

sports

Bowl stowaways ineligible for play

By Larry Stunkel

"Penalize me, not the players," said UNL football coach Tom Osborne to three NCAA groups. "I had the rule book. If an individual has to pay the price it should be me."

But Osborne wasn't penalized, at least not directly. Instead the NCAA declared defensive players Jim Burrow, Ray Phillips and Dean Gissler and quarterback Vince Ferragamo ineligible for the Husker September 13 opener with Louisiana State.

The decision was officially announced Monday, after two months of speculation, that the Huskers violated an NCAA rule by taking the four players to bowl games when they were not eligible to play. Burrow and Gissler were included in the 1973 Orange Bowl trip and Ferragamo and Phillips went with the team to New Orleans to the Sugar Bowl last New Years Eve.

Not violated purposely

According to Husker officials, the rule was not violated purposely. The players' names appeared on the rosters published in newspapers and programs, and Ferragamo was interviewed on television during the Sugar Bowl game. It was after that interview that Big 8 commissioner Chuck Neinas told the Huskers they had violated the rule.

At the Big 8 meeting in February, NU was publicly reprimanded by the conference, but Neinas joined Nebraska's appeal to the NCAA not to penalize the players.

Fate also had something to do with the violation, as Osborne said a letter from the NCAA explaining bowl game rules had been lost last December. The letter asked for the team bowl game roster, and when it wasn't received another letter, without the rules, was sent, according to Osborne.

Osborne said Monday there is nothing the university as a school can do now about the decision. The players could take individual legal action, but Osborne said "We're not recommending it."

Hurt preparations

"This is going to hurt our working with those players next fall as we prepare for our first game," Osborne said, "because we won't be able to use them."

Originally, Ferragamo and Phillips were the only players considered in the case.

"When the NCAA asked us if there were any other players who had violated the rule, our records showed Burrow and Gissler had also made a bowl trip while ineligible," Osborne said. "We then had to turn them in."

"It's unfortunate," Burrow was quoted as saying by The Omaha World-Herald, "but you really can't fault anybody. Most of the other players are with us on this. But you know if somebody plays well in the first game it won't be easy to tell him to sit down the next week."

Burrow and Phillips are listed on the first defensive unit, while Gissler and Ferragamo are on the second defensive and offensive units respectively. All four came to Nebraska as transfers.

Defensive units dominate scrimmages

Few thrills predicted for Red-White

The Nebraska football team will conclude spring practice with the annual Red-White game Saturday.

From all indications, the game will not provide nearly the offensive thrills of last spring's 41-40 contest.

The defensive units have dominated every scrimmage this spring, with touchdowns as rare as a Tom Osborne temper tantrum.

The question arises then: Is the Husker offense impotent, or is the defense immovable?

Perhaps some of the answers will come Saturday in the final evaluation of the spring.

The Husker baseball team was transported back into reality last weekend by way of a three-game sweep by Iowa State.

Nebraska could have won all three of the games with a few timely breaks, but instead they saw their record dip to 9-14.

NU still has a respectable 5-4 Big 8 record, but it appears the slightly more qualified Oklahoma Sooners (36-7) will be going to the College World Series eliminations.



Defensive starters Jim Burrow (left) and Ray Phillips

New faces appear in Big 8

By Pete Wegman

Ellis Rainsberger and Bud Moore won't be the only new faces when Big 8 football starts next fall. Rainsberger, selected this winter as Kansas State's head coach, and Moore, Kansas's new grid mentor, will undoubtedly be only two of a number of newcomers to one of the nation's strongest football conferences.

Absent from fall conference play will be All-Americans Marvin Crenshaw and David Humm from Nebraska, Emmett Edwards from Kansas, and Kyle Davis, Rod Shoate and Randy Hughes from Oklahoma.

Returning, however, will be seven of the conference's eight leading rushers last fall, six of the eight leading passers, eight of the ten total offense leaders, six of the eight leading scorers, the top punter and top punt returner and the nation's best kickoff returner.

Spring games

Five Big Eight schools—Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma—completed spring football practice with their annual spring games last Saturday. Colorado, Iowa State and Nebraska will wrap up their spring sessions with intrasquad games Saturday.

In Norman, Okla., home of the Big 8 and national champion Sooners, optimism abounds. Head coach Barry Switzer, who has led Oklahoma to a two-year record of 21-0-1, said the '75 Sooners will be

more explosive than last year's team, which averaged 43 points and over 500 yards a game.

He said the Sooner backfield will be "the best ever at Oklahoma, and that includes the record-breaking unit of 1971." Returning on offense will be All-Americans Tinker Owens, split end and Joe Washington, halfback; quarterback Steve Davis; and running backs Elvis Peacock and Jim Littrell.

During last Saturday's 27th annual varsity-alumni game, which was won by the varsity, Switzer kept eight of the Sooners' top players out of action to avoid injuries.

Hurt most

Missouri, who tied with Nebraska for second in the Big 8 last fall was the conference school hurt most by graduation and will return only seven starters.

Head coach Al Onofrio admitted the Tigers need help at some positions, but added, "we have the key people in our attack."

The key people are quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz and tailback Tony Galbreath. In the Tigers' spring game last Saturday, Pisarkiewicz completed 12 of 21 passes for 192 yards while directing scoring drives of 65 and 61 yards.

Onofrio, the dean of Big 8 coaches, is promoting Galbreath as Missouri's first All-American running back since Johnny Roland in 1965.

The Tigers face a difficult

non-conference schedule with Alabama, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan on the slate.

Replace rusher

Oklahoma State, winner of the Fiesta Bowl last season, must replace seven defensive starters and fullback George Palmer, the second leading rusher in OSU history.

Third-year coach Jim Stanley must pick a starting quarterback from among Charlie Weatherbie, who started last year for the Cowboys, Scott Burk, or Jimmy Derrick, who was the number one quarterback in last Saturday's Orange-White Game.

OSU has the advantage of playing both Oklahoma and Nebraska at home in Lewis Stadium next fall, where the Cowboys were 4-1 last season.

The big story in Boulder, Colo., this spring is the Buffalos' offensive unit. The Buffs return ten of eleven offensive starters from last fall, including quarterback Dave Williams, tailback Billy Waddy, fullback Terry Kunz and split end Dave Logan.

Colorado, with one of college football's biggest offensive lines, has one of the Big 8's least formidable nonconference schedules, meeting California, Wyoming and Wichita State.

Several return

The situation is nearly the same at Iowa State where quarterbacks Buddy Hardeman and Wayne Stanley, a proven running back, Mike Williams, and the nation's leading kickoff returner, split end Luther Blue, all return.

Coach Earle Bruce said he thinks the Cyclones are weakest at linebacker, which is the case with most Big 8 schools. ISU will open the season in a new 50,000 seat stadium.

Kansas and Kansas State, tied for the conference cellar last season, have made some changes in an attempt to move up in the standings next fall.

Wishbone

The Jayhawks and first-year coach Moore unveiled a new wishbone offense in their annual Purple-White spring game last Saturday. The under-dog White squad promptly whipped the Purple team, 40-12 using the offense.

Laverne Smith, second in Big 8 rushing behind OU's Washington last fall, is the key to the success of the Jayhawks' new offense.

At K-State, new coach Rainsberger has moved Theophilus Bryant, a standout middle linebacker for the Wildcats last season, to middle guard. KSU still has one of the conference's strongest linebacking corps with Carl Pennington and Gary Spani.

Arthur Bailey, who started at quarterback last year as a freshman, is injured and missed KSU's spring game Saturday.

The two best teams in pro basketball have begun what should be a tooth and nail scrap to make it to the NBA finals.

The Washington Bullets and the Boston Celtics are in the midst of a best of seven series to determine the opponent of the Chicago-Golden State series winner. The Bullets won the first game in

steve taylor

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Whatever transpires in the playoffs, CBS should be advised about its closeup shots of Boston coach Tom Heinson during a disputed referee decision. The volatile Celtic mentor unleashes more four letter words than a cheated vending machine customer.

It appears now as if the new field house might be ready for the opening of

the '75 Husker basketball season.

A cloud of doubt still hovers over the issue because of legislative squabbling, but it's likely the necessary money will be appropriated.

UNL is already blueprinting plans to remodel the Coliseum into classrooms.

If field house's funds fall through, the Husker cagers would be forced to play their home games in the only available structure—the Men's P.E. Building.

Tickets really would be scarce then.

Muhammed Ali will fight Ron Lyle on national television next month, while a somewhat unstable George Foreman eyes a rematch.

Foreman put on quite a display of boxing last Saturday in disposing of five opponents.

Some of his other actions in the ring led commentator Howard Cosell to question his mental health, including an incident when he hit one of his handlers (his cousin) for pulling out his mouthpiece too fast.

Foreman seemed to feel a genuine hatred for ringside observer Ali, and the rematch between the two will be an interesting affair.