

## Sports Opinion



**Mike Kluck**

### Osborne's show brings football to fans' homes

When I was a boy growing up, my dad didn't believe much in football.

For a man who farmed all his life and never played football in high school — let alone never attended college — the game would just get in the way when there was a harvest or chores that needed to be done.

As I grew up, he gradually began to understand what the sport meant to me. Occasionally he got tickets to a Nebraska game against Hawaii or Utah State, or he let me have time off to watch televised games.

Nearly all I knew about the Cornhuskers came from Lyle Bremser, Kent Pavelka or Tom Osborne's weekly television show. I stayed up late to watch Jeff Schmahl and the coach go over plays.

Visions of a disappointed Osborne in the wake of another dose of Sooner Magic, or watching him talk about the third-string fullback who played well in a rout have been embedded in my mind.

It's those memories that reinforce the importance of Osborne's shows — even today.

Since returning to college as a graduate student, I've seen Osborne on a daily basis while covering his team. I often tend to forget the importance of his television show to people throughout the state.

The importance of Nebraska football was emphasized to me in 1992. I was teaching in a small Nebraska community, and 18 fifth graders were crowded into a little office to hear one of their classmates interview former Husker punter Mike Stigge on the telephone.

Many of those kids will never see a Saturday of red at Memorial Stadium or come within 100 yards of talking to the most popular man in the state.

But the Tom Osborne Show can bring him to those people.

This year, the responsibility of the job rests with host and producer Bill Doleman. HuskerVision produces the show.

Doleman said his job is to show as many plays as possible. He is quiet and lets Osborne talk about the game; but he also knows he has to keep the show moving.

It's not an easy job, but it is important.

The Tom Osborne Show can be seen Sunday at 11 a.m. on Channel 3 or Sunday night at 10:30 on channel 8.

But with stations throughout the state carrying the show, anyone with a slight interest in Husker football will be able to see their favorite plays just as Warren Swain told them.

Kluck is a graduate student in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

# Spartans hope to shock NU

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Senior Reporter

When Nick Saban became the head coach at Michigan State last year, he vowed to make the Spartans a respectable program once again.

Nobody figured he would do it his first season.

Before the former Cleveland Browns defensive coordinator took over, the Spartans had not had a winning season since 1990.

In his first season, Saban guided Michigan State to a

6-5-1 record, an Independence Bowl invitation and an impressive 28-25 win over in-state rival Michigan.

Now in his second year, Saban has started off strong, putting the Spartans back on the map with a 52-14 season-opening win over Purdue.

Michigan State will try to turn the college football world upside down Saturday, playing No. 1 Nebraska at 11:10 a.m. at Memorial Stadium.

But to keep the Spartans on the right track, Saban said, he is going to make sure his team's focus is where it's supposed to be Saturday.

"Our biggest motivation is to try and keep the consistency we obtained last week," Saban said. "We have a difficult task on hand this week."

The consistency Saban wants is the



**Saban**

## First-time starters cherish opportunity

By **TREVOR PARKS**  
Senior Reporter

Adam Treu and Jon Hesse are living the Nebraska dream.

Grow up in Nebraska. Dream of wearing a scarlet and cream uniform. Work hard for four years, and when you become a fifth-year senior, finally earn a starting job.

Treu, who will start at left tackle, and Hesse, the No. 1 Mike linebacker, are among eight Cornhusker

football players slated to start for the first time Saturday against Michigan State.

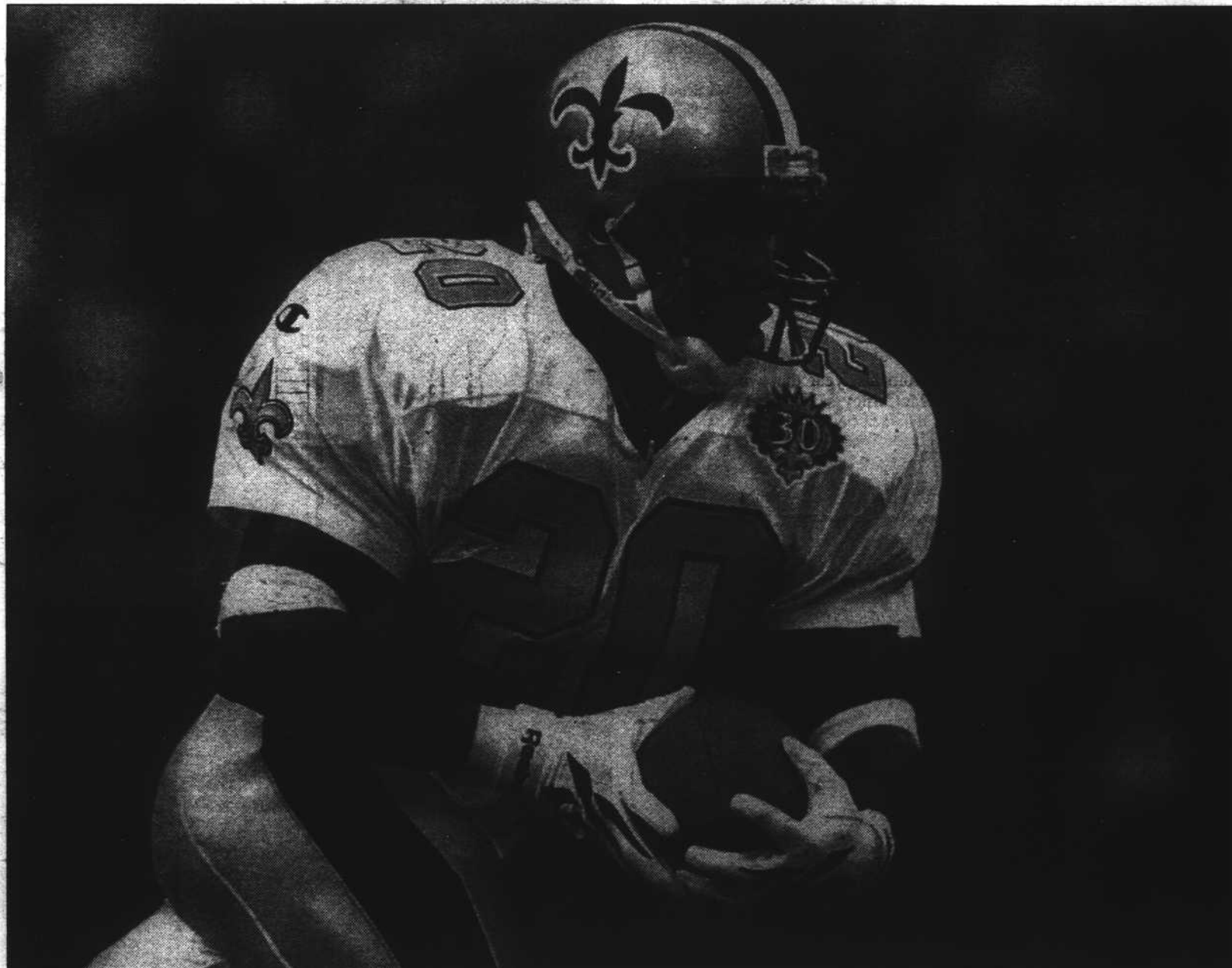
"I don't see it as any extra pressure," said Treu, from Lincoln Pius X. "I look back to last year where I played just as much as the starters. But it's nice to know I've achieved one of the many goals I set for myself when I first got here."

Treu played in all 12 games last season at right tackle.

Hesse, from Lincoln Southeast,

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JON WALLER/DN

**DEREK BROWN**, a former Nebraska I-back, is entering his fourth pro season with the New Orleans Saints.

## Former Husker adapts to reserve role

**DEREK BROWN** is still a major player in Saints' offense.

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Senior Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In the week before the New Orleans Saints' preseason game against Kansas City last month, Derek Brown did not practice returning kickoffs.

But that didn't phase the four-year National Football League veteran and former Nebraska running back, who returned five kicks for 156 yards, including a 58-yarder to start the game.

"I don't care how I get the chance," Brown said, "offensively, kickoff re-

turns, special teams. Anytime I get the chance, I'm going to make the best of it."

Trying to make the best of it is what Brown has been doing since he was the second pick in the fourth round of the 1993 draft.

Brown left Nebraska one year early. In his three years at NU, the I-back rushed for 2,821 yards and 24 touchdowns.

The two-time all-conference selection and 1992 Big Eight offensive player of the year immediately became a starter for the Saints in 1993, after injuries sidelined New Orleans' top backs, Fred McAfee and Vaughn Dunbar.

That season, Brown started 12 games and rushed for 705 yards and two touchdowns. He was 10th in the

# N Huskers

in the NFL

This is one in a series of stories about former NU players in the NFL.

NFC in rushing and was fifth among NFL rookies.

However, with the addition of Mario Bates in 1994 and Ray Zellers in 1995, Brown's role with the Saints has changed from a full-time starter to a valuable reserve.

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