

Cager workouts start

Although football season barely has begun, Husker winter sports athletes are working quietly behind the scenes in preparation for their rapidly approaching season openers. Not to be excluded is the basketball squad.

Practice doesn't begin officially until Oct. 15, but Coach Joe Cipriano said his team has been conducting a running and conditioning program on its own. The intrasquad red-white game is scheduled for Nov. 19, with the home opener set for Nov. 30 against South Dakota State.

"Kansas will be favored to win the conference hands down, but I think we'll be a title contender," Cipriano said. "We're an upper division club."

Only two seniors graduated from last year's team which squeezed into the upper division with a 7-7 Big 8 mark, good enough for fourth place. Eight lettermen return this season, including All-Big 8 guard Jerry Fort.

Fort, a junior, led the Huskers in scoring for the second year in a row, averaging 18 points a game. According to Cipriano, he is the only Husker with a starting spot sewn up.

Junior Larry Cox and senior Steve Erwin, frontline starters last year, will be challenged by sophomores Mark Enright, Rickey Harris, Bob Siegel and Ron Taylor. All were lettermen last season.

dennis onnen press box review

The other letterman is senior Kent Reckewey, who should battle junior college transfer Steve Willis and freshman Eric Coard for the other starting guard slot.

Cipriano's squad again has only two seniors, but he said the experience gained by the underclassmen last season and on this summer's tour in Italy should help compensate for their youth.

"The experience is going to make them all better players," he said. "Once you've learned what to do, it pretty much stays with you."

The tour to Italy lasted almost the entire month of July. Competition for the Huskers included a service team and the Czechoslovakian national team, as well as several Italian teams. Cipriano said the quality of Italian teams is generally good because of the large number of Americans who play there.

"One Italian team had eight Americans over 6 ft. 7 in.," he said.

Hopefully, the experience gained will be instrumental in propelling the Huskers further up the Big 8 standings. Who knows, they even may ruffle a few Kansas Jayhawk feathers.

Thomas suspended but will return

Head Coach Tom Osborne reported Wednesday that back-up split end Bobby Thomas has been suspended from the Cornhusker squad for the Minnesota game Saturday, but would be permitted to rejoin the team for the remainder of the season.

"Bobby came in to visit today," Osborne said. "And he told me he had just been a little mixed up and had made a mistake in missing practice Monday and Tuesday."

The sophomore split end, who shares the alternate spot with Chuck Malito and has been used at times as a punt returner, failed to report to practice Monday and Tuesday and failed to contact any of the coaches.

"These things happen sometimes to young men," Osborne said. "Bobby feels bad and wants to be a football player. He does not want to quit the squad. He just made a mistake."

Osborne said Thomas will do some extra running this week for missing practice without an excuse, and will not suit up for the Minnesota game.

"We'll start working with him as an active player next week," Osborne said.

The Husker coach said defensive cornerback Jim Burrow and top split end Rich Bahe would return punts against Minnesota, while Bahe and Malito would play split end.

Osborne said he considered the matter closed.

Anthony: school important

By Larry Stunkel

Intelligence, attitude and age separate freshman I-back Monte Anthony from your run-of-the-mill football player.

Only 17 years old and his birthday over a month away, Anthony is majoring in UNL's difficult electrical engineering school. He received academic scholarship offers to other schools and other offers for football grants.

Anthony rushed for 111 yards in 14 carries and scored a touchdown during the Husker's 49-7 win over Northwestern University Saturday.

Anthony said his age gives him a psychological advantage, despite its disadvantage in terms of experience.

"At first there was a lot of pressure," he said. "The coaches tell you you can't play until proven. I guess I proved Saturday; now its just getting together with everybody else and doing the job."

Anthony admits school is more important to him than football.

"I don't want to end up still being here after everybody else graduates," he said. "With the program I have now I can graduate in three to three and one half years."

"I'm not thinking in terms of pro ball," he continued. "Most of the people I went to high school with were academically minded; we all set goals. I would be embarrassed if I'm still here after a few years while they're going on."

Anthony said some of the academic scholarships he was offered were tempting, but the schools he visited had no social life.

"I can't go some place where I'd just exist for four years," he said.

Football and school do mix, Anthony said, because football helps him prepare mentally for classes, while his intelligence aids him in making quick decisions on the playing field.

"The coaches tell you there is only so much they can teach you, because you are the one on the field reading the play, and that's when you need a snap decision," he said.

Playing both fullback and I-back last Saturday, Anthony said learning two positions isn't tough if the plays are learned as they come.

He acknowledged he has received help from Tony Davis and John O'Leary, and prefers playing at I-back because he likes to run outside.

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