

Gophers host Rice Owls after poor scrimmage

By Mike Reilley
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Minnesota, Nebraska's second opponent, opens its 1984 football campaign this Saturday, hosting the Rice Owls at the Minneapolis Metrodome.

Minnesota finished last in the Big Ten last season with a 0-9 league mark. The only win in the school's 1-10 overall record was a 21-17 season-opening victory over Rice.

The Gophers were crushed 84-13 the following week by Nebraska. The lopsided score was the Cornhuskers' biggest winning

margin ever against an NCAA Division I-A team.

Minnesota first-year head coach Lou Holtz found few bright spots after sending his squad through its first full-scale scrimmage of the fall.

"It was difficult to analyze a scrimmage like that without a good look at the films," Holtz said in a Minnesota press release. "But from what I saw on the spot, there was not much to be pleased about."

The offense suffered through several penalties, fumbles, and interceptions.

When the offense wasn't bumbling, the defense was. The defense allowed four 'big-play' touchdowns of more than 50 yards. Despite the blunders, Holtz was pleased with the overall play of the defense.

Veteran quarterback Brett Sadek will call the signals for the Gophers this fall. Sadek is start-


ing ahead of three promising freshman quarterbacks: Dan Ford, Rickey Foggie, and Alan Holt. Sadek completed seven passes for 156 yards and two touchdowns in his initial fall scrimmage.

"Sadek is our No. 1 guy," Holtz said. "He has been impressive so far."

Holtz has 15 starters returning

(six offensive, nine defensive) from a team that was outscored 518-190 last year.

Holtz, who left Arkansas in December, will take a 106-53-5 career coaching record to a school that has lost 18 of its last 19 games. But after the early stages of fall practice, Holtz was able to see a measurable amount of progress.



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