

nebraskan sports

Huskers stalking wounded Wildcats

By Susie Reitz

"On any given Saturday any team in the Big 8 Conference can beat any other conference team."

That's a phrase used by Big 8 coaches when they don't know what else to say about the next game. Either they're such underdogs they don't have any hope of winning, or they're such favorites they don't see much hope for the opponent.

Nebraska assistant coach Steve

McKelvey took the latter position when he used the phrase in his scouting report of the Kansas State (KSU)-Kansas University (KU) game last Saturday. Nebraska plays KSU Saturday in Manhattan, Kan.

Nebraska leads the Big 8 in total defense and scoring offense while KSU trails in both categories.

Nebraska is 4-0 in the conference, 8-0 overall, while KSU is 0-4 in the conference, 3-5 overall.

Because KSU has been plagued with injuries, direct comparisons with Nebraska may not be valid. Injuries have left first year head coach Ellis Rainsberger with a "shell of the team he had earlier in the season," McKelvey said.

Starting quarterback Joe Hatcher has bruised ribs and a swollen ankle. Back-up man Tom Merrifield has been hospitalized with a prostrate infection and won't play Saturday.

Freshman Brad Horchem was promoted to back-up quarterback when freshman Bob Suarez, who played against KU, was dismissed from the squad Monday for breaking training rules.

The leading Wildcat rusher, fullback Verdel Jones, is out with a neck injury and linebacker Carl Pennington, second in KSU tackles, likely won't play because of a sprained knee.

The Huskers' balanced running and passing attack will be tough to defend against, Rainsberger said.

Defense logs time

"Our defense has been overworked to this point, playing about 60 per cent of the time," he said.

Nebraska's offense is second statistically in the Big 8 averaging 410.2 yards, five yards behind first place Colorado. The Huskers have averaged 258.6 yards rushing and 151.6 yards passing in eight games.

Besides leading statistically, Nebraska leads the KSU-NU series 47-10-2. The last KSU win was a 12-0 shutout in 1968 in Lincoln.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Jerry Wied (93) didn't quite get to Missouri quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz this time, but his Husker mates sacked the quarterback nine times during the Huskers 30-7 win over the Tigers last Saturday.

Deterioration race won by Mushroom Gardens

By Scott Jones

The Mushroom Gardens appear to have won the deterioration race among UNL's antique athletic structures.

It was a long (more than 50 years) and close race, but Nebraska's indoor track under Memorial Stadium has nipped the basketball court and swimming pool in the Coliseum—the "Bam"—for what is hoped to be the last year.

The indoor track, called the catacombs or other various names referring to mushrooms, kidneys and dust bowls, along with the Coliseum's basketball court and pool, have been long criticized as antiquated and inadequate.

The deterioration race was to have ended last year with opening of the new sports complex. Because of construction delays, the old structures will be used for another year.

The indoor track wins the title of most decrepit because its grandstands have finally succumbed to age and are being removed.

Termite attack

"We took the stands out because they had termites in them and we just thought we'd better get them out before they fell down," said Jim Ross, assistant athletic director.

"When we started to tear them down we

thought for sure we'd be in the new field hours," he said. "If we hold any meets in there now, we'll have to put in bleachers, which we can do without much trouble."

Track coach Frank Sevine said two home meets are scheduled, one on Jan. 24 against Iowa State and an informal meet later.

"We were going to schedule some more meets here, but I'm glad we didn't," he said. A home dual with Kansas was moved to Lawrence and a triangular with Air Force and Drake will be at the Air Force Academy.

Seating problem

"We won't have any trouble running a meet, but the spectator situation isn't going to be good," Sevine said.

Ross said temporary bleachers can handle about as many spectators as the old permanent seats.

The area inside the track will be reserved next year for the freshman football team to use during bad weather. The track still will be available for faculty and students, he added.

Despite the poor surroundings, Nebraska has won 27 consecutive dual meets in the catacombs and Sevine has a 37-7 indoor record at home.

Intramural office planning table tennis tournaments

The UNL intramural office will sponsor a series of intramural table tennis tournaments next week.

The mixed and men's doubles competition will be Monday. Men's singles are Wednesday and Women's singles and doubles will be Thursday. All games start at 6:30 p.m. and will be played in Women's P.E. Bldg. 123.

Entries for each event are due by noon on the day of the match. A match will

consist of best two out of three games to 21 points. Contestants are asked to use their own paddle, although sandpaper paddles are not allowed.

All events are single elimination unless the number of entries permit double elimination or round robin.

T-shirts will be given to first and second place individuals and teams of each event.

For additional information contact Gale Wiedow at 472-3467.

State volleyball champions travel to Jayhawk tourney

After winning the state college volleyball championship Tuesday by defeating UNO 15-12, 15-5, the UNL spikers travel with thoughts of the regional championship to the Jayhawk Invitational in Lawrence, Kan., coach Pat Sullivan said.

The Jayhawk tourney, hosted by Kansas University is UNL's last competition before the regional tournament Nov. 20 through 22.

The tourney's 21 teams are divided into four groups (or pools) for preliminaries.

UNL is in the National pool, which includes Kansas State (KSU), Oklahoma (OU), Max Pack and Swaim's MFA. Max Pack and Swaim's MFA are Kansas volleyball clubs, Sullivan said. Saturday UNL plays Max Pack at 11 a.m., Swaim's MFA at 1 p.m., KSU at 2:30 p.m. and OU at 3:15 p.m.

National pool's second place team plays the first place American pool team while the first place National team plays second

place American team. Pool placings are based on win/loss records.

American pool members include Oklahoma State (OSU), Iowa State (ISU), Wichita Volleyball Club, Southwest Bank, Tulsa Volleyball Club and Kansas University (KU).

Other teams, including the Lincoln Volleyball Club, play in the Yankee and Gringo pools.

"We think there's a strong chance for us to get out of pool play," Sullivan said. "We've beaten Kansas State before, but I don't know about Oklahoma or the other two."

According to Sullivan, the region's stronger teams will not be participating in the tournament. Most state playoffs are this weekend or next, she said, and many regional places are unfilled.

Twelve UNL players will travel to Kansas, she said.

on record



Barroom scene not an accurate picture

By Larry Stunkel

An understandably upset University of Missouri (MU) student government received apology Wednesday from the ABC television network for a halftime film segment during the Saturday MU-UNL football game telecast.

The film segment portrayed students at Columbia, Mo. bars the Friday night before the game doing what students in bars usually do. The interviews indicated that Missouri students live for Friday night parties and football games.

The apology made by ABC producer Chuck Howard (at least ABC said it was an apology), disagreed that ABC insulted Missouri students by the telecast which was an attempt at an "honest assessment of the importance of intercollegiate football to the undergraduate student body of the University of Missouri."

Anyone who studies research methods can tell you an interview done only in one place is slightly biased.

Experimental error tends to increase when the question is like one barroom subjects were asked by ABC: "What do

you do out here 150 miles from nowhere when the football season is over?"

Of course the answer is going to be "drink and party," especially since that's probably what that particular crowd does on Friday nights throughout the year.

If the same question were asked Friday night in a library or church, I'm sure it would evoke a different answer.

ABC did what it always does for a pre-game interview. They go where people are drinking because that's where people are likely to make fools of themselves in front of a camera. A television camera brings out the ham in just about anybody—drunk or sober.

Nebraska fans will remember the Wisconsin pre-game show a year ago when the television camera tuned in a beer-chugging contest between a UNL female student and a Wisconsin male student. The point is, the barroom idea is getting old, and it's worse when ABC rationalizes it as honest portrayal of the football fan.

It's amazing the lengths a school will go to accommodate television networks (who pay a lot of money) when a game is

televised. Missouri moved official kick-off up an hour and one half Saturday so ABC could fit the game into its schedule. Anybody who sat through the game in Columbia can tell you it seemed the game was interrupted every ten plays for a commercial.

One television crew member expressed disgust when Husker head coach Tom Osborne would not allow ABC to interview his players during the game. (He said

Osborne is one of few coaches to do so).

It has long been the policy of almost every college coach that members of the press cannot interview players during the game. Osborne justifiably doesn't happen to think television warrants exception. The lesson came to UNL athletics painfully during the 1974 Sugar Bowl when an interview with Vince Ferragamo resulted in four Huskers sitting out the Louisiana State game Sept. 13.

Freshman crews face KSU, OSU

UNL's freshmen crew teams take on Kansas State (KSU) and Oklahoma State (OSU) Saturday at Tuttle Creek Reservoir at Manhattan, Kan.

According to varsity Crew Coach Ron Rusthoven, 36 men and 14 women from UNL will make the trip.

Competition starts at 11 a.m. when the women's freshman eight-oared shell competes, followed by the freshmen's four-oared event at 11:15 a.m.

Assistant Husker Crew Coach Mark

Stormberg and former UNL crew assistant Pete Zandbergen will compete in the singles division against scullers from the two other teams.

Two UNL eight-oared men's freshman shells will compete at 11:45. Two additional UNL freshmen eight-oared shells row against a KSU crew at noon.

Rusthoven said any freshman still interested in crew should contact him Monday at the boathouse.