



Hughley keeping Talons on track

• In a record year, he has the challenge of guiding Tulsa past the Pioneers.

BY MIKE BROWN
World Sports Writer

Jeff Hughley is scoring touchdowns at a near-record pace, with a little help from his friends.

The third-year Tulsa Talons receiver is having his most productive af2 season, in part because the Talons put two more effective receivers on the field.

“It helps when you have two others out there who are gonna produce,” Hughley said. “It gives you a rest when you don’t have to be the focal point on every play.”

Zach Edwards has 24 TD receptions while Carlese Franklin and Jermaine Landrum have combined for another 10. Hughley is fourth in the league with 30, and no two men on any team have as many as his and Edwards’ 54 combined.

“My goal is to have three deep threats on the field at all times, and I think we’ve done that,” offensive coordinator Craig Strickland said. “When teams are respecting our other receivers, it gives Jeff more opportunities in (man-to-man) coverage.”

Hughley is doing a lot with what he’s given — more than he’s ever done, in fact.

He scored 33 TDs as a rookie in 2007, 34 last year and has 31 in his first nine games of 2009, counting one score on a kick return. At his current pace of 3.44 per game, he’ll challenge the franchise and league record of 57, set by Donovan Mor-

SEE TALONS B3



PARTING GIFT

Austin Kirk: The senior pitcher gave his state championship medal to longtime Owasso baseball fan Odis McCormack, who died Wednesday.

In his final days, Rams fan, players forge bond

• Odis McCormack will be buried in pitcher Austin Kirk’s jersey.

BY LYNN JACOBSEN
World sports writer

Austin Kirk smiled as he received his 2009 state championship baseball medal last month at Drillers Stadium.

The smile was partly because he had just thrown a four-hitter to lead Owasso to a 10-1 victory over Edmond Santa Fe, and partly because he had just helped the Rams win a third consecutive state championship, a first for a large school.

But mostly the smile was because the senior pitcher knew instantly what he would do with his medal.

“I thought it would be cool to give it to Odis,” Kirk said, referring to Owasso fan Odis McCormack, who died Wednesday at the age of 70 after battling a long illness. “He smiled real big when I gave it to him. He just clutched it in his hand for a long time.”

“We had just learned about him toward end of the season. Apparently he had followed our senior class since our freshman year. He was a really cool guy. He was definitely a character. He couldn’t have

SEE KIRK B3

Local horse takes on Belmont



BELMONT STAKES

What: The 141st Belmont Stakes.
Where: Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y.
When: 5:27 p.m. (post time), KTUL channel 8.

Past winners with Oklahoma connections: 1921: Gray Lag (Harry Sinclair); 1923: Zev (Sinclair); 1924: Mad Play (Sinclair); 1956: Needles (D&H Stables); 1993: Colonial Affair (part owned by Oklahoman); 1998: Victory Gallop (Jack Preston).

Charitable Man is owned by Tulsans Suzanne and W.K. Warren Jr. AP

FOR MORE, SEE B2

• Owners of Charitable Man hope horse continues tradition of local horses having success at Belmont.

BY JOHN D. FERGUSON
World Sports Writer

The Belmont Stakes has been good to Oklahoma-based racehorse owners. Of the 13 horses that carried state hopes, 10 have finished in the top three with six winning the last leg of the Triple Crown.

On Saturday, Charitable Man, owned by Tulsans Suzanne and W.K. Warren Jr., will try to make it seven.

The Warrens’ horse will face nine rivals in the 1½-mile “Test of Champions” at Belmont Park.

Charitable Man enters the race

off a smashing May 9 victory in the Grade II Peter Pan stakes at Belmont. Two of Charitable Man’s three wins have been at the Elmont, N.Y., track.

This is the Warrens’ third horse to run in the Belmont Stakes. Denis of Cork finished second in 2008 and Knockadon was fourth in 1995.

Charitable Man, who will be ridden by jockey Alan Garcia, could be the Warrens’ best shot at winning the race.

Garcia won the 2008 race aboard longshot Da’ Tara. Charitable Man’s

SEE HORSE B2

OKLAHOMA STATE: BOONE PICKENS STADIUM



Interior and exterior improvements have been made to Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater. Pictured (from left) are the new team meeting and media interview room, the new locker room and the new weight room. Below is a view of the renovated west end zone. CORY YOUNG photos/Tulsa World

It’s nearly complete

OSU’s stadium makeover in final stages

BY BILL HAISTEN
World Sports Writer

STILLWATER — Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy recently was given his first comprehensive tour of the west-end structure at Boone Pickens Stadium.

“It blew me away,” Gundy said of the new football complex.

“It’s impressive, humongous, spacious and beautiful.”

The OSU makeover has been a 13-year campaign that began with the 1996 plan to renovate Gallagher-Iba Arena.

Now, the university is within a few weeks of completing its \$180 million west-end stadium project.

The west-end football complex is an eight-level structure

measuring 633,130 square feet — or 173,130 square feet larger than Gallagher-Iba Arena.

When the Georgia Bulldogs visit for the Sept. 5 season-opener, it will be the first game played in the completely renovated, 60,000-seat stadium.

“It’s been a journey — an incredible process,” said Tulsa architect Gary Sparks, an OSU graduate who designed both the

arena and stadium renovations.

This week, OSU’s strength-and-conditioning, equipment and sports-medicine operations were moved into the new complex.

On July 13, Gundy and his assistants will move into their new offices.

Bill Haisten 581-8397
bill.haisten@tulsaworld.com

Coming Sunday

One project is done at OSU, but another remains — the proposed athletic village. The project required \$50 million to acquire and clear 80 acres of land. But a sagging economy put construction on hold. What is the project’s future?

tulsaworld.com
ONLINE

Take a closer look at OSU’s new facilities in a photo slide show.
tulsaworld.com/photos

BOONE PICKENS STADIUM

Renovation facts and figures

- **South-side renovation:** \$47 million, completed in 2004. Included 19 suites, 2,030 club seats and a press box.
- **North-side renovation:** \$56 million, completed in 2006. Included 32 suites and 1,900 club seats.
- **West-end renovation:** \$180 million, scheduled for completion in August. Eight-level structure includes 36 suites, 14,000-square-foot locker room, 20,000-square-foot strength-and-conditioning facility, 7,600-square-foot sports-medicine facility, 9,000-square-foot equipment room, 5,500-square-foot team theater and coaches’ offices. The west-end stadium seating (13,500 seats) was completed before the 2008 season.

• **Total cost: \$283 million**

Significant structures

a comparison

- **633,130 square feet:** Oklahoma State University football complex, west end of Boone Pickens Stadium.
- **460,000 square feet:** OSU’s Gallagher-Iba Arena.
- **400,000 square feet:** Oklahoma State Capitol building.
- **197,000 square feet:** Average size of a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

FOR MORE ON THE RENOVATION OF BOONE PICKENS STADIUM, SEE B6

