

Selmer, Walden return as opponents

By Al Lenza, sports editor

The Miami Hurricane, University of Miami Understandably disappointed when he was bypassed for the vacated head coaching job at Nebraska in 1973, Carl Selmer came to the University of Miami seeking a similar opportunity.

On Feb. 22, 1971, almost two years from the date when the Cornhuskers chose assistant Tom Osborne to succeed retiring Bob Devaney, the 50-year-old Selmer was chosen as the man to succeed Pete Elliott.

"I figured that I had contributed in at least a small way to the development of the programs at Nebraska in the years that I coached there," said Selmer, who coached the Husker offensive line for 11 years.

"After the 1973 decision (the selection of Osborne), I just felt that there was no more opportunity for me to advance there. By coming to Miami, I gained a position and status."

Similar reasons

Defensive coordinator Jim Walden, who coached Nebraska's defensive ends during the school's four most productive years (1969-72), came to Miami for similar reasons.

"I want to go as high as I can go in my profession and I just felt that my chances of moving up faster were much better in Miami," Walden said.

Walden, who was the offensive coordinator the last two years is now the team's defensive coordinator.

"Nebraska has some great coaches and I came here in a higher capacity than I was over there," he said.

Neither regretful

Neither Selmer nor Walden regret their 1973 decisions and both are in fact looking forward to their Lincoln homecoming.

"I'm looking forward to going back," says Selmer, who was instrumental in Nebraska's back-to-back national title in 1971-72. "It's a great challenge to play them because they have such a great tradition."

"Some of my fondest memories are at Nebraska. The people are just great and Bob Devaney is one of the reasons why I'm in the position that I am today," Walden said.

"I hate to come up under these circumstances, but I know that they're going to come after us and we will be ready."

Tradition different

The two coaches, who helped produce the Hurricanes' first winning season since 1967 last year (6-5), see the winning tradition as the greatest difference between the schools.

"The big difference is that they are the only major school in the state and everyone in the state is behind them," Walden



Photo by Steve Tilley

Jim Walden, now defensive coordinator for the University of Miami Hurricanes, was defensive ends coach for the Huskers in 1972.

said.

"Nebraska has developed a great winning tradition in the past 14 years," added Selmer.

"They have a winning attitude in their program. That's just what we're trying to

build here. We've only been 11-11 in our two years here, but we've had to compete against the best schools in the country.

"We know that we've got a long way to go, but I'm proud of the way we've progressed so far."

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