

UNL coaches faced with decisions on positions

By Jim Kay

The diagnoses are in on Husker receiving coaches Jerry Moore and Gene Huey.

Moore, who coaches split ends for UNL, may have come down with an acute case of bad timing. Huey, who is in his first year of coaching tight ends and wingbacks, may

be developing heartburn from an overabundance of a good thing.

Moore is faced with the task of replacing his top three split ends of a year ago. Chuck Malito, Dave Shamblyn and Bobby Thomas all graduated from the 1976 team and Moore said his current group of ends are all starting from scratch.

"We're working more on fundamentals," Moore said, "and starting with the basics. None of them have playing experience yet, but they have improved a lot in the first three weeks. It's a learning period for them."

He said there are seven split ends practicing for UNL this spring and each one is being given an equal chance.

All progressing

"They have all made some progress," Moore said. "It depends where you start from. Frank Lockett is a junior college transfer from California and knew nothing of our program when he got here. But he's made great progress."

"Jeff Lee and Tim Smith are two red-shirts who worked in kind of an undisciplined program last year running with the scout teams. They're two kids who might have to get rid of some habits this year."

Scout teams traditionally are made up of redshirt players who run opposing teams' plays against Husker starting lineups in fall practice.

Moore added that senior Rocke Loken was the most consistent split end so far this spring, "but he should be since it's his fifth year."

Consistency in his receivers was the first thing Moore said he looked for.

"I mean consistency in every aspect of the game," he said. "Blocking, running and catching. I don't think you can win the Big 8 with up-and-down type players. Then we look for someone who is a deep threat and then look for people who can catch some difficult passes."

Huey will have five returning lettermen in the two positions he coaches. And he added he has some impressive youth on the team as well.

"We have real quality depth at tight end," Huey said. "It might be one of the

best positions on the team as far as quality depth goes. There is not a lot of difference between Ken Spaeth and Mark Dufresne."

Spaeth and Dufresne, both seniors, were the top two tight ends on last year's team. Huey added that sophomore Junior Miller was steadily progressing and that junior John Selko and sophomore John Fischer also were coming along.

The depth and experience situation at wingback are similar to tight end, Huey said.

"Curtis Craig is the best blocking wide receiver I've ever seen," Huey said. "A lot of today's offenses are run with no downfield blocking. The wide receiver will either ghost block or just play the decoy. But Curtis caught my eye on his blocking right away. He may block so well because he was a running back in high school and was used to blocking there."

"Earl Everett has done some good things for us," he said, "and Ken Brown has a few things to learn but he's working hard to improve. And there are a lot of positive things about Tim McCrady. He could be pressuring those players on the top two units soon."

With all the depth on hand, Huey said his job has been made a little harder on trying to decide who will see action with the Huskers when the time comes.

"It's harder when there is so much talent and they all want to play," he said. "It's hard to crack a starting line-up and it could be tough for the younger players. Nothing beats experience. But I don't care if the player is first string or third string, you have to coach them all the same. If someone were injured you have to have someone else who can go in there and help you, not hurt you."

Huey said all of his players have impressed him so far this spring.

sports

UNL will battle Mavericks on driest diamond available

By Kevin Schnepf

Weather permitting, the Husker baseball team today will try to get back on the winning track when it plays the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The double header is scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m. in either Lincoln or Omaha. The site will be determined this morning, according to the UNL Sports Information Office. The game will be played on whichever field is driest.

The Huskers ended their 12-game winning streak last weekend when they lost four games to the University of Missouri. The Tigers, last year's Big 8 Conference champions, defeated UNL last Friday, 5-0 and 3-2, and 14-4 and 10-8 Saturday.

Head coach Tony Sharpe said he is hoping the Huskers will bounce back. "I'm sure the players are disappointed," Sharpe said, "but good athletes always come back. The coaches weren't pleased but were not down on the players."

Sharpe said the Huskers played below par at Columbia, Mo.

"I don't know if the players were intimidated by the defending Big 8 champs, but we just didn't play well," he said.

"Since the Baylor (University) game on our Texas trip, Missouri was the first Division I team we played," he said. "We had three of the four games go down to the wire but we couldn't pull them out."

The Huskers are 18-8 for the year and UNO has a 16-5 record. UNL defeated the Mavericks earlier this month in Lincoln, 5-0 and 7-0.

Senior pitcher Kirk Eymann, 2-2, and sophomore Jeff Costello, 3-2, are scheduled to pitch in today's games. Eymann posts a 2.31 earned run average with 33 strike outs. Costello has 31 strike outs this

year with a 3.47 ERA.

This weekend, the Huskers resume their Big 8 Conference competition when they travel to Lawrence, Kan. to play the University of Kansas in a four-game series.

Sharpe said the Huskers must win three of the four games against KU to stay in the race for the Big 8 playoffs.

The top two teams of the two divisions will compete in the playoffs in Oklahoma City May 20 through 24.

The Jayhawks are in second place in the Eastern division with a 3-1 record. Kansas won three of four against Iowa State University last weekend, which puts the Cyclones in third place ahead of the Huskers. Missouri leads the division with a 4-0 mark.

"This weekend is a big weekend for us," Sharpe said. "Kansas is the team we have to overtake."

Sharpe said KU and MU have the home advantage with eight of the 12 division games at home. The Huskers and Iowa State University have four home games. The Huskers play ISU in Lincoln April 29 and 30.

"Kansas has to play Missouri at home, but the way the schedule is set up, those two teams have somewhat of an advantage," Sharpe said.

After 26 games, the Huskers have a .264 team batting average. Senior outfielder Paul Haas has a .373 average followed by freshman catcher Tom Beeson's .345 average.

Freshman outfielder Joe Scherger is batting .352 with six home runs and 27 runs batted in to lead the team in those departments.

Designated hitter and pitcher Steve McManaman has a 4-0 record with 28 strike outs and a 2.28 ERA.

sports shorts

Sigma Chi fraternity is sponsoring an All-Greek Fight Night boxing tournament at 7 p.m. Friday in the National Guard Armory, 10th and Military Ave.

All benefits from the \$2 ticket sales will go to the Wallace Village home for minimally retarded children in Colorado, according to Bill Kottas, Fight Night chairman.

There will be 13 bouts, he said, each with 3 two-minute rounds.

Nineteen fraternities have representatives participating in the boxing. Kottas added.

Tickets may be purchased from any member of Sigma Chi fraternity or at the door.

An organizational meeting for a canoe trip on the Buffalo River is scheduled for 3:30 this afternoon at the Recreation Office, 1740 Vine St.

The trip is scheduled for May 16 through 22 and the Recreation Dept. has room for 10 people on the trip. Preference will be given to students with canoeing experience.

Porter accepts Regis College head coaching position



Photo by Kevin Higley

Husker basketball coach Joe Cipriano lost his second assistant coach this season when Lonnie Porter (far right) took the head coaching job at Regis College in Denver.

Lonnie Porter, an assistant basketball coach at UNL for the past five years, was named the new head basketball coach at Regis College in Denver last weekend.

Porter replaces Jim Karebetos, who resigned.

"I found out about the opening three weeks ago at the national tournament," Porter said. "I never had intentions of being a career assistant. Everybody wants to run their own show."

"I decided that when I came to Nebraska that I would use it as a stepping stone to a head coaching job," he said.

Porter came to UNL from Denver's Manual High School. He guided Manual to a 21-2 record and the Colorado State AAA Championship in 1972. They also ranked number one in the Southwest United States.

That year, Porter was named Denver Public League Coach of the Year and Colorado High School Athletic Association Basketball Coach of the Year.

Porter also spent his college playing days in Colorado at Adams State College in Alamosa.

He earned All Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference honors four times, the only basketball player to do so in the Conference's history. Porter also earned All-American honors in 1965.

Regis is a member of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

"I'm sure playing in the same conference helped me," Porter said about landing the job. "People probably remember me from my playing days."

Porter did express some sadness in leaving Nebraska.

"I'm happy about leaving for a new position but sad about leaving friends in Lincoln and the state of Nebraska."

"I'm very pleased with the quality experience I received working with Coach Cipriano and Moe Iba. And it's been a great opportunity to be around a man like Bob Devaney."

Porter, who will leave for Denver next week is the second Husker assistant basketball coach to gain a head coaching job this month. Earlier Husker graduate assistant Jennings Austin accepted the head job at Spartanburg, S.C., Methodist Junior College.