

Hats, footballs hard to hang on to at first scrimmage



By Mike McCarthy

By watching Don Bryant, UNL sports information director, one could get a good indication of how the Huskers' first football scrimmage went Monday.

With the wind blowing, snow falling and temperatures dipping, a red-cheeked Bryant, while watching the scrimmage, found his hat tumbling along the sidelines.

Bryant's hat performed much like the fumbles and pass interceptions during the two-hour workout.

But despite the adverse weather and the turnovers, Husker coach Tom Osborne said he got a good look at some players who might start next year. It was a good effort, he added.

"It was probably the worst day we had a scrimmage here in my 15 years of coaching," Osborne said. "I was pleased with the first two defenses, considering we have a whole new timing and system."

Osborne said it still was difficult to evaluate the Huskers' performance.

"It's hard to get a big picture of the situation," he said.

"Some players looked good from the individual standpoint, but we still have to put in some new plays, like our goalline defense."

Osborne said several Huskers played

well, but he did not point out any individuals.

"It's the old cliché. You have to look at the films," he said.

"You might see three or four good plays a player makes. The films show 10 to 16 bad plays, although you only saw the three or four good ones."

Although Osborne said he was disappointed the offense did not score much, he said he was pleased with the execution considering the cold, windy weather.

"It's hard to go 70 yards and get continuity," he added.

A prime candidate for I-back, junior Rick Berns, saw limited action during the scrimmage.

"We know what he can do," Osborne said.

Osborne added that the only Husker injury was halfback sophomore Greg Slueter from Ord, who was knocked out.

"It's nothing bad," Osborne said. "Actually, I was real pleased we got through the scrimmage without many injuries."

Osborne said the Huskers will participate today through Friday, then scrimmage Saturday. The team, despite the bad weather, is only one practice session behind, he added.



Photos by Ted Kirk

Husker defensive backs Larry Valasek (4) and Rene Anderson (2) force Mark Dufresne to fumble the football in UNL's first spring football scrimmage Monday.

Weather strikes out game-again

UNL's women's softball team struck out again when its season opener against the University of Nebraska at Omaha was postponed Tuesday.

The softball team will face Northwest Missouri State University at 3 today in a doubleheader at Mabel Lee Field.

Head coach George Nicodemus said, "We were looking forward to playing UNO. They have a fine team."

"We were getting excited at facing some good pitching," he added.

UNO finished third in the nation last season and won the national title the year before.

The Huskers' original home and seasonal opener against Creighton University also was postponed because of bad weather.

Nicodemus' team has only gotten to play two games this season, a doublehead-

er against Kansas State University (KSU) at Manhattan last Friday.

According to Nicodemus the Huskers blew an 11-3 lead going on to lose the opening game of the day 13-11.

UNL led in the second game 11-3 going into the fifth inning when the Huskers went down one-two-three.

Since five full innings constitute an official game, Nicodemus told his girls to quickly get out of the inning.

"I told the girls to intentionally strike out. Then the umpire called the game because of darkness after four and one-half innings."

"I'm not planning to protest. It's not worth it. It's only a game," he said.

Nicodemus, also women's basketball coach, sent two letters of intent out for that sport last Thursday. He said he has received no responses yet.

UNL intramural meet starts today

Persons may still enter the two-day intramural track meet today and Thursday, according to Gale Wiedow, UNL intramural coordinator.

"We'll accept entries right up to the time of the meet," Wiedow said. "Four people would constitute a team but individuals may participate as well."

Field events will be run first today at 5:30 p.m. They will be followed by the 440-yard relay, the preliminaries for hurdle events, the 100- and 220-yard dashes and

the 880-yard run. Final competition today will be the mile run.

Thursday starting time will again be 5:30 when the 880 relay event is run. Also run on Thursday will be the finals of the hurdle events, the 100 and 220, the two-mile run and the mile relay.

Wiedow said assistant UNL track coach Dan Morran will be the meet's official starter and student volunteers will officiate.

The annual event will be on the track west of the Coliseum.

sports

Big 8 Conference golf title may be tough to recapture

By Kevin Schnepf

UNL women's golf coach Larry Romjue said he thinks it may be difficult for the Huskers to regain their Big 8 title.

The Huskers open their season Thursday at Omaha against Creighton University. The meet was scheduled for Tuesday but was cancelled because of bad weather.

The Big 8 tournament will be April 22 and 23 at Oklahoma University in Norman, which Romjue said is one of the top teams to beat.

"The weather has really been hurting us," he said. "We've had very few practices and with Oklahoma hosting the tournament, it will make it that much harder to win."

Romjue said Oklahoma State University and the University of Kansas also will have good teams.

The Huskers return all but one golfer from last year's team and will be led by junior Nan Circo.

Circo finished 17th in national competition last year and placed second in the regionals last fall when the Huskers placed second.

"Both Nan and Jane (Deeter) have improved since last year," Romjue said. "They performed very well in the fall season."

Deeter, a sophomore from Lincoln, placed fourth in the Big 8 Tournament last year.

Other Husker golfers are sophomores Sharon Slattery, Catherine Morrissey, Laurel Smedberg; seniors Deb Denbeck and Michele Armbruster, and freshman Mimi Huston.

The Huskers have improved, Romjue said, but not as well as he had hoped.

"The number one and two golfers (Circo and Deeter), are improved," he said; "but we need some improvement out of the number three, four and five golfers."

Creighton University will come to Lincoln on April 12 to face the Huskers at Holmes Municipal Golf Course.

The Huskers travel to Norman for the Sooner Invitational April 15 and 16, followed by the Big 8 Tournament. UNL closes its season May 6 and 7 at Minneapolis in the Minnesota Invitational.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Former Husker Monte Johnson, a starting linebacker for the Super Bowl champion Oakland Raiders, helps the Husker coaches officiate the scrimmage.