

Sports

Coach Osborne prefers low profile to top rating

By Jim Rasmussen and Stu Pospisil
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporters

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne Tuesday said he isn't sure he wants his Cornhuskers to be ranked No. 1 in the wake of Auburn's 20-18 loss to Miami.

The Huskers would appear to be in prime contention for the top spot, as they were ranked second behind Auburn in the pre-season wire service rankings.

"I'd just as soon maintain a low profile," Osborne said. "That wire-to-wire No. 1 ranking is a little wearing on the coaches and players, with all the attention."

Osborne speaks from experience, as Nebraska was ranked first from the pre-season to the Orange Bowl last year.

"You get a lot more media attention, and more phone calls and interviews, just because you're there (in the No. 1 spot)," Osborne said. "And there's something about that No. 1 rating that seems to bring out the best in your opponents."

Osborne said he isn't concerned with national rankings at this point.

"I really think most rankings are based on last year's records," Osborne said. "I just hope we're one of the top four teams in the Big Eight, let alone second in the country, I think that's awfully optimistic thinking."

Miami, with its big win over Auburn, may move up to the top position. But the Hurricanes have a tough schedule. They must travel to Tampa Saturday for a game against rival Florida.

Things don't get easier, as Miami plays at Michigan and Purdue before returning home to face Florida State.

Osborne did not say who he would vote No. 1 on his UPI coaches' poll ballot. He said he was impressed with Miami's play Monday.

"I'll just wait and see what happens this Saturday," Osborne said.

AP voter Dave Webber, sports director at WOW-TV in Omaha, said he thinks Nebraska will be No. 1 in the next poll.

"I will put them at No. 1, because Texas and Clemson are of unknown quality," Webber said.

Webber said he ranked NU fourth in the pre-season poll.

Ralph Routon of the Colorado Springs Coloradan, another AP voter, said he will rank Miami first if the Hurricanes beat Florida. If Florida wins, he said, he will rank Nebraska first.

"If Miami beats Florida, then I think they will move into the top spot. They will get my vote then," Routon said.

"If Miami should lose that game, then I don't think there's any question that Nebraska would become No. 1," Routon said.

Webber said he did not think his fellow AP voters would move the Hurricanes from No. 10 to the top spot, even if the Miami squad defeats Florida.

"There was a 100-point difference between Nebraska and Miami," Webber said. "I don't think they can move up that far."



Dave Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

First-string quarterback Craig Sundberg avoids a tackle during a Nebraska workout.



**GOURMET
COFFEE
OPEN HOUSE
TODAY**

only at the

Nebraska Union Bakery

Brought to you by the

**Coffee
Development
Group**

**We
♥
Coffee**

Another great offer from the

NEBRASKA STUDENT UNIONS