

# Opener ends with heartbreak



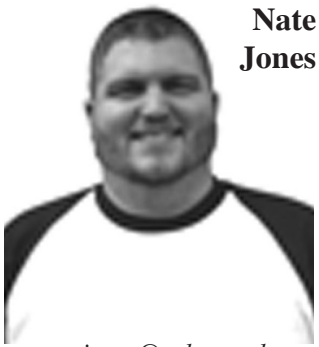
Kenna Corley/Collegian photographer

**Above:** Lindsey Knak, athletic training junior, Kelsey Verhaeghe, elementary education sophomore, Melissa Borthwick, biology junior, Cassi Reimer, mathematics junior, Whitney Baker, athletic training junior, and Amanda Baughman, business administration senior, cheer on the Builders at the football game Saturday night. Although Builder Fest was postponed due to rain, a large number of fans still filled Sonner Stadium for the season opening game against the University of St. Mary Spires.

**Right:** Russ Lester, junior offensive lineman, blocks for Michael Coppock, junior runningback, who weaves through St. Mary defenders toward the Moundbuilder end zone. Coppock was injured during the fourth quarter. Coppock rushed for 76 yards and scored a touchdown in Saturday's game. The Spires defeated the Moundbuilders 26-20. The football team will travel to Alva, Okla., to play Northwestern Oklahoma State University this Saturday in a non-conference game.



# Referee's wrong isn't righted



Nate Jones

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I used to write in pencil until I thought I was good enough to step up to a pen. Then I realized how many mistakes I made and went back to pencil. But now I have a laptop that is the best of both worlds. Technology was available to help me help myself correct my own mistakes. It's a true story. And like most things I write, that whole story is a metaphor for something larger.

Watching football on Sundays is great entertainment for many. For students it's

a welcome distraction from the homework due Monday morning. So far football season has yet to disappoint. Story lines coming out of everywhere, high scores and drama. Roger Goodell, commissioner of the National Football League since 2006, promised to uphold his job of maintaining the integrity of the game when he took over.

Instant replay is a tool that's been used on and off by the NFL through its history, and has been in effect the last several seasons. I guess someone thought too many mistakes were being made by the referees. Instant replay gives officials a second chance to view a controversial play during a contest so they can get the right call. This is a big way to uphold the integrity of the game.

Scoring plays. Pass complete/incomplete or intercepted. Runner/receiver out of bounds. Recovery of a

loose ball in or out of bounds. Touching of a forward pass, either by an ineligible receiver or a defensive player. A quarterback pass, fumble or illegal forward pass or backward pass. Runner ruled not down by contact. Forward progress in regard to a first down. Touching of a kick. Other plays involving placement of the football, whether a legal number of players is on the field at the time of the snap. Those are all the types of things that can be challenged in a pro football game.

One I want to pay special attention to is the "QB pass or fumble." This was a challenge that took place during the San Diego at Denver game. The Denver quarterback, Jay Cutler, had led his team down the field late in the fourth quarter. The Broncos were down by seven, needing a touchdown to tie. On one of the plays inside

the San Diego 10 yard line, Cutler rolled out to his right, brought his arm up to throw the ball, but the ball had slipped out in the process. A Charger player recovered, what was apparent to me and I'm sure anyone else watching, a game sealing turnover. But hold everything.

The 18-year veteran referee Ed Hochuli was behind the action and from his vantage point it looked like the quarterback had thrown an incomplete pass, which was the call on the field.

The play was challenged and football followers everywhere knew it was a fumble and it would be game over for Denver. Then Ed Hochuli returned from the instant replay booth.

Due to the fact that he blew his whistle, the play was over. No fumble. Not San Diego's ball. The ref made a mistake

and he admitted it to the San Diego coach, which didn't mean much when Denver scored a touchdown and a two point conversion to win 39-38.

That call cost the San Diego Chargers their first win of the season. It changed the landscape of the AFC East Division. It did not look good for the integrity of the game.

I am not so ignorant to think one can eliminate human error from calling a football game, or anything for that matter. But an official should not decide the

outcome of a game, period. This was a blatant fumble, the rules clearly state that what took place was a fumble, he just screwed up. So what is going to happen? Nothing, what's done is done.

How can this be prevented in the future? Here is where

it gets interesting. The rule is that once a ref's whistle blows, the play stops. Does that sound a little too absolute to anyone else (besides Denver fans)? Perhaps if such a huge blunder on the ref's part happens again, the other team is automatically rewarded possession of the ball. That seems to be the only logical thing to "negate" the whistle.

Either way it's a tough call concerning a tough call. It's hard to blame Ed Hoculi, after all he is only human, but he also made a game altering mistake.

I am sure the NFL Competition Committee will take this play into account in their next gathering. Until then Denver is at 2-0 with the outright division lead. The two teams have to play one another again in the regular season and I'm sure the ref's will be using pencils and not pens.

## Sports Column

**Volleyball**  
Sept. 10 Sterling College @ Southwestern College  
Southwestern College def. Sterling College  
26-24, 25-21, 25-20

Sept. 12 Central Christian College @ Southwestern College  
Southwestern College def. Central Christian College  
21-25, 11-25, 13-25

**Jinx Jamboree**  
Sept. 13 Johnson & Wales University @ Southwestern College  
Southwestern College def. Johnson & Wales University  
19-25, 15-25, 21-25  
**Bacone College @ Southwestern College**  
Bacone College def. Southwestern College  
25-27, 25-15, 25-19, 25-21

**Men's soccer**  
Sept. 12 & 13  
**Men's Soccer defeats**

**Dallas Christian 2-0**  
Jason Bond - 1 Goal  
George McNitt - 1 Goal  
(Assisted by Colin Baker)  
**Men's Soccer defeats Southwestern Assemblies of God University 1-0**  
Leighton Schmidt - 1 Goal  
(Assisted by Matt Norman)

**Women's soccer**  
Sept. 12 & 13  
**Women's Soccer defeats Dallas Christian 8-0**  
Eva Sanders - 2 goals (1 unassisted, 1 assisted by Ashley Campbell)  
Phylicia Allen - 2 goals with both goals being assisted by Ashley Campbell  
Katie Bipes - 2 goals (1 unassisted, 1 assisted by Emma Kennedy)  
Ashley Campbell - 1 goal assisted by Ellie Brewer  
1 own goal  
**Women's Soccer defeats Southwestern Assemblies of God University 2-0**  
Phylicia Allen - 1 goal - (Eva Sanders assist)

**Football**  
**Score by Quarters**  
University of St. Mary 0 20 6 0 26  
Southwestern College 7 6 0 7 20  
**First Quarter**  
SWC Jesse Lyons pass to Eric Parker 2 yards (Ledy kick), 02:40  
**Second Quarter**  
USM Daniel Robles pass to Tai Murray 10 yards (Sutton kick), 08:10  
USM Daniel Robles pass to Charles Lee 29 yards (Sutton kick), 01:22  
SWC Michael Coppock carries handoff 9 yards (Ledy kick), 00:44  
USM Rocky Rosales Carries handoff 1yard (Sutton kick), 00:10  
**Third Quarter**  
USM Daniel Robles pass to Derick Schulte 37 yards. Run by Chris Joly fumbled, recovered, by Darius Hopkins, 09:00  
**Fourth Quarter**  
SWC Jesse Lyons pass to Jeff Schaefer 5 yards (Ledy

kick), 06:48

**SWC-USM**  
**FIRST DOWN** 1 7  
24  
**RUSHES / YARDS (NET)**  
32/114 30/81  
**PASSING YARDS (NET)**  
125 336  
**Passes Att/Comp/Int**  
37/17/0 33/24/1

**TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS/YARDS**  
69 / 239 63 / 417  
**Fumble Returns / Yards**  
0/0 0/0  
**Punt Returns / Yards**  
2/10 3/17  
**Kickoff Returns / Yards**  
5/101 4 / 77  
**Interception Returns / Yards**  
1/2 0/0  
**Punts (Number/Avg)**  
7/41 4/31  
**Fumbles / Lost**  
1/0 2/1  
**Penalties / Yards**  
10/76 11/58  
**Possession Time**  
26:33 24:00

**Sacks By: Number/Yards**  
3/15 1/6  
**Individual Stats**  
**RUSHING\_SWC**, M. Coppock 17-76, C. Wells 11-30, Jesse Lyons 3-6, N. Mondero 1-2. USM, R. Rosales 13-56, G. Kaplan 3-16, C. Joly 4-11, D. Robles 7-1, K. Jones 1-(-1).  
**PASSING\_SWC**, J. Lyons 17-36-0-125, J. Schaefer 0-1-0-0. USM, D. Robles 24-33-1-336.  
**RECEIVING\_SWC**, J. Schulte 7-68, M. Coppock 3-20, R. Mitchell 2-13, T. Royals 1-9, B. Brown 1-8, L. Wyrick 2-5, E. Parker 1-2. USM, D. Schulte 6-106, T. Murray 6-92, C. Lee 4-67, G. Wallin 6-62, W. Harris 1-8, G. Kaplan 1-1.  
**INTERCEPTIONS\_SWC**, L. Roberts 1-2.  
**SACKS\_SWC**, K. Calhoun 2-13, C. Rathbun 1-1, K. Kaiser 1-1. USM, G. Anderson 1-6.  
**TACKLES\_SWC**, M. Perkins 6-1, N. Koch 6-0, L. Roberts 5-4, K. Calhoun 4-1, J. Maddox 3-5, J. Burch, 2-4,

D. Hopkins 2-1, M. Nusz 1-5, T. Lampert 1-5, T. Carrena 1-2, B. Ridgeway 1-1, C. Davis 1-0, G. Cooper 1-0, Z. Tazkargy 0-3, C. Rathbun 0-2, K. Kaiser 0-2, Z. Thimmesch 0-1, T. Shinneman 0-1, Weston Mills 0-1, D. Colvin 0-1. USM, G. Anderson 6-6, N. Wooten 5-9, S. Ritter 3-9, P. Dermann 2-1, L. Allen 2-0, T. Wise 1-8, E. Kidwell 1-6, D. Gordon 1-3, J. Sanders 1-1, T. Osborne 1-1, O. Berry 1-1, F. Walburn 1-0, R. Richardson 1-0, C. Lee 1-0, D. Kruegar 1-0, K. Jones 1-0, W. Bright 0-4, W. Hawkins 0-2, J. Annino 0-2, T. Schuman 0-1, M. Davis 0-1.

**Cross Country**  
Sept. 12  
**Sports Inv. @ Goddard, Cancelled**

Box scores compiled by Korie Hawkins, communication sophomore. You may e-mail her at korie.hawkins@sckans.edu.