

Sports

Osborne praises NU offensive line for performance against Bruins

By Jim Rasmussen
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Monday he knows the secret to Harry Griminger's strong play in Saturday's 42-3 win against UCLA.

"I think Harry played so well because he decided to rest himself on punting plays," Osborne joked.

Griminger mistakenly left the game on a fourth down situation in the first quarter. Consequently, Nebraska had only 10 players on the field, and UCLA's Kevin Alexander blocked Scott Livingston's punt. UCLA recovered at the Husker 6-yard line. The Huskers recovered a UCLA fumble on the next play.

Osborne, speaking at the weekly Extra Point Club luncheon, said Griminger didn't offer any excuses for the mistake.

"I asked Harry how that could happen, and he said, 'I don't know, coach, but it could happen again.'"

Griminger wasn't the only target for Osborne's jokes. The coach also ribbed Sports Illustrated, which had ranked UCLA No. 1 before the Nebraska game.

"The only thing I feel certain

about is that you can't believe what Sports Illustrated tells you," Osborne said. "I'm sure they're shaking their heads a little bit this week."

On a more serious note, Osborne said he was pleased with the Huskers' effort against the Bruins. Nebraska's philosophy is to play aggressive, physical football, and Osborne said his team did just that Saturday.

"I think we were that type of team against UCLA," the coach said.

The play of the Husker offensive line also drew words of praise.

"If you look at what our offensive line did and then look at what UCLA's line did, you can tell right there where the game was won or lost," Osborne said.

The Husker coaches named the starting offensive line — center Mark Traynowicz, guards Griminger and Greg Orton and tackles Mark Behning and Tom Morrow — as the offensive player of the week against UCLA. Bill Weber got the nod as the top defender for his nine-tackle performance.

"Bill Weber had probably his best game in his two or three years as a starter," Osborne said.

Osborne had good things to say about Syracuse, Nebraska's next

opponent. The Orangemen own a 2-1 record, with wins against Maryland and Temple. Rutgers defeated Syracuse 19-0 last week.

Osborne said Syracuse lost two fumbles inside the Rutgers 1-yard line. The Orangemen turned the ball over seven times.

Osborne cautioned Husker fans not to take Syracuse lightly.

"Syracuse has good athletes and an experienced football team," he said.

Osborne said he'd rather play the Orangemen some other week. The fact that Syracuse lost to Rutgers probably will fire the Orangemen up for this week's game, he said.

"I know their preparation will be very good," Osborne said. "I'm sure their crowd will be noisy and there will be lots of enthusiasm. It's going to be a tough ball game, and we'll have to prepare well."

Osborne said he's worried his team could get complacent after beating UCLA so badly. Nebraska doesn't have a good enough team to take the Orangemen lightly, he said.

"We're kind of a blue-collar football team," he said. "We're not the type of team that can just come out and win with sheer power. We have to overpower teams with hard work."



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Kirk Alexander recovers a blocked punt in the second quarter. Scott Livingston made the tackle. The Bruins turned the ball over on the next play.

UNL crew team sweats for success in championship

By Brad Kuhn
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6 a.m. — The "thwok" of oars grabbing water drifts to shore a little ahead of the ripples that mark the passage. Four bodies move as one, prying along in a needle-like boat. Even as the birds sleep, the UNL rowing team sweats on Capitol Beach lake.

They're the folks who clean the Bob Devaney sports center after everyone else has gone home, the Gypsies rowing in the snow last year on the corner of 13th and O streets to raise money. Everything they own has been begged, borrowed or stolen. But when it comes to rowing, they don't kowtow to anyone.

In 1974, they placed 5th in the U.S. National Championships, making them Nebraska's highest ranked athletic team that year.

Lisa Rohde, Olympic silver medalist in the women's quad sculling event in Los Angeles this summer, was introduced to rowing as a UNL undergraduate. Peter Zandbergen, who rowed for UNL in the early 1970s, was this year's Olympic Rowing Team coordinator. Bower Mark Stormberg was offered a coaching position at the University of Pennsylvania.

But the success has been sporadic. Operating on a shoestring, the club has frequently struggled to find a good coach willing to work for almost nothing. In the last 14 years, the team has had 13 coaches. Membership flagged at one point from a high of 75 to a low of eight. Current membership stands at a healthy 35.

The crew had been in a slump since 1980, before Chipman Purdom, the former women's rowing coach at the University of Western Ontario came to Nebraska. The 24-year-old Purdom has signed a two-year contract with the Huskers for better or for worse.

"I'm impressed with the quality of rowers at Nebraska," Purdom said. "All they need is a little

direction. My goal is to win the Midwest Championship this spring."

Big talk considering the team has only pulled off that feat once, in 1979, when both the men's and women's lightweight varsity boats took gold medals.

Backed into a corner, Purdom admits there are no guarantees.

"I'm here on a two-year deal," he said. "Maybe these folks won't be any better when I leave. But I think they will."

Purdom's strategy is what he calls "program building," working this year to be fast next year.

Purdom also is taking giant strides in establishing an identity for his crew. For the first time in

five years, the team is planning a home regatta. Purdom has invited teams from all over the Midwest and Canada.

The regatta, scheduled for Oct. 28, will be sponsored by Budweiser and Commonwealth Electric. Lisa Rohde will be named a commodore in the Nebraska Navy by Lt. Gov. Don McGinley.

As the sun rests far in the eastern sky casting the crew in reflection on window glass along the lake, sleepy locals sip coffee and peer from their kitchen blinds yawning. Back on campus students are showering for their 7:30 classes, but for the members of the UNL crew, it's midday.

Joel Sartora/Daily Nebraskan

EARLY MORNING finds the novice heavyweights working out on Capitol Beach Lake (below). At night, coach Chip Purdom yells instructions at crew members.

