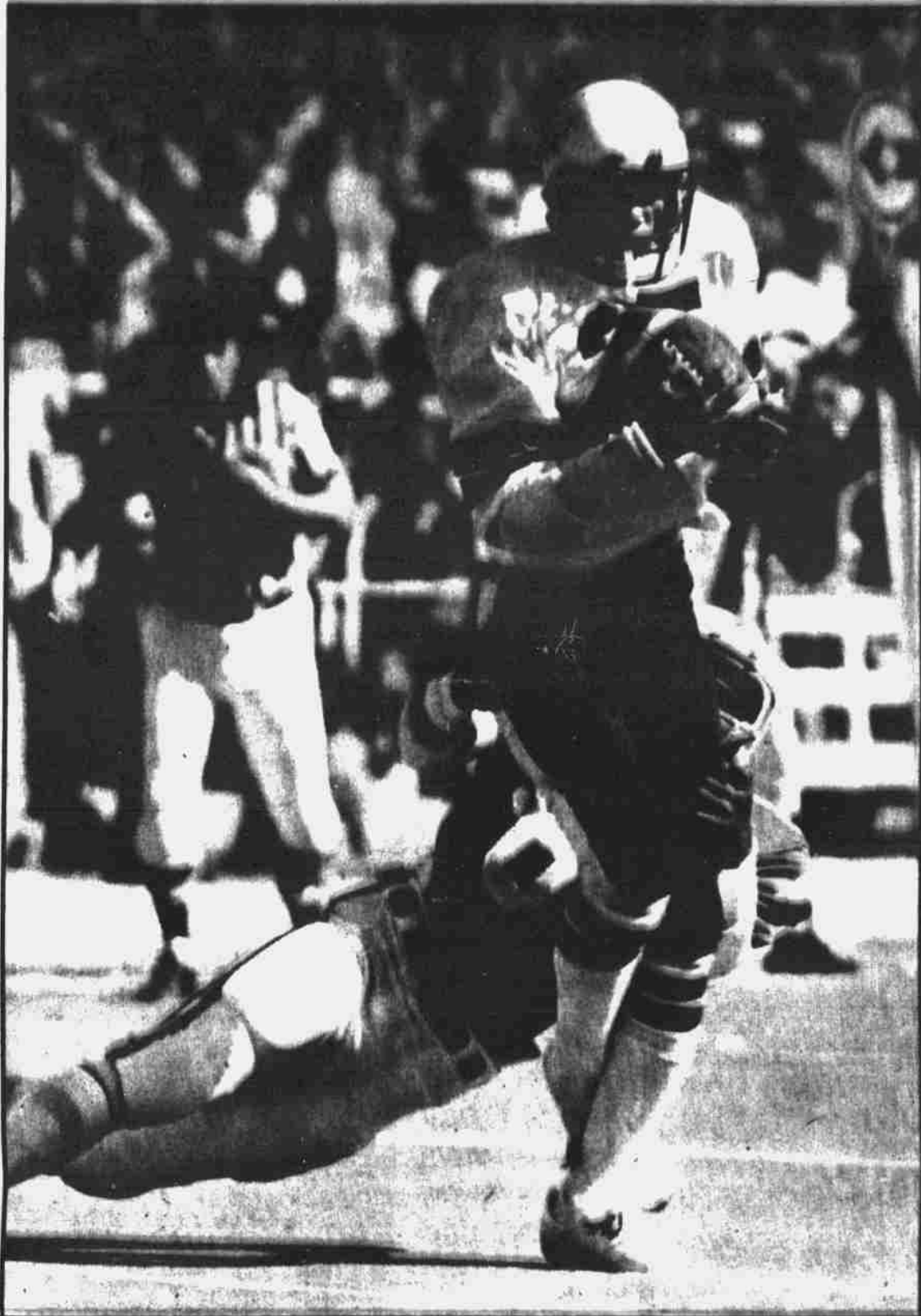


sports

No major defensive changes—Van Zandt

By Paul Huscher



Cornerback Paul Letcher (8) brings down Utah State's Ken Thompson (25) in last week's season opener.

Photo by Mark Billingsley

Feel like stepping out of the frying pan and into the fire?

Nebraska's defense might feel that way this week preparing to face Iowa Saturday.

After facing Utah State's explosive offense led by quarterback Eric Hipple, the Blackshirts have had to get ready for another passing quarterback.

Nebraska defensive coordinator Lance Van Zandt said Phil Sues, a 6-5 lefthander, is similar to Hipple, who completed 18 of 28 passes for 219 yards against the Huskers last week.

"Sues is a real effective passer," Van Zandt said. "He can roll out as well as drop back into the pocket."

In two games Sues has completed 30 of 49 passes (.612 percent) for 366 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior cornerback, Paul Letcher, said Nebraska, "ran into a problem against Utah State with all the noise. Nobody could hear."

He said that once the offense comes up to the line "checks" or changes in the defensive play are called by different defensive players.

"In order to avoid mistakes we won't have as many defensive checks," Letcher said.

THE HUSKERS' top left cornerback said despite Utah State's success against Nebraska's defense in the first half, coach Van Zandt won't make any changes in the defense.

"We're going to play the same against Iowa as we did against Utah State," Letcher said. "But there's going to be a lot harder hitting and more aggressive defense."

Van Zandt said the Husker coaches aren't taking the Iowa Hawkeyes lightly.

"Iowa has a good passing game and an excellent running back (Dennis Mosley) who is leading the nation in scoring (5 TD's)," Van Zandt said.

Iowa lost to Oklahoma 21-6 last

week but trailed 7-6 after the end of three quarters.

"We're going to have to be ready for anything. They like to run a lot of reverses, draws and other misdirection plays," Van Zandt said. "Hayden Fry (Iowa's head coach) plays a real wide-open style of football," he said. "We're going to have to break for the ball better."

The Nebraska defense, considered the strongest part of the team by pre-season estimates, reached Hipple only twice in the first half.

LETCHER SAID the defensive line may be able to put more pressure on Sues than they did on Hipple.

"It should be easier to get a good pass rush on Sues because he's more of a drop back passer, unlike Hipple, who was more of a rollout quarterback."

He said he thinks Sues is probably an effective quarterback.

"They have an excellent passing game. Their quarterback may not be as good as Hipple, but he can tear you apart."

"Sues used to be a defensive back so he probably knows a lot about reading defenses."

Iowa's coach Fry calls his receiver corps the strength of his team, but Letcher said he feels the Husker defensive backs will be able to handle them.

Although Letcher will be starting his second game as a Nebraska blackshirt he said he'll be just as excited for the Iowa game as he was for Utah State.

"You have to get up for each game and play your best because no one's job is nailed down," he said. "If someone plays better in practice then the coaches will put the best player in."

Letcher said it's important to keep working and playing hard to improve yourself.

"You always want to be a better player than the week before," he said. "I can't wait to get in there this Saturday."

Hawkeye coach's humor 'Frys' them in the locker room

Iowa Head Coach Hayden Fry may have been using a little of his psychology degree Wednesday but I think I know a good stand-up comic when I hear one.

Fry, in a rough Texas drawl politely informed me he was not worried about playing Nebraska this weekend. "I already know we're going to lose," he said.

shelley smith

"What I am worried about is getting my players out onto the field Saturday. Maybe we won't show up at all," he added.

He did say, however, he is taking a positive approach to what he calls a "wipe-out game."

"I'm going to say the Lord's prayer before the game, during half-time and after it."

"No, really, my real goal is to score in the second half. We haven't done that yet," the Iowa coach said.

Iowa is 0-2 this season, and Fry said it doesn't bother him.

"At least we're consistent."

"IT'S LIKE an old dog that has been sick for a long time. He didn't get sick overnight and he's not going to be cured overnight," he said.

He added part of the sickness is because Iowa City is "climatized to losing." That was why people congratulated the team after they lost to Oklahoma 21-6.

"They say nice game and what's bad is those ball players are starting to believe that junk," he said.

Junk or not, in preparing for Nebraska, Fry said the Hawkeyes have been working hard on their passing game.

"Yeah, this time we're trying to pass to our own players," he said.

How many interceptions did the Hawkeyes have last week?

"How many passes did we throw?" he answered.

I asked him if they were going to run any of the strange plays they ran against Oklahoma last week, like the Statue of Liberty, and a no backfield line-up.

"Honey, most of the plays we run turn out strange

without planning them that way."

FRY SAID he doesn't think the Hawkeye defense will be able to stop Nebraska's offense because no one has been able to.

"What we are doing though is watching films and deciphering the sideline calls."

The native Texan said he enjoys the "mild" Iowa weather, but added he hopes the weather this weekend is terrible and the game is called off.

"The game is sold out so we already have all the money," he said.

If the game is played, Fry said he's sure Iowa won't

beat the point spread. Bookies have picked Nebraska by 21.

"Actually, I can't even believe Vegas would pick this game—it's going to be such a blow out."

But the key to a Hawkeye victory, he said, is if at the end of the fourth quarter, he looks up at the scoreboard and Iowa has more points than Nebraska.

"Then we'll know we won."

Whether using his psychology or not, Hayden Fry insisted he was an honest man. He said it will be tough to play Nebraska after playing Oklahoma, and then play Iowa State next weekend.

"I'd like to find that guy who made up that schedule," he said.

Coach: women's cross country team developing under sophomore leader

By Paul Huscher

Nebraska women's track coach Carol Frost calls cross country runner Gina Hungerford her team leader—even though she's only a sophomore.

Frost, whose runners finished fifth last week at the Wichita State Invitational, said her team is young but should develop under Hungerford's leadership. Hungerford finished 21st at Wichita with a time of 19:26.

"Gina's a very good athlete and an excellent student," Frost said. "She's a real asset to the team. Gina's a good team leader having the most experience."

"She's an extremely hard worker and has a lot of pain tolerance when she runs long distance. That may be the reason for her past injuries—she doesn't know when to stop," she said.

Hungerford is hoping all the practicing will pay off—especially in time for the Big Eight Cross Country Championships, which will be held in Lincoln Oct. 26 at Pioneer Park.

"We run an average of eight miles on long-distance days

(Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)," Hungerford said. "On Tuesdays and Thursdays the team runs shorter distances (880 or mile) at a faster pace."

"My goal this year is to qualify for the cross country national meet by doing well in the Big Eight meet," she said. "And when track season comes around I want to make it to the national track meet in the 10,000 meter run."

Hungerford said the women's cross country coaches, Frost and assistant coach Linda Zech, both do a good job motivating the women before they go running and reminding them of their goals.

"Besides Gina, no one has run for us before this year. Some never even ran cross country in high school," Frost said.

Other team members include Sally Sneller, Nancy Topken, Rhonda Seymour, Janet Bornmeier, Cindy Vickers, Tammy Essington and Christine Hass.

"Last year the conference had four of the top 15 teams in the nation," she added. "It's a tough conference to compete in."