

Field hockey team unbeaten

"It's a fast, active game that requires strength, speed and endurance."

No, the speaker is not Tom Osborne and the sport is not football. Jan Sayre, the speaker, was referring to women's field hockey, the sport she coaches at UNL.

Carrying a 2-0 season record, the team closes its home schedule Tuesday against Concordia College. The 5 p.m. match will be played on the Women's Physical Education Field.

UNL's two victories have come over Graceland (Iowa) College and Concordia, by identical 2-1 scores.

"Field hockey isn't a very high-scoring game unless you've got teams that are badly mismatched," Sayre said.

Field hockey is similar to soccer in many respects, although the small, wooden ball is propelled by a stick rather than the feet. The 11-person teams play two 25-minute halves with no time outs and no substitutions, except in the case of injury. Shin pads are worn by the goalies and other players at their own discretion.

Interest increased

Sayer lists senior Julie Dewing, juniors Betsy Anderson, Mary Claire Franssen and Beth Pillen and freshman Peg Conradt among her top performers.

Anderson at first wanted to be student manager for the team before Sayre convinced her to try out. According to Sayre, her experience as a softball catcher helps her as a field hockey goalie.

"She has a great deal of promise," Sayre said. "She has the kind of reflexes you like in a goaltender."

Conradt is another whom she said could develop into a great player with more experience.

"She's got tremendous speed and aggressiveness," Sayre said.

About 200 people attended the first home game this fall, an indication of the increased interest in the sport. Sayre said interest has been generated by increased publicity in the media and by team members "talking it up."

Lack of money

Like other women's sports, field hockey suffers from a relative lack of money. The team was allotted about \$500 this fall, which goes mainly for travel expenses, she said.

"Many of them buy their own sticks," she said. "Let's face it, we're not an income-producing sport."

The season ends Nov. 10 with a subsectional tournament at Cedar Falls, Iowa. At the conclusion of the tournament, the top two players at each position are selected from the teams participating. Those selected advance through a series of elimination tournaments until a national team is selected.

Last year, Sayre said, three UNL players made it as far as the sectional tournament. Of those, only Pillen has returned this season.

Sayre said she expects continued success with this year's squad, with South Dakota State College looming as the main obstacle to an undefeated season.

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Two Huskers injured

Tigers here Saturday

By Larry Stunkel

Coming off last Saturday's 54-0 win over Minnesota, UNI football coach Tom Osborne is talking less about injuries and more about his team's progress.

The Huskers have fewer injuries going into their Big 8 opener against Missouri on Saturday than they've had since the Wisconsin game. Only I-back John O'Leary and possibly defensive end Dave Martin will miss the game because of injuries.

Osborne said doctors have requested O'Leary be kept out of Saturday's action to give his broken jaw a chance to heal. Martin, who left the Minnesota game with a knee injury, is still questionable, but Osborne said the ailment has improved since Sunday.

Earlier in the week, Osborne expressed concern over the injury situation with the I-backs. However, senior Jeff Moran and freshman Monte Anthony both practiced Wednesday and should be ready by Saturday.

'Finest defensive effort'

Osborne expressed pleasure in the performance of the defense during the rout of Minnesota.

"It was the finest defensive performance we've had in years," he said. "Our middle guard, tackles and secondary are becoming more solid each week and we've been getting more hustle, better hitting and more effort."

Osborne said the offense also has shown good effort and is blocking downfield better than in previous years. He specifically cited the offense for controlling the ball for over half the game, taking the pressure off the defense.

"The key Saturday was the initial 85-yard scoring drive that consumed seven minutes of the first quarter," Osborne said.

Tigers will be ready

Warning fans not to take stock in Missouri's 59-21 loss at Wisconsin last weekend, Osborne said the Tigers have a way of getting up for a big game.

"Two years ago we beat them 62-0; the next week they upset Notre Dame at home," he said. "This season they lost to Mississippi 10-0, then beat, in my opinion one of the finest offensive teams in the country, Arizona State, 9-0."

"I'd just as soon they'd beaten Wisconsin," he continued. "They've got a lot to prove now and are all the more determined."

Beyond what Missouri will be out to prove Saturday, the Huskers will try to avenge the 13-12 stunning the Tigers gave them last year in Columbia, Mo.

"Our players will be up with them," Osborne promised. "It should be a hard-hitting game. Missouri may have been inconsistent so far this season, but they won't be Saturday."

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