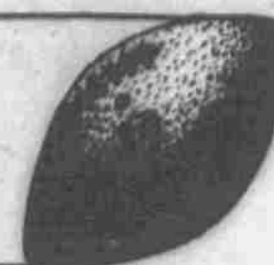


sports



## Youthful Wildcat offense could easily lose claws

By Jim Kay

A rude introduction to football, Nebraska-style, may be in store for a youthful Kansas State University (KSU) offensive backfield Saturday in Memorial Stadium. The Wildcats, coached by Ellis Rainsberger, will start four freshmen in the backfield against UNL. They fill the

ABC and the NCAA announced Thursday afternoon that the Nebraska-University of Missouri football game Oct. 23 in Lincoln will be televised nationally.

Kickoff has been moved from the normal 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lincoln time. ABC's air time will be 2 p.m.

The Huskers' record on television is 20-16. Missouri, 4-1, is ranked seventh by both the Associated Press and United Press International. Last week the Tigers were ranked ninth.

Missouri has defeated Southern California, Ohio State, North Carolina and Kansas State, while losing only to Illinois.

quarterback, tailback, fullback and slotback positions. The luckless Wildcats, 1-4 on the season, have been beset by injuries at the quarterback position since last spring.

Returning starter Joe Hatcher suffered a ruptured kidney in KSU's spring game, and Roy Jones, who played for the KSU junior varsity against the Nebraska freshmen team earlier this year, was declared scholastically ineligible two weeks ago by KSU officials.

Duane Howard will be KSU's starting quarterback. Last weekend he started against the University of Missouri (MU). The Wildcats led seventh-ranked MU 21-14, before losing 28-21.

Joining Howard in the backfield for Nebraska's homecoming game will be freshmen Roosevelt Duncan at fullback, Ken Lovely at tailback, who scored a touchdown against MU, and slotback Eddy Whitley.

### Wildcat defense tough

Defense will be one area where the Wildcats will not be hurting, according to Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne.

"Kansas State played the best defense against us last year of any game we played," Osborne said. UNL won the game 12-0 in Manhattan.

Leading the KSU defense will be all-Big 8 Conference linebacker Gary Spani, who had 19 tackles against UNL last year, seven unassisted, and sacked Husker runners three times for losses.

Joining Spani at the other linebacking spot will be Carl Pennington, who was second behind Spani in tackles made last year. Nose guard Theopolis Bryant, last year's third leading KSU tackler, also returns this season.

The Wildcats return 35 lettermen from last year's 3-8 team. Rainsberger still will be seeking his first victory over a Big 8 opponent Saturday.

### More injuries

Injuries hit the Wildcat camp again last week as three-year defensive tackle starter Roy Shine broke a thumb. He will be sidelined for four to six weeks. Kicker Bill Sinovic, who hit a 53-yard field goal earlier this season and also is the team's punter, is doubtful for the Nebraska game with a pulled hamstring in his kicking leg.

Osborne warned Husker players and fans that KSU will provide a tough game for UNL, despite how things may look on paper or what oddsmakers say.

"There is nothing automatic about any game, especially a Big 8 game," Osborne said. "Kansas State is not a team you can best by large margins."

Nebraska will be without the services of I-back Monte Anthony for the KSU game because of injuries suffered in last week's battle with the University of Colorado. Fullback Dodie Donnell also is doubtful along with I-back Dave Gillespie, guard Dan Schmidt and defensive end Tony Samuel.

## UNL volleyball team hosts for tournament

By Rob Barney

With an 18-0 record and a tournament victory, it would appear the UNL volleyball team can't get any better. Or can it?

"I still don't feel we're playing up to our potential," Husker volleyball coach Pat Sullivan said. "They are improving each week, which could be a good indication of what is to come."

UNL volleyball fans will have a chance to see the Huskers in action Saturday in the new Sports Complex when they are hosts for the first Husker Invitational starting at 9 a.m. Teams in the tourney will include UNL's number I and II teams, Midland College, Northwest Missouri State University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), and Grand View College.

UNL has played every team in the tournament except Midland.

"We have beaten UNO twice, but they've improved about 100 per cent since the first time we played them," Sullivan said. "Northwest Missouri State also is improved. They played a good match against Minnesota last week in the Graceland tournament."

"Our varsity should be number one," she said, "but our number two team also is entered and could have some problems."

The two UNL teams square off in the opening match. "It should be a real good tournament," Sullivan said.

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## Cocky editor's reputation on the line; joins Husker orange-throwing crowd

By Pete Wegman

Although the collegiate football season is only at its halfway point, visions of spending New Year's Day in Miami, New Orleans or Southern California are beginning to dance in the heads of many football fans.

After the rash of upsets early in the season, a definite weekly top ten is slowly emerging. This writer will go on record as being one of the first in this area to predict which teams get what bowl bids.

Bowl game predictions in October are akin to Al Eveland's field goal attempts—you hit a few and you miss a few. But free your imagination loose and off we'll go.

### Rose Bowl—Michigan and UCLA

This one should be for the national championship. Michigan appears to be the only great football team in the

end. Pittsburgh is the best college team in the East, isn't saying much.

### Cotton Bowl—Texas Tech and Southern California

Texas Tech will prevail in an unusually weak Southwest Conference while the Trojans, despite Rickey Bell (consensus Heisman Trophy winner), must settle for a post-season game in Dallas instead of Pasadena.

### Sugar Bowl—Florida and Maryland

The best thing about this bowl is that Bear Bryant won't be there this year. Florida will win the Southeastern Conference and Maryland should enter New Orleans undefeated, provided they get by such powerhouses as Clemson (0-4-1) and Virginia (0-5).

### Gator Bowl—Georgia and Ohio State

Georgia's national championship hopes were dashed in a loss to Mississippi last week, while the Buckeyes threw away their title aspirations when they played for a tie against UCLA.

### Sun Bowl—Oklahoma and Texas

The Sun Bowl will provide a rematch of the team's that played to a "thrilling" 6-6 tie last Saturday. This should be a good game to sleep through.

### Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl—Houston and Kansas

Kansas' team is good enough to finish in the Big 8's upper division, which is good enough for a bowl bid. Houston will provide a team for the hometown fans to yell for.

### Fiesta Bowl—Wyoming and Notre Dame

Organizers of this bowl crowed last year that it was one of the top five bowls. They'll eat crow this year when the Western Athletic Conference's (WAC) representative is Wyoming.

The WAC's bid for national prominence went down with Arizona State, now 0-4. Wyoming does not have a team which can compete with the likes of Notre Dame.

fourth and  
twenty



nation this year and should breeze through the Big 10 Conference including Ohio State and its bag of hot air, Woody Hayes.

UCLA may have the only team that can score as many points as Michigan. The Bruins consistently light up the scoreboard with their explosive offense and will flash by conference rival Southern California to get the bowl bid.

### Orange Bowl—Nebraska and Pittsburgh

The Huskers will reign in the conference of conferences but a minor miracle will have to occur for them to regain their preseason number one rating at the season's

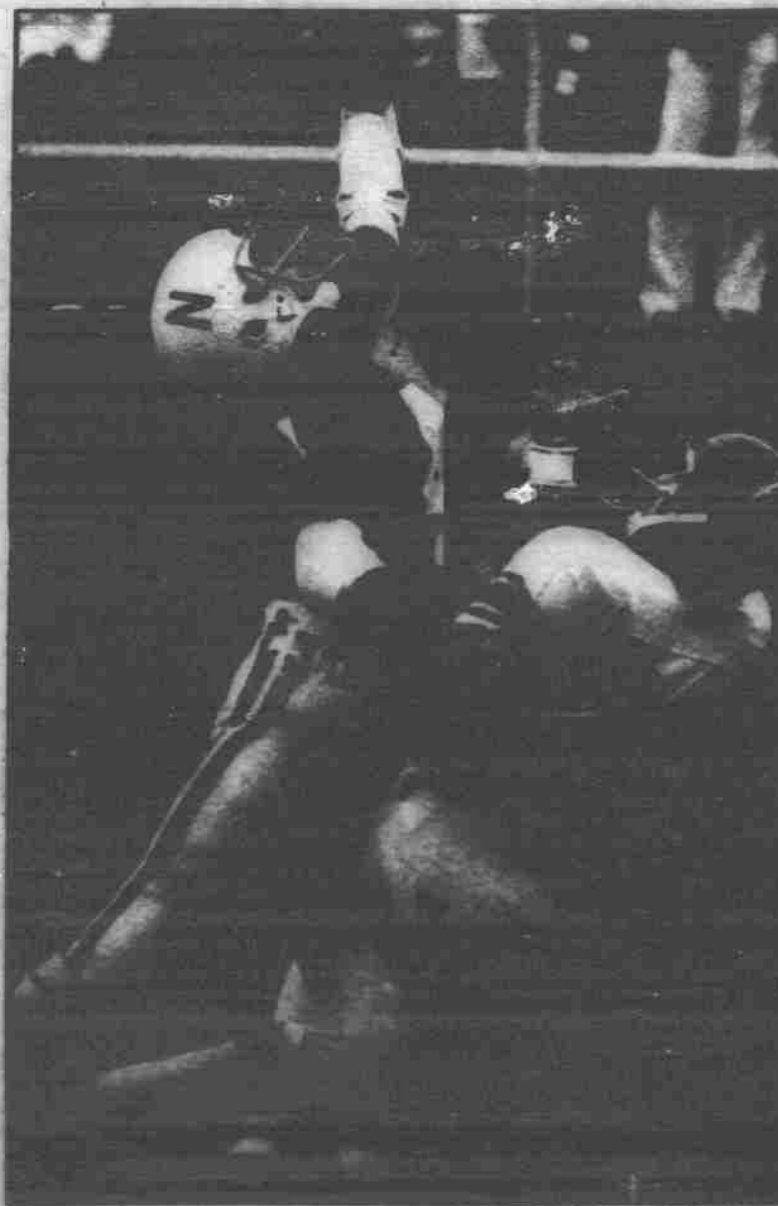


Photo by Kevin Higley

Husker defensive back Larry Valasek defends against Mike Renfro, Texas Christian University's all-American candidate. Nebraska won the game 64-10.

## Valasek's small size no handicap—effort, desire give him added edge

By Mike McCarthy

In Husker junior Larry Valasek's book, there is always room for mental and physical improvement.

"Every week you play there is room for improvement," Valasek said. "I always try to keep a good attitude. You practice the way you play. You just can't slough off."

Valasek played behind former Husker Jim Burrow last year and has started every game this year.

"Right now I don't think I am as good as he is, but I'd like to be better. I had a bad day tackling against Colorado, and I don't want to have two bad games in a row," he said.

Valasek also said he doesn't think his size is a disadvantage. At 5 ft. 10 in. and 166 lbs., Valasek is the smallest Husker Blackshirt.

"A small guy can't go out and think about getting beat up. It's a matter of desire," Valasek said. "A small guy has to get the angle on the play. If you hit them, they'll fall no matter how big they are."

Valasek said his coming from Class D Silver Creek High School does not put him at a disadvantage either.

"I believe if you have a good coach, it doesn't make any difference whether you're in Class D or college, just as long as he's a good coach. A good coach determines how good you are."

The losing record of this Saturday's opponent, Kansas State University, does not affect his mental preparation for the game, Valasek said.

"If you're mentally ready, the physical part will take care of itself," he said. "You just can't be lax. I get nervous in scrimmages so it shouldn't be hard to get ready

for Kansas State.

"I deeply feel we're a national championship team," he said. "If we keep playing together and have no mental lapses, we can do it."

"We're sitting in a perfect position, being rated number three."

sports shorts

UNL students interested in flying to Washington, Hawaii, Illinois or South Carolina should try out for the varsity basketball squad.

Walk-ons can try out for coach Joe Cipriano's Husker squad at 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 18 in the Sports Complex.

Today is the final day UNL faculty members can buy season basketball tickets at a discount. Faculty members can buy tickets for theatre-type seats for the 11-game schedule for \$33, or plank-type seats with a back rest included for \$22.

Without the season ticket, faculty members must pay regular individual game ticket prices, which are \$3 for the plank-type seats. Theatre-type seats are not available on an individual game basis.

The tickets may be purchased in the Athletic Dept. ticket office in the South Stadium Office Bldg.