

Huskers plan for fall feast on Wishbone

Remember when playing with a wishbone used to be a lot of fun? You know, grab hold and hope you ended up with the bone that entitled you to make a wish.

A couple years ago, Texas football coach Darrell Royal devised a powerful triple-option offense, named it the wishbone and promptly kicked the stuffings out of almost every team that played his Longhorns.

Since that time, several schools decided if "you can't beat-em, join-em," and adopted Royal's wishbone style offense with success.

One school was UCLA, which installed the wishbone last fall and tried it out for the first time on the No. 1 college team in the nation, the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Result, UCLA 20, Nebraska 17.

Today, playing with the wishbone is one of the most hated games on college campuses including UNL.

Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne announced Monday that the next several spring practices for his Nebraska team will be spent working on ways to stop the dreaded wishbone attack.

Why has Osborne decided to put so much emphasis on Nebraska's defensive game? On Sept. 8, the Cornhuskers will open their season in a nationally televised game from Lincoln against none other than UCLA.

dave sittler
instant replay

What makes every Nebraska coach, player and fan a bit jittery, is that UCLA returns three backfield starters from last year's squad that whipped a strong Nebraska team.

When Bruin coach Pepper Rodgers wheels into town next fall, he will bring along backfield veterans Kermit Johnson, James McAlister and Mark Harmon.

Despite all of UCLA's talent, Osborne's squad is far from throwing in the towel or waving the white surrender flag.

The Nebraska coach said he is pleased with his first unit so far this spring but has a couple of holes to fill.

One of the spots giving Osborne trouble is the tackle slot left open by the graduation of Bill Jansen.

Three players, Doug Johnson, Dean Gissler and Ron Pruitt have been staging a battle royal all spring trying to win the starting berth on the blackshirt defensive unit.

If you have a chance, stop by Memorial Stadium and watch the Huskers prepare for the Wishbone, a game that has graduated from an after-dinner treat to a hated offensive football technique.



Faculty joggers... "old men have nothing to stay in shape for."

Faculty joggers grab relay record

by Kim Ball

It may not go down in the Guinness Book of World Records, but 20 UNL faculty members set a new national standard that may last awhile.

On April 14, running on UNL's all-weather track, Doug Drensbier, Roger Wiegand, Doug Erlanson, Chuck Sayward, Jim Carr, Roy Sneddon, Robert Brown, Don Lins, Henry Baumgarten and Phil Sienna, ran the "10 x 10" (10 people, each, running 10 miles) relay in 11 hours, 15 minutes and 6 seconds.

Their time eclipsed the old record, held by the University of Toledo faculty, by 19 minutes.

Toledo's faculty was the first one to run the 10 x 10 relay. They ran it last fall to commemorate the school's 100th anniversary. Toledo since has issued challenges to faculties at 1,000 schools to break its record.

It wasn't really a relay for the UNL faculty. All 10 runners started at the same time, each running at his

own pace.

Their times for the 10 miles ranged from Sayward's 58 minutes and 50 seconds to Baumgarten's 74 minutes and 46 seconds. Sayward, a professor of philosophy, averaged a credible 5:53 a mile.

It was Sienna who first heard about Toledo's record and organized the team.

"I told some of the faculty joggers and they all kind of liked the idea and they started working out for it," Sienna said.

Most of the guys run over 30 miles a week," Sienna said. "Chuck Sayward runs 80-100 miles a week. We work out pretty often for old men who have nothing to stay in shape for."

What if a college faculty breaks their 10 x 10 record?

"I'm sure if somebody beats our record, we'll go after it next fall," Sienna said.

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