

Oklahoma's Stoops, Kansas State's Snyder to face off again

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) - Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops would be just fine if he didn't have to face one of his most respected mentors, Kansas State coach Bill Snyder, each year. Stoops says Snyder's teams are "too good all the time."

Oklahoma (3-2, 2-0 Big 12), ranked No. 19, faces Kansas State (3-2, 1-1) on Saturday, and as often has been the case, the winner will be well positioned early in the conference race.

Stoops and Snyder go back to the late 1970s. Stoops played at Iowa when Snyder was offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach under coach Hayden Fry. Stoops joined Iowa's coaching staff as a graduate assistant while Snyder was still there.

Stoops was an assistant coach on Snyder's first seven Kansas State teams from 1989 to 1995, when they helped the program emerge as a powerhouse.

Both have continued to excel since Stoops left Kansas State to become defensive coordinator at Florida, then took the job at Oklahoma in 1999. They rank first and second among active FBS coaches in career wins at their current schools.

Stoops has a 9-3 record against Snyder, but Kansas State has won the past two games in Norman - 24-19 in 2012 and 31-30 in 2014.

AP