

New players, coaches to start spring practice

By Rob Barney

It's football time again in Nebraska as UNL spring practices get underway today.

Head football coach Tom Osborne said he expects to greet 147 players this afternoon, including NCAA hurdle champion Jeff Lee.

"We'll have practices on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday so Jeff can devote Tuesdays and Thursdays to track," Osborne said. "We would certainly excuse him if football interferes with any track meets."

The annual Red-White spring game is scheduled for April 30, three weeks before the Big 8 Conference Track Championships in Lawrence, Kan.

One familiar face will be missing from the Husker spring camp, two-year starting I-back Monte Anthony. The senior from Bellevue had surgery on his wrist over Christmas break and had surgery on his shoulder last week.

"These have been long-standing injuries and he didn't want to get them done at the same time, so he'll definitely

be out for spring practice," Osborne said. "He should be at full strength for the fall practices."

Also missing from the Husker spring workouts will be transfer Dan Rice. The sophomore offensive line transfer from Ohio State University is scheduled to undergo back surgery this morning.

"He had been experiencing back problems all winter," Osborne said. "We thought they were just back spasms, but the doctor said it was a ruptured disc."

Osborne said Rice also should be ready for the fall practice sessions.

Three new coaches also will be starting with spring practices. Lance Van Zandt, from the University of Kansas, is the new defensive secondary coach replacing Warren Powers and the defensive coordinator replacing Monte Kiffin.

Joining Van Zandt on defense is Charlie McBride, from the University of Wisconsin, who will coach the defensive line.

The latest coaching addition to the Husker staff is Gene Huey from New Mexico University. He will coach tight ends and wingbacks. John Melton, who had that position, will move to the defensive unit to coach the linebackers, replacing Bill Myles.

"The most important purpose of spring practice is to evaluate the players, and secondly, to try out new offenses or defenses," Melton said. "With three new defensive coaches there should be a few different things."

sports

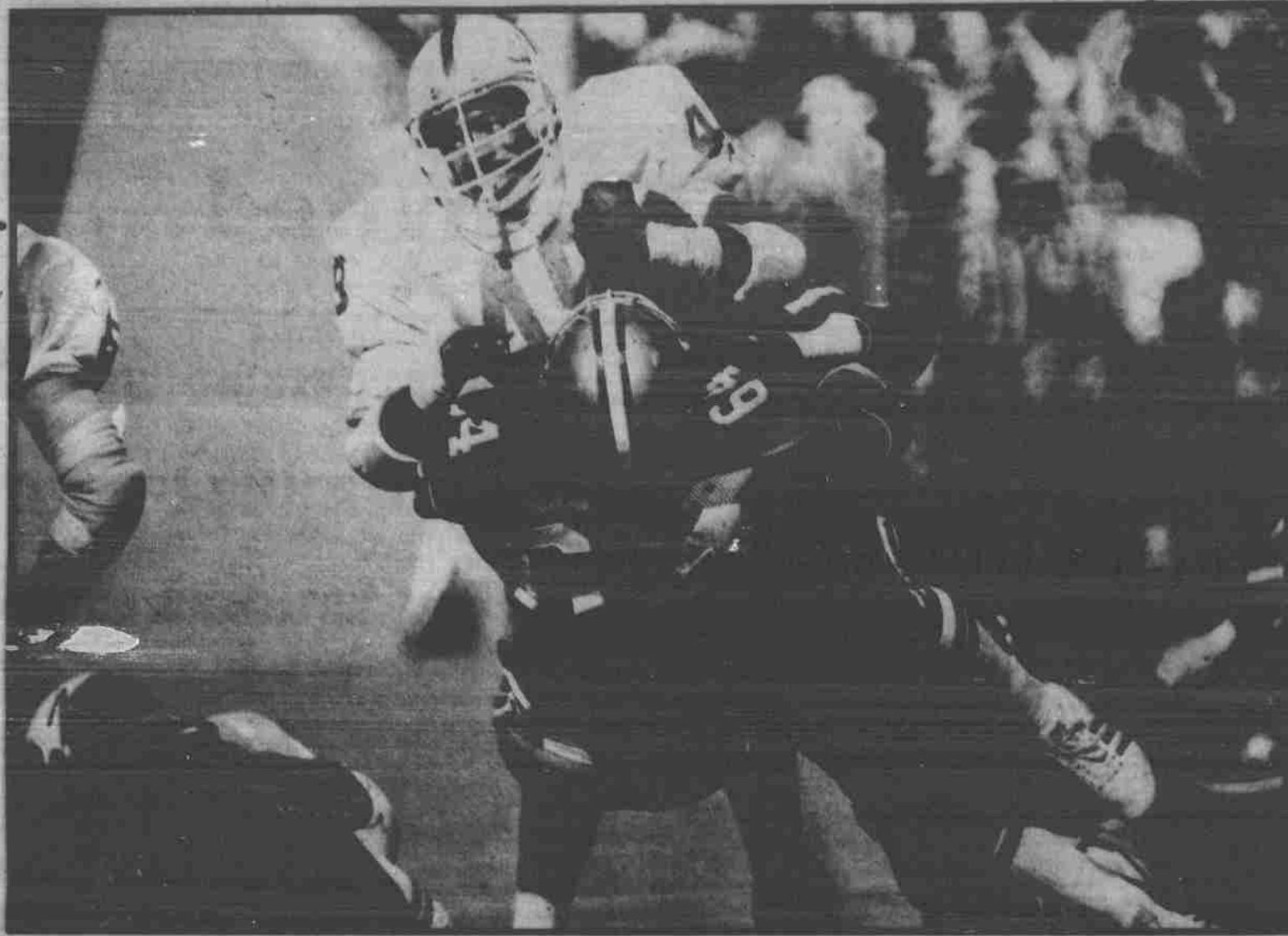


Photo by Kevin Higley

Husker I-back Monte Anthony will miss spring football which starts today. Anthony, shown playing against the University of Colorado, had shoulder surgery last week.

Fan mail flooding UNL ticket office

Boxes of unopened ticket requests and piles of weekend mail from Cornhusker football fans seeking seats in a proposed Memorial Stadium expansion greeted NU ticket officials and staff members today.

Helen Wagner, acting NU ticket manager, said at last count Wednesday, ticket requests totaled 5,585. No count has been made since, because the university was closed Thursday and Friday for spring break, she said.

The flood of ticket requests are a result of approval March 19 by the NU Board of Regents for a planned 8,000-seat addition to Memorial Stadium. The regents said the final go-ahead on the addition depends on the amount of interest expressed by ticket requests. The regents stated there must be 5,000 tickets requested before they would approve the expansion.

If the expressed interest in tickets is not sufficient and the regents decide the addition will not be constructed, deposits were to be refunded before Aug. 1.

The planned expansion is scheduled to be completed by the 1978 football season.

sports shorts

UNL's baseball team opened its season during spring break, winning six games of a 10-game road trip to Texas.

Coach Tony Sharpe's team lost three of its first four games to Baylor University. The Huskers and Bears split their opening doubleheader.

Baylor won the first game, 2-0, while the Huskers won the second game, 1-0, with the three-hit pitching of Jeff Costello.

Baylor swept Tuesday's double header, 12-3 and 6-4. UNL evened its record at 3-3 the next day as it swept a twinbill from Austin (Tex.) College. Both Larry Winum and Steve McManaman pitched shutouts as the Huskers won 8-0 and 4-0 respectively.

Outfielder Joe Sherger belted two home runs in the second game.

The Huskers win streak reached four games with an 8-1 and a 10-2 victory over Southwest Minnesota State University.

The road trip closed with a double header split with Dallas Baptist University. UNL won the first game, 2-1, and lost the second, 4-3.

A Saturday afternoon doubleheader with Dallas University was rained out.

The Huskers, 6-4 on the year, open their home season tomorrow with a doubleheader against St. Cloud State University of Minnesota. The first game is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

UNL student season football tickets will be sold Tuesday through Friday.

Students may enter the lottery in groups or individually at the South Stadium ticket office.

Groups should have identification cards and \$29 for each ticket. Students must be enrolled full time this semester. One representative may present identification cards and checks for a group and draw one lottery number for that group.

Ticket office hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Husker swimmer Brian Moss finished 27th of 66 last weekend in the 100-yard breaststroke at the NCAA National Swimming and Diving Championships.

He also finished 69th of 74 contestants in the 200-yard breaststroke. He was the only Husker competitor at

the meet.

George Nicodemus' softball team opens its season today with a doubleheader against Creighton University at Mabel Lee Field.

Tuesday it travels to Wayne State. Friday it travels to Kansas State.

Nicodemus also signed five women to AIAW letters of intent for softball last week. They were Linda McCrea from Omaha Burke, Shelley Scott from Seward, Tammy Poeand and Shari Stone from Lincoln Southeast and Stone's older sister Karen.

Two other girls were signed by UNL. Swimming and diving coach Ray Huppert announced the signing of JoDea Eckstrom of Marshall, Minn. Volleyball coach Pat Sullivan signed 6 ft. 1 in. Mindy-Martens of North Platte.

Frank Sevigne's Husker track team opened its outdoor

Husker gymnasts' fine performance not fine enough to win Big 8 meet

By Jim Kay

Many fine individual performances were not enough for the UNL gymnastics team at the Big 8 Conference meet in Lawrence, Kan. March 18 and 19.

The University of Oklahoma (OU) and Iowa State University (ISU) edged the Huskers in a three-team race for the title. OU finished with 427.55-points, ISU scored 426.90 and UNL had 425.20.

UNL coach Francis Allen said he was surprised at the high scores in the meet.

"I thought a 425 would win it," Allen said, "but it didn't. We put a very good team on the floor. Better than last year's team that won the Big 8. But we went down with a good score. It was the best we've done all year."

OU coach Paul Ziert said the Sooner strategy was to ignore the performances of the other teams.

"We came prepared to win," Ziert said. "All through the meet we didn't look at the other teams' scores. But as

we saw it unfold we knew it would be close. We can perform much better than this. We have performed better than this."

Ziert added that the toughest meet of the season was now over, referring to OU.

"This meet will be harder than the NCAA meet," he said. "The top three teams from this league deserve to be there. It's too bad they (UNL and ISU) can't go."

Only eight teams will compete at the NCAA meet in Tempe, Ariz. Thursday through Saturday. League champions automatically qualify and wild card spots can be achieved by teams with scores of 417 at conference meets. Wild card spots are available only if some league champions do not score 417.

Although the Huskers scored 425, it appears they will not attend the national meet.

"It's going to be tough being chosen because we're a

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