

New offensive coach Dan Young challenged to carry on tradition

By Bob Asmussen
Night News Editor

To some, the name Cletus Fischer is synonymous with the Nebraska offensive line in the last two decades. That long association has come to an end. Fischer retired after last season and has been replaced by former freshman coach Dan Young. Young said it might be difficult to succeed Fischer.

"He's a great coach," Young said, "one that's been in the program for a long time. His name was synonymous with the success of Nebraska football. This is a great challenge."

Fortunately for Young, Fischer didn't leave the cupboard bare. Two of five 1985 starters, guard John McCormick and tackle Tom Welter, return for 1986. Welter has been mentioned as a possible All-American candidate.

"He's one of the best tackles they've had here for quite a while," Young said. "He can beat you with his head or with

his brawn."

Young said the other offensive line starters will likely be Rob Maggard at tackle, Stan Parker at guard and Mark Cooper at center. Young said Keven Lightner looks to be the third tackle. He said Mike Hoefler will be the No. 3 guard and Jeff Sellentin and John Nichols will be the reserve centers.

"We thought they (the offensive line) improved a lot during the spring," Young said. "We're pleased with the way John Nichols played. We've really got five guards, three centers and four to five good tackles."

Cooper will follow in the line of successful Nebraska centers. Young said he has confidence in Cooper.

"I think he's going to do a heck of a job for us," Young said.

Young said he enjoyed his three-year stint as freshman coach. His team won 14 of 15 games, losing only to Waldorf College in 1984.

"As offensive line coach, I'm more

concerned with a smaller group of players," Young said. "It's nice to be a head coach because you oversee everything."

Young said he has coached most of the offensive linemen at the freshman level and is familiar with each player's ability.

"I dealt with them all before," Young said. "It would have been different if I was new to the program."

Lee Jones called front-runner in competition for tackle spot

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"We're anxious to see what develops at the other tackle spot," Osborne said. "We have a lot of other people battling for that other tackle and some back-up spots."

The front-runner to replace departed All-American Jim Skow is Lee Jones. Jones, the brother of I-back Keith Jones, runs the 40-yard dash in 4.74 seconds and gained playing experience last season.

Osborne said Danny Groskurth and Tim Rother could also see some playing time at the right tackle position.

At end, Nebraska lost last year's starters, Gregg Reeves and Brad Smith, as well as two other lettermen from 1985.

"Defensive end was probably the spot on defense we were hit the hardest

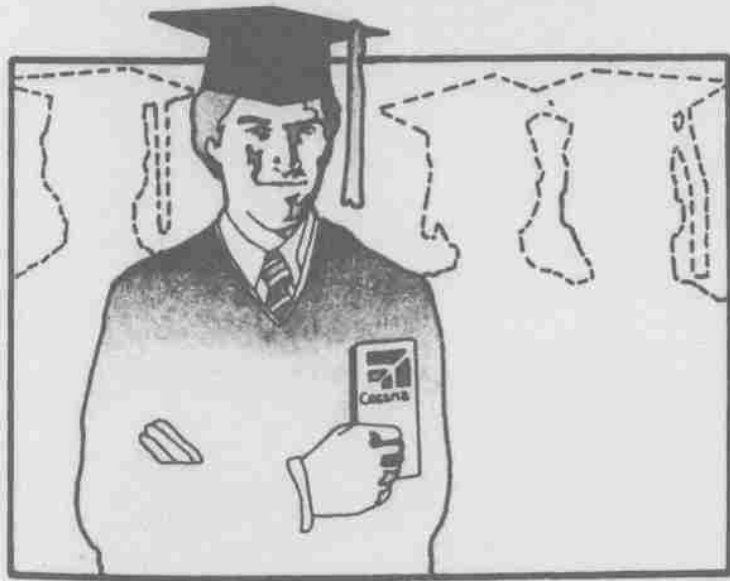
by graduation," Osborne said. "We lost three of the top four or five players, and yet we have a little bit more athletic talent returning (at end) than what we've had for a couple of years."

On the right end, Tony Holloway gets the nod as the top end at the start of fall camp. Holloway, a converted linebacker, is the fastest Nebraska end. Holloway has been timed in the 40-yard dash at 4.67 seconds.

On the right end, Brad Tyrer will begin as the top player. Tyrer, the son of the late Kansas City Chiefs All-Pro guard Jim Tyrer, has starting experience from last season. Tyrer's backup will be Broderick Thomas. Thomas, a sophomore from Houston, also earned some starting experience in 1985.

Junior Jeff Jamrog is another player who could see some playing time this fall, according to Osborne.

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