

Ingles inherits freshmen tradition

By Jim Kay

Guy Ingles just may have inherited the most tradition-rich football program in the country. Ingles' new job—UNL head freshmen football coach.

"There's not as much pressure to win at this level as there is on varsity," Ingles said. "But the coaches and players put the pressure on themselves because of the fact of the freshmen tradition."

Past freshmen teams have accumulated a 54-6 record over the past 20 years including 35 of the last 37 and the last 11 straight.

"The first thing we stress is fundamentals which usually differ from high school to high school," Ingles said. "We try to mold the players into two units on offense and defense and to stay basic. We don't throw too much at them as first. We have about one-third the offensive plays that varsity does and fewer defensive formations, too."

Ingles stressed the importance of the freshmen program in preparation for big-time football.

Varsity preparation

"At most schools the freshmen players are on the scout squad teams (teams used to practice against first team units)," Ingles said. "They spend their time learning other team's plays instead of their own. We try to give the freshmen a relatively equal footing in the program so they can become competitive with the varsity."

Ingles, a former Big Red standout himself as a split end for the 1970 national championship team, has several former Husker players on his coaching staff.

Graduate assistants include Dave Redding, Dean Gissler and Ron Nitzel. Former defensive back Bob Thornton is

a volunteer assistant and part-time assistants include Mark Heydorff and Steve McKelvey.

Ingles is expecting a tough season this year as four of the five freshmen games are against other Big 8 Conference schools. Kearney State College and Marshalltown Junior College have been dropped from the schedule and Kansas and Missouri have been added.

Ingles said it is rare to find freshmen starting on varsity teams.

"In most solid programs like Nebraska's most of the upper classmen are the starters," Ingles said. "You may have the freshmen who have the physical ability but to combine that physical ability with experience and knowledge in two or three weeks practice is very difficult."

Jacobs with varsity

Freshman fullback Thor Jacobs of Cincinnati has seen the most extensive practice action with the varsity but ran with the freshmen team in yesterday's opener against the Kansas State junior varsity.

"Our main emphasis is developing these players for varsity play," Ingles said. "If they continue to win in the process, well fine."

The freshman team opened its season Friday afternoon against Kansas State University's Wildcats in Memorial Stadium. The Huskers next game is Oct. 11 when they face the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) junior varsity in Memorial Stadium at 1:30.

The remaining games on the freshmen schedule are Missouri, home, 1:30 p.m., Oct. 22; at Kansas, 1 p.m. (CDT), Oct. 29 and at Iowa State, 1:30 p.m. (CST), Nov. 12.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Guy Ingles, UNL head freshmen football coach.

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