

New coaches please Osborne

When spring football practice began last month at UNL, new head coach Tom Osborne not only faced the responsibilities of a new job, he also had the task of breaking in three new assistant coaches.

After Osborne took over the head job from retiring coach Bob Devaney, he hand picked three new assistants for his Cornhusker staff.

The new men are Rick Duval, linebacker coach from Colorado; George Darlington, defensive end coach from San Jose State; and Jerry Moore, quarterback and split-end coach from Southern Methodist University.

As spring ball headed into its final week Monday, Osborne reflected on how his new assistants have worked into the Husker system.

"I am really pleased with the way all three coaches have picked up our system," Osborne said. "It's very important that we have a smooth working staff, and I think we have achieved that this spring."

Osborne said that part of the reason the coaches have worked in well, is because they have all had prior experience at the positions they are coaching.

"Duval worked with defenses before he went to Colorado," Osborne said. "Darlington was the defensive coordinator at San Jose State."

Osborne also pointed out that Moore had worked with a pass-oriented team at Southern Methodist, so he should feel at home working with Nebraska's quarterbacks and receivers.

But Osborne said that a lot of credit should be given to his veteran assistant coaches who have worked with the new staff members.

"Our defensive coordinator, Monte Kiffin, and defensive back coach, Warren Powers, have really helped our new coaches pick up our system," he said. "Kiffin and Powers have helped them learn our specific terminology, something that is different at every school."

Osborne also announced his coaching staff assignments for the Huskers' annual Red-White spring game this Saturday.

Red coaches will be Mike Corgan, Powers, Guy Ingles, Bill Myles and Darlington. White staff members will be John Melton, Cletus Fisher, Kiffin, Duval and Moore.



Veteran Nebraska assistant coach Monte Kiffin . . . has helped break three rookie coaches into the Husker system.

Bleak day for Big 8 Football

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A rather bleak thing is probably going to happen May 16, when Big Eight Conference officials get together for their annual meeting.

The Big Eight brass is expected to award last year's conference football championship to UNL's Cornhuskers.

That's bleak? Many football fans will probably think it's a bit strange that the sports editor of the **Daily Nebraskan** would describe his school receiving a conference title as bleak. But, that's the way it is, folks.

When Oklahoma announced it was forfeiting all the games freshman Kerry Jackson competed in last fall because Jackson's high school transcript had been tampered with, it set off some rather shallow celebrations in Nebraska.

For example, members of the Legislature applauded when the "hot news" was announced to them in the middle of one of the body's working sessions.

Newspapers were besieged with calls from Nebraska "fans" wanting to know if Oklahoma's forfeitures meant that the Huskers would be named last season's champion.

It didn't seem to matter to the Big Red faithful that Oklahoma wasn't forfeiting their 17-14 win over the Huskers last year because Jackson didn't play in that game.

Fortunately, some people kept their heads about the scandal that was developing in Norman. Husker players who were interviewed said that as far as they were concerned Oklahoma still beat them and that's what really counts.

Thank goodness the Nebraska players are the real ambassadors for the Husker football program and not the fans who were calling the newspapers, or the applauding lawmakers.

The really sad thing about the whole situation is the fact that a brilliant athlete (Jackson) and another player Mike Phillips were being punished for something they knew nothing about.


The real guys to blame are a couple of coaches, but Jackson will have to sit out the next year of competition and lose his scholarship because of other individuals who tampered with his grades. It's too bad the first reaction from Nebraska fans couldn't have been one of regret over what was happening to a couple of kids who were trying to get an education on their athletic ability.

I hope that Jackson will be able to hang in there for a year until he is given his scholarship back and is allowed to play again. Lesser things than what happened to him have ruined many a good athlete for life.

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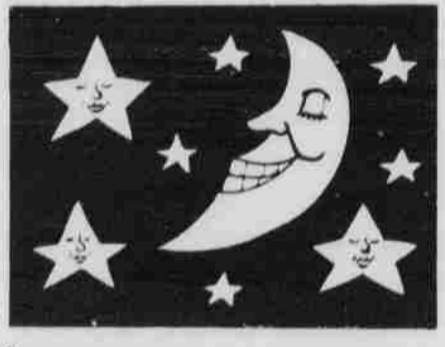

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