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**NBA:** Kevin Durant sees room for improvement despite solid record. **B2**



**OU's Cameron Clark is fouled going to the basket by Baylor's A.J. Walton during the Sooners' loss on Saturday. OU is 1-7 in February this season.** TONY GUTIERREZ/Associated Press

## OU's funk in February

▪ The month hasn't been kind to the Sooners over the last three seasons.

**BY GUERIN EMIG**  
World Sports Writer

NORMAN — Ideally, the month of February is a rush for college basketball teams. It signals energy, urgency and the coming of the postseason.

For Oklahoma, however, February has been a virus going on three years now.

One week into the month, the 2009-10 Sooners were 4-4 in the



**IMPROVEMENT**

**Lon Kruger:** Winning more games in February is not his concern, but getting better overall is the goal, the first-year OU coach said.

Big 12 Conference. Then the fragile team went to pieces and didn't win again.

Two days into February, the over-achieving 2010-11 Sooners were on a four-game winning streak. Then reality struck. OU lost seven

straight. Jeff Capel wound up losing his job.

This year, the Sooners were undone by an untimely schedule, opening the month against Kansas, Missouri and Iowa State. They haven't recovered, and take a 1-7 February record into Wednesday's 8 p.m. game at Texas.

That makes OU 3-20 in February since 2010. Three wins in three seasons at the most important time of year.

It is a record Lon Kruger must change going forward, if he wants to return his program to its better



**Up next**

At Texas  
8 p.m.  
Wednesday

**TV:** ESPN2-26

**Radio:** KTBZ  
am1430

**For more**

Starting lineups. **B4**

SEE **OU** B4

# DANCE STEPS

## A look at the Big 12's NCAA prospects

**BY BILL HAISTEN** | World Sports Writer

The Big 12 regular season ends this weekend. As of now, four teams — Kansas, Baylor, Missouri and Iowa State — are certain of NCAA Tournament berths. Kansas State and Texas are bubble teams. For any of the remaining four teams, NCAA participation would occur only with the automatic bid that comes with a Big 12 Tournament championship (set for March 7-10 at Kansas City's Sprint Center).

	TEAM	BEST WINS	WORST LOSS	MAKING THE CASE
DEFINITELY IN	<b>Kansas</b> Record: 25-5, 15-2 RPI: 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Georgetown</li> <li>Ohio State</li> <li>at Baylor</li> <li>at Kansas State</li> <li>Missouri</li> </ul>	<b>Davidson</b> (80-74 on Dec. 19). Kansas missed 13 free throws and was 6-of-23 on 3-point attempts.	Big 12 regular-season champion. Kansas is campaigning for an NCAA No. 1 seed (which would be its fifth in six years). The Jayhawks are on a seven-game winning streak.
	<b>Baylor</b> Record: 25-5, 12-5 RPI: 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>San Diego State</li> <li>at BYU</li> <li>West Virginia</li> <li>at Kansas State</li> <li>Iowa State</li> </ul>	<b>Kansas</b> (68-54 on Feb. 8). Baylor rolled to a quick 10-point lead, but Kansas answered with a 33-7 run.	Since a 17-0 start, the Bears are 8-5. They have sustained an extremely strong RPI standing, however, and seem destined for no worse than an NCAA No. 3 seed.
	<b>Missouri</b> Record: 25-4, 12-4 RPI: 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notre Dame</li> <li>Illinois</li> <li>at Iowa State</li> <li>at Baylor</li> <li>Kansas</li> </ul>	<b>at Kansas</b> (87-86, OT on Feb. 25). Missouri blew a 19-point lead.	Even if they wind up settling for a 4 seed, the Tigers are off the charts athletically and capable of a deep run in the NCAA.
	<b>Iowa State</b> Record: 21-8, 11-5 RPI: 32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texas</li> <li>at Texas A&amp;M</li> <li>Kansas</li> <li>Kansas State</li> <li>at Kansas State</li> </ul>	<b>at Drake</b> , RPI 132 (74-65 on Nov. 15). Iowa State shot 12-of-31 in the second half.	Iowa State has been the Big 12's biggest surprise this season. The Cyclones appear to be guaranteed their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2005.
	<b>Kansas State</b> Record: 20-9, 9-8 RPI: 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at Virginia Tech</li> <li>Alabama</li> <li>Missouri</li> <li>at Baylor</li> <li>at Missouri</li> </ul>	<b>Iowa State</b> (65-61 on Feb. 25). Came after consecutive road wins at Baylor, Missouri.	ESPN's mock bracket has K-State as a 9 seed, but the Wildcats can't afford to stumble when OSU visits on Saturday.
POSSIBLY IN	<b>Texas</b> Record: 18-11, 8-8 RPI: 56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at UCLA</li> <li>Temple</li> <li>Iowa State</li> <li>at Texas A&amp;M</li> <li>Kansas State</li> </ul>	<b>at North Carolina</b> (82-63 on Dec. 21). Young Longhorns weren't even competitive.	Texas is on thin ice. Entering Wednesday's home date with Oklahoma, the Longhorns are rated by ESPN as one of the "last four in" the NCAA field.



**Kansas' Thomas Robinson (right) drives by Missouri's Matt Pressey on Saturday in Lawrence, Kan. The Jayhawks and Tigers have established themselves as the Big 12's elite teams.**

**For more**  
The Big 12's NCAA Tournament outsiders. **B4**

Photo by ORLIN WAGNER/Associated Press; Photo illustration by ETHAN ERICKSON/Tulsa World

## Mavericks beat Oilers for fourth time

**BY JOHN RITTENOUR**  
World Correspondent

The Missouri Mavericks had their way with the Tulsa Oilers all season. Nothing happened to change that Tuesday night.

After the Oilers took a 1-0 lead, the Mavericks came back with four goals and the Oilers were unable to match it, losing 4-2 in Central Hockey League action at the BOK Center.

Tulsa is now 0-4 against the Mavericks this year. It was the third straight loss for the Oilers, who fell to 24-23-6, while the third-place Turner Conference Mavericks improved to 30-19-6.

"I thought we played fine," Oilers coach Bruce Ramsay said of his



**Oilers forward Gary Steffes battles Missouri's Mike Wakita for the puck during their game Tuesday at the BOK Center.** JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

SEE **OILERS** B2

## Golden Hurricane focused on next foe

▪ Coach Wojcik notes that TU has lost in its last three trips to UAB.

**BY ERIC BAILEY**  
World Sports Writer

Tulsa enters the final week of the Conference USA season carrying a "one-game-at-a-time" attitude.

Some already may be looking ahead to a Saturday showdown game against visiting Memphis, but the Tigers are not on the minds of the Golden Hurricane players.

"Our next opponent is UAB and that's who we are focusing on," TU junior Scottie Haralson said. "We're going to dial in on those guys and try to take care of business."

Tulsa will visit UAB for a 7 p.m. game on Wednesday. Overcome that hurdle, and the Hurricane will be playing Memphis for a share of the C-USA title.

TU coach Doug Wojcik drowned any Saturday talk.

"You can't think of the next one when you haven't won in Birmingham (in the last three meetings)," Wojcik said. "They have the pre-season player of the year (Cam-



**TU's Steven Idlet and the Golden Hurricane face a critical road game Wednesday.** JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

**TU up next**

At UAB • 7 p.m. Wednesday

**TV:** CBSN-249

**Radio:** KRMG fm102.3, am740

**Conference USA race**

Team	Record	Remaining games
Memphis	12-3	at Tulsa
So. Miss	10-4	SMU, at Marshall
Tulsa	10-4	At UAB, Memphis

**For more**

Eric Bailey's Conference USA Insider >>> starting lineups. **B4**

SEE **TU** B4



**Daytona 500 a ratings winner**

Matt Kenseth, left, won the Daytona 500 late Monday night, but the nation's attention was captured by a fiery wreck involving a truck filled with jet fuel that injured no one. Fox got its highest Monday rating since a 2010 World Series game. **B3**