

Coming Sooner clash draws Husker concern

Analysis by Larry Stunkel

UNL football coaches and players seemed more concerned about bowl games and Oklahoma after Saturday's game than they were about discussing their 52-0 win over Iowa State (ISU).

The win clinched at least a share of the Big 8 title for the Huskers, and news of Missouri's 27-20 lead over Oklahoma set off a premature celebration in the locker room.

But before the Orange Bowl scout could offer the Huskers an invitation to Miami as conference champions, Joe Washington's 71-yard touchdown run on fourth and one and a two-point conversion, gave the Sooners a 28-27 win, delaying the bowl question another week.

Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne said the Huskers are getting nervous about bowl bids. Orange Bowl officials said if Oklahoma beats Nebraska, the Sooners get the invitation.

Bear picks

It has been speculated that Alabama's Paul "Bear" Bryant doesn't want to play a Big 8 team in the Sugar Bowl, although losses to Southern California and Notre Dame (who the Bear said he wants to play), have narrowed bowl choices.

"There is no certainty, the bowl situation is certainly up in the air," Osborne said. "We just hope we'll go to a major bowl. We'd like to play in the best bowl against the best team possible. Anyone who doesn't feel the same way doesn't belong in competitive athletics."

"It looks doubtful that the Bear can continue to pick his opponents," Osborne said. "Picking people you can beat, (as bowl opponents), then not doing it, is

getting old and I'm getting tired of it."

Oh yes, there was a game Saturday. Osborne said the win over ISU was his team's most complete game this season.

567 yards

The Husker offense rolled up 318 yards rushing and 249 passing yards (against the Big 8's leading pass defense). The black-shirts gave the Cyclones a lesson in pass defense, limiting ISU to 52 yards through the air and shutting down the ground game at 150 yards.

Nebraska ran 91 offensive plays compared to the Cyclones' 50.

The ISU pass defense was embarrassed in the second quarter when split-end Bobby Thomas and quarterback Vince Ferragamo connected on another pump-fake-throw-it-long (which has garnered touchdowns against Colorado and Missouri), for 26 yards.

"He was playing awfully far back," Thomas said. "I didn't think it would work because he wasn't giving me the outside. So I cut inside—it amazed me I was that open."

7 passes complete

After a pedestrian showing against Kansas State last week, Ferragamo had a great day through the air, hitting seven of nine passes for two touchdowns and 163 yards.

With ISU put away, the Huskers can talk about the Sooners.

"We'll approach it as just another game," said middle guard John Lee. "We've got a lot of paybacks for OU."

"We're happy to be co-champions," Osborne said. "But the real test is this week at Oklahoma and you can bet it will be a real head knocker."



Photo by Ted Kirk

Husker wingback Curtis Craig (33) eludes Cyclone Greg Pittman (51) during Saturday's 52-0 Nebraska win. Craig scored two touchdowns, gained 28 yards rushing and caught two passes for 28 yards.

Orange Bowl scout smiles on spectators throwing fruit

By Susie Reitz

When Nebraska fans covered the field with oranges after the Huskers scored their first touchdown Saturday, Orange Bowl scout Gene Autrey smiled and said, "That's what we like to see. I think it's great."

Autrey, vice president of the Orange Bowl, joined Sugar Bowl and Cotton Bowl scouts at the Nebraska-Iowa State (ISU) game.

Scouts do not "check out" a team like the Oklahoma (OU) scouts were checking out the Nebraska team Saturday, Sugar Bowl scout John Barr said.

"We're more for public relations," the secretary of the Sugar Bowl said. "We talk to officials in the Athletic Dept. and determine what their needs will be if they come to our bowl."

Scouts representing bowl committees attend games around the country, Barr said.

Good teams mean more fans

"We don't start going to games until well into the season—when the records are developing and we can see who are the best teams in the nation. We want the best game possible," Barr said. "The best teams have the most fan support."

Orange Bowl officials confirmed Saturday night they have arranged for the loser of the Ohio State-Michigan game Saturday to play in Miami, according to the Sunday Omaha World-Herald.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules prohibited issuing bowl bids before 6 p.m. Saturday. However, since

key games will be played next Saturday, Barr said, "It makes it hard. We just don't know who are the best until the end of the season. We probably won't be issuing a bid until the 22nd."

Scouts report each Monday what they have learned on their assignments and invitation priorities are shifted depending on the reports, Barr said.

Upsets are a special headache to bowl selection committees, Autrey said.

"It's tough on weekends like when Penn State, Florida and USC were all upset. We had people at those games and they all had bad reports," he said.

Notre Dame fall

"The Sugar Bowl was considering Penn State, Notre Dame and the loser of the Michigan/Ohio State game, in addition to Alabama and the Big 8 runner up, Barr said. Notre Dame, one of the strongest contenders, lost Saturday to Pittsburg "which probably will put them down in our ratings," he said.

Bowl games originated to generate business in host cities, Autrey said. Community leaders in Miami formed the Orange Bowl committee in the 1930s to promote tourist trade during the depression, he said.

The Orange Bowl is played New Year's night to draw the largest television audience, he said.

In New Orleans, the Sugar Bowl committee was formed 42 years ago, Barr said. The Sugar Bowl is played New Year's Eve, also to accommodate the television audience, he said.

Cyclones blown away by frosh 'scoring versatility'

By Scott Jones

Nebraska's freshman football team showed its scoring versatility by downing Iowa State's (ISU) junior varsity 37-18 Friday in what probably was freshman coach Jim Ross's final game.

The freshmen exploded for scores at Memorial Stadium on three long passes, a 51-yard run and a 52-yard field goal to finish the season 5-0.

The victory was No. 27 in 29 games for Ross, who became freshman coach in 1969.

He came to Nebraska in 1962 with Bob Devaney and is expected to manage the new fieldhouse next year.

"I'd like to quit just like this," said Ross amid postgame celebrations.

Celebrating was not in order early in the game as ISU opened scoring in the second quarter with a 27-yard field goal, the first points allowed by Nebraska this year.

Ross praised his defense for allowing no more than three points early in the game when two Nebraska fumbles and a roughing the kicker penalty gave ISU good field position.

Nebraska struck back quickly after the Cyclone field goal. I-back Richard Berns threw 27-yards to tight end John Selko for a touchdown, the same play that worked against Kearney State earlier this year.

Selko scored the next touchdown on a 45-yard pass from quarterback Tim Hager, who made the score 21-3 just before half-time with a 60-yard bomb to Berns.

Berns tallied again in the third quarter with a 51-yard burst. After a Bill Holmes interception, Dean Sukup kicked a 52-yard field goal, his second of more than 50 yards this year, to push the score to 30-3.

Fullback Keith Steward added the final Husker points with a six-yard run late in the third quarter. ISU scored twice in the last five minutes of the game to account for the final margin.

nebraskan sports

Coach praises wrestlers for 3rd-place performance

By Pete Wegman

Nebraska wrestling coach Orval Borgjalli Sunday praised the performance of his wrestlers in the 13th annual Great Plains Open wrestling tournament held in UNL's Coliseum Friday and Saturday.

The Huskers, third in team standings behind the Hawkeye Wrestling Club and the New York Athletic Club, had six members place in the field of more than 170 wrestlers, including NCAA, Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), Pan-American and Olympic champions.

"Overall, I was well pleased with our performance," Borgjalli said. Third place finishes went to Alan Koss, 118 lbs.; and Steve Hill, 158. Four Huskers placed fourth: Pat Arthur, 134; Tom Knobloch, 158; Bob Johnson, 190; and Bruce Conger, heavyweight.

Style change

"Koss did a tremendous job. He's had a problem on his feet, but he changed his style a little and looked great," Borgjalli said.

Borgjalli called Johnson a "national caliber wrestler who always turns in an excellent performance." Ben Petersen, an Olympic gold medal winner, won Johnson's weight class.

Borgjalli cited the heavyweight division

as being one of the strongest of the tournament's 12 classes. Included in the division were Canadian national, Pan-American, National AAU and Junior National AAU champions.

"I've never seen a tournament with that many class national caliber wrestlers in one division," he said.

Oklahoma State's Jimmy Jackson won the heavyweight division. Jackson and Nebraska's Conger wrestled to a draw in a dual meet last year. The draw was the only blemish on Conger's 11-0-1 mark last season.

Sprained ankle

Conger, who suffered a severely sprained ankle in the tournament, was one of a number of Huskers injured.

"We were worried about the injury factor before the meet and it finally caught up with us," Borgjalli said.

Dan Kling, 167, separated his sternum, Tony Jennings, 142, sprained an ankle, Hill strained a knee and Koss received an eye injury.

Borgjalli said he wouldn't know the extent of the injuries until later this week.

Nebraska travels to Colorado Saturday to meet the Air Force Academy. Challenge matches to determine UNL's traveling squad will be Tuesday.

Tough foes lame field hockey team

Explaining the disappointing sixth place finish in the Region 6 Field Hockey tournament, UNL field hockey coach Elizabeth Petrakis said, "The competition was much better than any we've faced. The girls played well, the goal shots just weren't going in."

UNL, the host team, lost all three of its matches, one on penetration time and the others 3-1 and 4-0.

In the first match against Bemidji, Minnesota's top team, Bemidji took an early lead on a goal by Laurie Bottom. Marsha Mohl scored a goal 19:50 minutes into the game for UNL's only point. Bottom scored twice more in the first half and Bemidji

won 3-1.

Bemidji also defeated Southwest Missouri State (SMSU), Moorhead, and Central Missouri State (CMSU) for the championship.

In UNL's second game against SMSU, the Huskers did not score. SMSU had three goals the first half and another in the second half.

In the consolation match with Kansas University (KU), Petrakis said she played the girls who had not played before "so they'd have a chance to play in a tournament."

The game ended 2-2 and KU won on 14 seconds penetration time. Sue Hansen and Cindy Krause scored UNL's goals.

sports shorts

Sherry Brink's 19 points was high for the UNL women's basketball team, which lost 78-66 to Grandview College Saturday.

Cindy Dixon, UNL cross country runner, placed 74th Saturday in the National Women's Cross Country meet in Ames, Iowa. UNL's runners Sherry Brown and Doris Hitz finished 106th and 116th respectively.

The Theta Xi-Alph Delta Pi pledge class volleyball team won the all-Greek volleyball tournament Thursday at the Women's Physical Education Bldg.