeStroet also contributed 16 assists.

Lennox was led by Katy Johnson with 20 digs and four kills. Megan Stewart posted 11 digs on the night.

Canton moves to 6-19 on its regular season with the win. Lennox will drop to 3-12 with the loss. Both teams will compete in the District 7A tournament on Thursday.

District 9A

Tri-Valley 3, West Central 1

COLTON — Tri-Valley came back from a one to zero deficit to defeat West Central in four sets in District 9A action. The scores were 22-25, 25-5, 25-13, 25-13.

Ali Cross led the Tri-Valley at-

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 9



Crofton's Evan Woodckman, 33, picks off a pass intended for Doniphan-Trumbull's Nathaniel Armon, 7, during their Class C2 playoff football game on Wednesday in Crofton, Neb. Doniphan-Trumbull won the game 49-33.

Crofton

From Page 7

to wear these guys out with our speed and with our conditioning.”

The Cardinals powered their way to 548 yards of total offense, including 375 yards passing for quarterback Riley Wiltfong on 20-23 passing.

“The quarterback for them was outstanding,” Hoffman said of D-T’s junior signal-caller. “They only missed two or three passes all night. They were good throwing the ball.”

Nathaniel Armon caught four passes for 126 yards and three scores, while Creighton Burr had three catches for 120 yards and a score. Jordan Slough caught six passes for 53 yards, and ground out 170 yards and three scores on 27 carries in the win.

“He’s done a great job all year long,” Breckner said of Slough, who came into the contest with over 1,700 yards rushing. “We knew if we gave him a crease here or there, he could hit some stuff and make some plays. Especially as the game wore on we felt like we could wear them down.”

Crofton gained 325 yards, including 283 on the ground. Justin Janssen took the ball 24 times for 131 yards, while Evan Woodckman had 11 carries for 79 yards.

Doniphan-Trumbull marched the opening drive down the field, using a mix of option pitches and passes to strike first. Buhr’s 38-



Doniphan-Trumbull's Jordan Slough, 3, sneaks through the pile for the first of his three rushing touchdowns during the Cardinals' victory over Crofton.

yard catch set up a 6-yard scoring run by Slough.

Justin Janssen helped answer the first score. A 23-yard run on a pitch play and a 24-yard reception of an Alex Janssen pass set up Adam Spady’s 34-yard touchdown run. But while the Cardinals had made a two-point conversion after their score, Crofton’s attempt was thwarted by a tipped pass at the line, leaving the Warriors down 8-6.

“We’re not a good from behind team. We’re a good in front team,” Hoffman said. “They just played with a lot of momentum. At some point in time we had to take the lead. We had to get a

stop, get a drive and get the lead. But we were playing from behind, whether it was one score or two scores.”

The teams traded scores throughout the first half, with the Cardinals keeping the upper hand. D-T got the game’s first defensive stop, holding the Warriors to three yards on a fourth-and-6 run, but Crofton’s Evan Woodckman picked off Wiltfong inside the red zone to answer the stop.

Crofton’s Brock Mueller kicked a 32-yard field goal with under a minute to play in the first half, pulling the Warriors to within five, 22-17, at halftime.

Crofton had the ball to open the second half, but could not capitalize on their first chance to take a lead.

The Cardinals took advantage, using swing passes and option pitches to Slough to set up another Slough score, giving D-T a 28-17 edge. Crofton answered the score, but the Cardinals had a score for each one the Warriors put on the board.

“They’re so good up front, and they really left those guys in the box. We felt like we had some opportunities to spread the field,” Breckner said. There are a few holes here and there, and we just had some athletes make plays in space. We felt like we had the openings. We hit some vertical stuff as well as some underneath stuff.”

Crofton will graduate 11 players from its 2012 team, nearly half of the players on its playoff roster. Hoffman credited those seniors, and the rest of the team, for the work they did to get the team this far.

We started this thing back in January with some kids. When track was done, we started the summer lifting and camps and working hard. There’s a lot of work that goes into this football season. Some people know it, some people don’t,” he said. “It’s a tribute to the town, the coaching system, the community, administration, everybody’s really supportive.”

“Hopefully it stays rolling.”

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

Royals Fight Alzheimer’s, Hope To Raise Money

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Day by day, Alzheimer’s disease is robbing Edith Royal of her beloved husband Darrell.

“He’s in his childhood now,” she said in an interview this week at the assisted living facility where they live. “Sometimes, you wonder if anybody is ever going to make a breakthrough fighting this disease.”

She is doing what she can to help, while also caring for the former Texas coach who won two national championships with the Longhorns in 1963 and 1969, a share of a third in 1970 and is still regarded as one of the giants in the game. The Royals are hoping Texas fans — and some from Oklahoma as well — will pitch in, too.

Edith Royal is putting some of the family’s personal memorabilia up for auction Nov. 11 in Austin. Some of the proceeds will go to the Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer’s Disease launched earlier this year.

Although Royal gave away many of his awards and mementos over the years, and the trophies he won are kept at the school, the couple still has too much to keep — and much to share.

The items at auction trace his life from the scrappy kid growing up in the poverty of the Dust Bowl-era in Hollis, Okla., to his rise as one of the great coaches in college history. Royal coached Texas from 1957-1976, won 11 Southwest Conference titles and introduced an innovation known as the wishbone offense to major college football in 1968.

Notable items include a diamond pendant commemorating the 1963 national championship, and a diamond ring from the Longhorns’ 2006 BCS championship game victory over Southern California. There are footballs, belt buckles, tie pins, watches, cufflinks, vintage Texas logo drinking glasses, game programs from Royal’s first two seasons with the Longhorns (1957-1958) and dozens of autographed books, photographs and sideline passes.

Some items date to Darrell’s playing days at Oklahoma, where he was a standout defensive back and quarterback for the Sooners from 1946-1949. Edith Royal says an Oklahoma regent has inquired about bidding on the game programs from Darrell’s first and last games for the Sooners.

“I’m hoping that Darrell’s fans will be the ones that purchase the UT things and they will treasure them like we have. I love the memories — it was fun to rediscover them,” she said.

Other items provide an intimate peek into the Royal home and their friendships with country music stars to astronauts. Royal is longtime friends with Willie Nelson and the auction includes several backstage passes to Nelson concerts and autographed photos.

The auction will be headed by Austin Auction Gallery the day after Texas plays at home against Iowa State. Edith Royal acknowledged the sale will cause some to ask if she just needs money.

ROYALS | PAGE 9

Bloomberg: Sandy Won’t Sideline NYC Marathon

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York City Marathon is a go for Sunday, and while logistical questions persist one thing is certain: The 26-mile route will have a disaster for a backdrop.

And a debate.

“I think some people said you shouldn’t run the marathon,” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a news briefing Wednesday. “There’s an awful lot of small businesses that depend on these people. We have to have an economy. There’s lots of people that have come here. It’s a great event for New York, and

I think for those who were lost, you’ve got to believe they would want us to have an economy and have a city go on for those that they left behind.”

Race organizers were still trying to assess how widespread damage from Superstorm Sandy might affect plans, including getting runners into the city to transporting them to the start line on Staten Island. Easing their worries a bit was news that 14 of the city’s 23 subway lines were expected to be operating by Thursday morning — though none below 34th Street, an

area that includes the city’s financial district and many tourist sites.

And there were runners like Josh Maio who felt torn about whether the race should go on.

“It pulls resources and focus away from people in need,” said Maio, who dropped out due to an injury but is coaching about 75 runners.

While he agrees the race is a boost to local businesses, he is uncomfortable with the city devoting so much to an “extracurricular” event.

It’s the first of the month...

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

for a more efficient furnace or AC change your filter once a month.

LENNOX

Innovation never felt so good.™

Larry's

HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway • 665-9461