

Osborne promises: No more Mr. Nice Guy

UNL football coach Tom Osborne promised members of the Extra Point Club Monday there will be no more Mr. Nice Guy at Husker practices this week.

"This is not going to be a pleasant week," Osborne said. "We have to restore their confidence and momentum, but we're not going to be nice. The team didn't play well enough to be treated nice."

The Huskers are still stinging from their 21-10 loss to Missouri before the home crowd at Memorial Stadium Saturday, their worst defeat in six years.

This weekend the Huskers meet Kansas University in Lawrence, Kan., a team that Osborne called, "the best team we've faced this year."

A lot of mistakes

Looking back to the Missouri loss, Osborne said he didn't see any poor effort, just a lot of mistakes.

"The players knew it would get hard," Osborne commented. "But they thought it would just last a while before they would blow Missouri out of there. When it didn't happen, they got uptight."

Inability to move the ball despite good field position was the key Saturday, plus the two turnovers that resulted in Missouri touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

"We expect to score 24 points when we have field position like we had," Osborne said. "There were a lot of third down and fourth down plays we didn't convert into first downs."

Team relaxed

Osborne credited the defense with three quarters of good play, but hinted the team might have relaxed after taking a 10-0 lead with 11:15 left in the game.

"The defense can't take all the blame," Osborne added. "Two of the touchdowns have to be chalked up against the offense."

Turnovers were also a factor, according to Osborne, whose team lost the ball four times, compared to one miscue by the Tigers.

"Any time you make that many more mistakes than a good opponent you're in hot water," Osborne said.

Missouri was a different team when Steve Pisarkiewicz entered the game as quarterback late in the third quarter," Osborne continued. "Their defense re-

mained constant, and may have gotten an emotional lift from Humm's injury."

Best effort needed

Osborne didn't use Humm's injury as an excuse, saying Humm hadn't been moving the ball before the injury.

Osborne said he plans to continue letting Humm run with the football despite his injuries, because "a quarterback has got to run to keep defenses from stacking up."

Despite the long injury list after the Missouri game, Osborne said he expects everybody on the team to be ready to play this weekend.

This includes I-back John O'Leary, who missed the last three games with a broken jaw, defensive end Bob Martin, who was sidelined with a knee injury and defensive tackle Ron Pruitt, absent from the last three quarters of the Missouri game with a sprained ankle.

Osborne said the Huskers will need their best effort to beat Kansas Saturday.

"If we don't beat Kansas we'll really be in the soup," he said.

Nebraska to play underdog role against Kansas

The underdog role seems to come along once every two years for the Nebraska football team and that's the position they will probably assume when they tackle Kansas Saturday.

The Huskers descended from the elite ranks of the top ten with their loss to Missouri and now will try to rebound against an even tougher team.

Anything less than their best effort of the season will return the Huskers to Lincoln with a 3-3 record. This week's predictions:

Nebraska 24, Kansas 20

When the blackshirts are composed and confident, they have one of the toughest defenses in the nation. However, their poise will be severely tested Saturday as they face two great running backs and a hostile crowd. It will be close, but look for the Huskers to start a new winning streak.

Okl. St. 20, Missouri 10

Both teams are inconsistent, but the Cowboys should win with their more potent offense. A Tiger loss will most likely

squeech their talk of a trip to Miami later this year.

Oklahoma 31, Colorado 21

Colorado has bounced back from a disastrous start to regain both their respectability and Bill Mallory's hold on his head coaching job. The Buffalos could make things close, and might even win, if Joe Washington breaks his leg between now and Saturday.

Tennessee 17, Alabama 14

The Crimson Tide almost halted Florida State's long losing streak last week and will finally relinquish their pretense of being national championship contenders.

Texas 35, Arkansas 13

What used to be a battle for national football supremacy hasn't even been televised the past few years and this season's contest is only mildly important. The Longhorns must win or they'll have to buy tickets or hop the fence to get into the Cotton Bowl.

Michigan 27, Wisconsin 16

Michigan has been unspectacular and Wisconsin has had trouble on the road this season. The game is at Madison, but the Wolverines never seem to be bothered by unruly crowds.

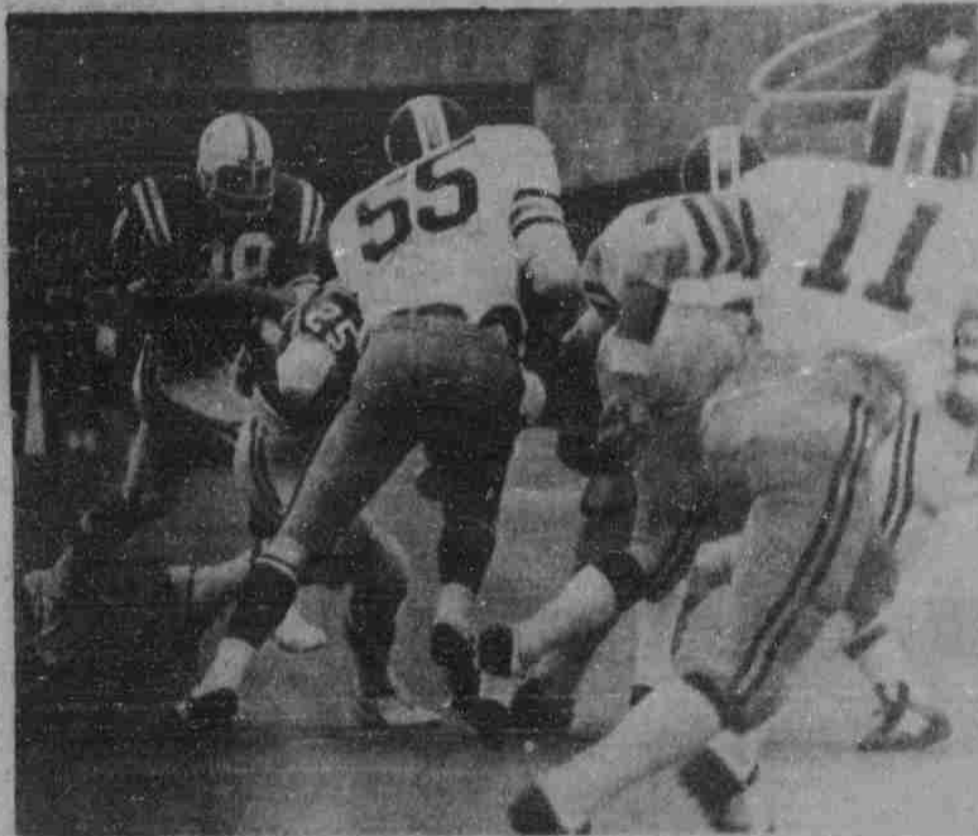
Iowa 20, Minnesota 7

Iowa has been a pleasant surprise to Hawkeye fans accustomed to winless seasons. Minnesota has also been a surprise (to followers expecting them to be Big 10 contenders.) Iowa will win if they can corral Rick Upchurch before he gets too far out of the starting blocks.

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USC 47, Oregon 3

The Trojans have been as potent this season as a cherry bomb without a fuse. They have several explosive backs but quarterback Pat Haden has kept their offense neutral with his fumbles and interceptions. As soon as Haden and company put the pieces together the Trojans will be ready to shoot for another Pacific 8 championship.



Backfield I-back Dave Gillespie found little running room Saturday during the Huskers' 21-10 loss to Missouri.

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