

All-American candidate Davis wary of recognition

By Kevin Schnepf

The Huskers' center has been picked for stardom. But past pre-season selections make Tom Davis wary of the honor.

As a pre-season all-American candidate, Davis remembers last year and its disappointments. In pre-season polls last year, the Huskers were picked number one in the nation. Nebraska finished ninth in the Associated Press final ratings.

"In a way, I want to live up to being an All American," the senior Omaha native said. "But some guy just decided to pick me. It would mean a lot more to me if I was All American after the season."

"I kind of snuck up on all the nose guards last year," Davis said. "But this year, all the nose-guards will be ready for me especially if they know I'm a possible All American."

"It is something like last year for the team. Everybody was ready for us," Davis said, referring to the Husker's opening game tie (6-6) to Louisiana State University.

Technique helpful
Davis played behind former Husker all-American

center, Rik Bonness for two years. Davis said the technique Bonness used has helped him.

"Rik was a small center (210 pounds), so he had to use technique," said Davis who is six feet three inches and weighs 238 pounds. "With my size, I combine the technique I have learned and the muscle that I have."

Joining Davis in the Husker offensive line will be left guard Greg Jorgensen, another pre-season All American. "Hopefully, I'll be able to achieve the all-American status," said Jorgensen, who is from Minden. "But I'm not going to let it affect my performance."

Jorgensen and Davis said this year's offensive line will be quicker and stronger. Offensive line coach Cleve Fischer agrees.

"Hopefully, we'll be quicker and stronger, but you're never sure until we play our first game," Fischer said.

Depth charts set
The depth charts for the offensive tackles, guards and center have been set for the first game. But Fischer warned that relaxation by starters could mean a change. The charts list Kelvin Clark, six feet four inches, 250 pounds from Odessa, Texas as first string left tackle.

Junior Steve Lindquist, six feet six inches, 250 pounds from Minneapolis, Minn., at right guard. Stan Waldemore, a senior from Belleville, N.J. who stands 6 feet 4 inches and weighs 260 pounds, is the right tackle.

Despite the loss of All Big 8 tackles Steve Hoins and Bob Lingenfelter, Jorgensen and Davis say this year may be the Husker's best.

"We'll be blocking better for the run than in past years," Jorgensen said. Davis said fans will see 50 per cent running and 50 per cent passing from the Huskers.

Consistency important
"We'll be stronger in our running game than in the last few years," Davis said, adding that consistency is important.

"Last year against Colorado, the offensive line was unbelievable, but the next week we were really flat." With consistency as a goal for the offensive line, Jorgensen and Davis said the team goal is the Big 8 Championship.

"It won't be easy, but we feel we can win it," Jorgensen said. "Naturally, if we win the Big 8, we'll be high in the national rankings."

Time ticks on as Husker's first game approaches

By Rob Barney

He wants more time, but UNL head football coach Tom Osborne has run out of time. His Huskers take the field Saturday against the Washington State Cougars for the opening game.

"Every coach in the nation says he could use another week or another two days to get ready," Osborne said. "But with the amount of time we've had, we're as ready as we'll ever be."

The Huskers went through their final scrimmage Saturday in preparation for the Cougars.

"The scrimmage went pretty well. The defense looked better than they have," Osborne added. "The offense had the big play but they lacked some consistency."

I-Back I.M. Hipp recorded the biggest play of the day, scampering 67 yards for the scrimmage's second score.

Hipp also was the leading rusher for the day with 123 yards on 14 carries. He finished just ahead of sophomore I-Back Tim Wurth, who gained 108 yards on 10 attempts.

With his performance, Wurth probably will not be red-shirted this year.

Wurth might red shirt
"There is a possibility Tim could be red shirted," Osborne said. "But he is running third string now (behind Rick Berns and Hipp) and you need three or four I-Backs for a season because they take a beating."

Three year letter winner Monte Anthony is another red shirt possibility, Osborne said.

"He seems to be doing better, but he still has a ways to go to catch up," Osborne said. "He missed a lot of practice and we're

doing some different things so he's a little behind."

Osborne said the senior from Bellevue is third or fourth string at I-Back and full-back. And if he does not move up, he may be redshirted.

Defensive tackle Barney Cotton is the only first stringer that is questionable for the first game," Osborne said.

Red shirt quarterback Brad Humphrey was the only serious casualty of the scrimmage, suffering a shoulder separation.

Garcia starts
Senior Randy Garcia won the battle for the starting spot against WSU, beating out junior Tom Sorley.

"Randy will start, but Tom will play too. Tom played well in practice. He knows the offense and is a good leader," Osborne said.

A spy was reported at the Husker scrimmage, but Osborne said he was not worried about it.

"It was probably some fan who didn't have a pass. I really don't think there was a spy," he said.

Washington State does not need a spy. Former Husker secondary coach Warren Powers has nine coaches on his Cougar staff that have Nebraska ties.

Osborne expects to see some Nebraska flavor from WSU Saturday.

"Defensively, they run basically the same defense we run. Offensively, they run the veer with split backs, which is nothing similar to ours," he said.

Many persons think the Huskers' second game with the University of Alabama will be their biggest test, but Osborne said WSU will test UNL.

Hopeful victory
"I'm not worried about how bad we beat them, I just hope that we beat them," Osborne said.

"They have 20 starters and both kickers returning. In contrast, we have 10 starters returning. I talked with Jackie Sherrill (WSU's head coach last season) last winter and he thinks they will be as good as any team in the Big 8 this season with the possible exception of the top two or three teams," he said. "He thinks WSU can win seven or eight games."

WSU had the leading passer and receiver in the Pacific 8 Conference last season in Jack Thompson and Mike Levenseller, respectively.

"Coach Powers has been quoted as saying Thompson is a better passer than Ferragamo, Humm and Tagge and a better runner, too, so he can't be too bad," Osborne said.

"He also has said his defensive secondary is better than any he had while at Nebraska."

Osborne said WSU's leading rusher last season, Dan Doornick, has been replaced in this year's starting line-up.

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4:30 p.m.—Nebr. Union Employees Meeting room 247
Nebr. Union Board Host and Hostess Committee
5:30 p.m.—Engineering Toastmasters, Harvest Room A
6 p.m.—Gamma Lambda, Harvest Room C
6:30 p.m.—UPC Art Lending Library, Main Lounge
7 p.m.—Inter-Fraternity Council, room 202; Ski Club, Auditorium; American Society of Civil Engineers, Room 222.
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