



Husker coach Tom Osborne . . . a tough job lies ahead.

Osborne and the dynasty

by Dave Sittler

How do you replace a coach that won seven Big Eight titles and two national championships in 11 years? Or players that won the Heisman, Outland and Lombardi trophies? Tom Osborne is about to find out.

Spring football practice begins today for the Cornhuskers, and Osborne will be taking his first step toward trying to fill the shoes of coach Bob Devaney who compiled a 101-20-2 record during his eleven-year stint at Nebraska.

Osborne is anxious to get going with his new job, which includes finding replacements for Heisman trophy winner Johnny Rodgers and middle guard Rich Glover, winner of both the Outland and Lombardi awards.

"I'm very excited and eager about getting started with spring drills," Osborne said. "And judging from the attitude of the team they all feel the same way."

Although it is a headache for Osborne, some of the enthusiasm shown by his squad is caused by the fact that many positions will be up for grabs. The Cornhuskers lost 13 starters including 10 drafted by the pros from last year's Orange Bowl championship team.

Some of the top seniors besides Rodgers and Glover that will be missing when practice starts this afternoon, include all-American defensive end Willie Harper, tight end Jerry List, monster man Dave Mason and defensive back Joe Blahak.

"We lost some great players as indicated by how many went in the pro draft. This will be a real problem," Osborne said. "But we have the nucleus for a fine team because of the experienced players that are returning. It will be interesting to see just how good we can become by the end of spring ball."

Heading the list of 38 lettermen returning from last year's 9-2-1 team, are such standouts as all-American tackle Daryl White, record-smashing quarterback David Humm plus rugged defensive starts Steve Manstedt and John Dutton at end and tackle respectively.

The offense will be bolstered by returning starters Bob Wolfe and Dan Anderson at guard, tackle Marvin Crenshaw and split end Bob Revelle.

Tight end Brent Longwell, I-back Dave Goeller, split end Frosty Anderson and fullback Maury Damkroger are additional players that saw much action last year for the Huskers.

Defense could be a large problem for Osborne and his staff to solve. Cornerback Randy Borg and safety Bob Thornton join Manstedt and Dutton as the only blackshirts that played regularly last fall.

"We have some large holes to fill, especially on defense," Osborne said. "But we are counting on men like Bob Nelson, Tom Rudd, Tom Pate, John Bell plus some newcomers to help us out."

The coaching staff has undergone a change besides Osborne's elevation to the top spot. Three new men have joined the Husker staff.

The new coaches and their duties include, Rick Duval who came from Colorado and will work with linebackers; Jerry Moore from SMU for quarterbacks and split ends; while George Darlington comes from San Jose State to work with the defensive ends.

Football team's long day ends

Coach Tom Osborne's decision to delay spring football practice to concentrate on recruiting until the national letter-of-intent signing date has paid-off for the new Husker head coach.

Osborne and his staff concluded four intensive months of recruiting Wednesday by announcing that some of the top football players in the nation had signed the national letter indicating their desire to attend Nebraska.

One of the biggest catches for the Cornhuskers both in talent and size was Bob Hayes of Bakersfield, Calif.

Hayes, a defensive and offensive starter at tackle for three years at East High in Bakersfield, Calif., stands 6-6 and weighs 265 pounds.

Lawrence Cooley of Monroe, Mich., was another heavily-recruited player that signed his letter with the Big Red.

Cooley, a 5-11, 230-pound linebacker, has been described as the best player to come out of his high school in the past decade.

Top catch for the Huskers may be Bobby Thomas, one of the smallest players offered a scholarship by Nebraska. Thomas, who stands only 5-8 and weighs 160-pounds hails from Bridgeport, Pa.

Players signing the national letter of intent with Nebraska and their hometowns included:

Dan Miller, Hebron, Neb.; Rocky Loken, Littleton, Colo.; Brian Throlson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Charles Baker, Port Arthur, Texas; Jason Justice, LaMarque, Texas; King Block, Ames, Iowa; Kent Smith, Thief River Falls, Minn.; Ken Spaeth, Mahanomen, Minn.; Bobby Thomas, Bridgeport, Pa.

Joe Collura, Lincoln; Mike Fultz, Lincoln; Reg Gast, Lincoln; Bruce Maske, Lincoln; Mark Brock, Omaha; James Wightman, Omaha; Jack Kelley, Omaha; Dale Zabrocki, Bellevue; Rod Stovall, Bellevue; Steve Tangeman, Omaha; Gary Herman, Omaha; Tom Davis, Omaha; Ed Burns, Omaha.

Bob Hayes, Bakersfield, Calif.; Jeff Carpenter, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Tony Samuels, Jersey City, N.J.; Larry Young, Jersey City, N.J.; Lawrence Cooley, Monroe, Mich.; Rocky Sinbeil, Grand Island.

Cip wins battle for cage star

Coach Joe Cipriano announced Wednesday that Rick Seidel of Sidney has signed a national basketball letter of intent with UNL.

Seidel is one of the biggest recruiting catches in the Cipriano era at Nebraska. The Cornhusker coach won the recruiting battle for the 6-6 Sidney star over Kansas State, Creighton and Colorado State.

Cipriano has been recruiting hard this year and is rumored to have Fairbury star Bob Siegel headed for Lincoln.

Siegel is being recruited by schools throughout the United States and has announced that he has narrowed his choices to Nebraska, Marquette, Kentucky, Kansas State and Notre Dame.

Cipriano has indicated that both Siegel and Seidel could make the varsity starting five as freshmen if they come to Nebraska.

After the Husker coach signed Seidel, who averaged 28 points this year at Sidney, he moved on to Denver, Colo., to sign Ricky Harris of Denver Manual High School.

Cipriano is also trying to convince Mark Enright of Cedar Rapids, Ia., to attend UNL.

Enright, a 6-9 center, scored 635 points for a 23.5 average this year, and grabbed 300 rebounds leading his team to a 23-4 record and third place in the Iowa Class AA State Tournament.

Nebraska's assistant Coach Lonnie Porter has been recruiting all season for the Huskers and has been concentrating on landing 6-10 Ron Taylor of Midland, Tex.

If Cipriano can sign Siegel, Enright and Taylor to go along with Seidel, it would be one of his best recruiting efforts since coming to Nebraska.