

# daily nebraskan sports



Nebraska defensive back Joe Blahak was a unanimous choice for defensive player of the week in the Big Eight Conference following the Oklahoma State game. Blahak made six tackles, recovered a fumble and knocked down five passes from his safety position.

## Cross Country team to spring surprise?

by Steve Kadel

Nebraska's cross country team is hoping to surprise a few people this Saturday at the Big Eight meet in Columbia, Mo. Although losing early season duals to Colorado, Kansas State and Missouri, the Huskers feel they have improved more than any team in the conference. Two weeks ago against Drake they scored their first victory of the season, 15-49, taking first through sixth and eighth places.

Bob Unger and Lynn Hall tied for first at Drake, running the five mile course in 26:05.

"Oklahoma State has to be the favorite this weekend," Nebraska Coach Frank Sevigne said. "They've got Jon Halberstadt, who should win, and Charles Boatwright who was third last year."

"But after Oklahoma State you've got Missouri and Kansas State," Sevigne said. "They didn't beat us that bad."

Nebraska's entries include Unger, Hall, Jim Hawkins, Mike Fertig, Roger Chadwick, Dan Speck and Larry Gnapp.

Nebraska didn't have a meet scheduled last weekend. The team feels the layoff will help.

"We've had three weeks of hard work," Hawkins said, "and having last weekend off helped because we could train through it instead of having to get up for another meet."

"We came out of the Drake meet with a lot of confidence," Fertig said. "They've got a hilly course, like the one at Missouri, and that's what we like. That should help us Saturday."

Nebraska has had a little trouble adjusting to the new five mile distance this year. Last season the standard distance was four miles.

"We could have beaten K-State and Missouri at four miles," Fertig said. "Five hurts us and helps most other teams. The thing is, most teams will be hurting for a fifth man, so we'll do o.k. if we stay together."

"This meet's going to be unpredictable," Hall said. "We just haven't run against that many Big Eight teams."



In a career spanning 16 years, Duane Nelson has handled cases of all kinds in all our Courts. He has been a prosecutor and trial lawyer for the United States, a criminal defense lawyer, an administrator, has worked with offenders as a teacher, and headed Nebraska's criminal justice planning agency.

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Mike Massee, a scout from Colorado, left Nebraska's press box Saturday only partially impressed.

"I think Iowa State has the best offense in the Big Eight," Massee said. "Nebraska has a great passing attack, but their running attack is a little weak."

The Nebraska football players are aware of the Colorado scout's opinion. An article including his statements is posted in the locker room.

But Husker head coach Bob Devaney doesn't subscribe to Massee's statements.

"That's his opinion," Devaney said. "We're not worried about our running game as long as we keep getting 500 total yards a ball game."

Nebraska is averaging 234 rushing and 258 yards passing a game. The Huskers' biggest rushing day was against Minnesota.

"There's been some instances when teams have ganged up and stopped our running game," Devaney allowed. "We're not going to run our head into the wall and try to run against them. The object is to get on the scoreboard, and I don't care if we run or pass for a touchdown."

Devaney also said the Cornhuskers have divided their time with different formations this year which reduces some of the running power from the I formation.

"We've added another formation out of the spread," Devaney said. "Our running game from the I formation has been good, but when we're in the spread it limits our ground game."

Has anybody tried to stack-up against Nebraska's passing game?

"Oklahoma State tried to take away our passing game by putting extra pressure on the quarterback," Devaney said. "Our completion percentage wasn't as good against Oklahoma State, but our offensive line has been doing a pretty good job of protecting the quarterback."

Nebraska's running attack, however, will be without the services of its No. 2 running back when the Cornhuskers meet Colorado in Boulder Saturday.

Dave Goeller, who has started at I-back the past two games, suffered a hairline fracture in his forearm Saturday and will miss this week's game. Jeff Moran, a sophomore from Huron, S.D., is listed as the Huskers' No. 2 I-back this week.

"We'll probably alternate our I-backs about the same as we have all year," Devaney said. "If Dixon is in there and isn't tired, we'll probably keep him in. But there will be no hesitation about substituting for him." Sophomore Don Westbrook probably will be the third I-back at Colorado. There is, however, a possibility that Tony Davis may be used, which would eliminate him as a redshirt.

Sophomore quarterback David Humm worked out in sweat clothes Tuesday, but is expected to be ready by Saturday. Humm, a lefthander, suffered a bruised right shoulder against Oklahoma State.

Nebraska jumped to third in the United Press International (UPI) poll and remained third in this week's Associated Press (AP) college football poll. Southern California and Alabama are ranked first and second respectively in each poll. The Huskers have two first place votes in the UPI poll, and four first place votes in the AP poll.

## sports shorts

The all-university flag football championship, canceled Tuesday because of wet fields, has been rescheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Cather Fields. Phi Delta Phi will meet Phi Delta Theta in the championship game.

Nebraska ranks second in total offense in the nation. Oklahoma leads the nation with 508.5 yards a game average followed by the Huskers with 493 yard average.

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