

# Hoosiers may not be pushover

By Jim Kay

The Husker-Indiana game Saturday is not a sure bet for Husker fans.

Indiana University Sports Information Director Tom Miller and UNL head coach Tom Osborne warn that the Hoosiers may be underdogs but they won't be pushovers.

"Don't take us too lightly," Miller said at the weekly KLIN radio sponsored review preview breakfast. "It's going to be a great game. It's been an up and down season. We lost last week so this is our up week."

Osborne said games against teams like Indiana are not his favorite.

"These are the kind of games I don't like to coach," Osborne said. "It's hard to convince people this is a team that can beat us."

Osborne added Indiana will have the second best offensive team the Huskers have faced this season, second only to the University of Alabama.

Indiana has a 1-2 record this season. After an opening season loss to Wisconsin, the Hoosiers beat Louisiana State University 24-21. They dropped a one-point ball game to Miami (Ohio) University last week.

UNL defensive line coach Charley McBride, who coach-

ed at the University of Wisconsin before coming to Nebraska said he has had bad experiences with Indiana.

"I've never been involved in an easy game with Indiana," McBride said. "We're trying to get our players not to turn their heads the other way."

McBride said the Huskers will have to watch for Indiana offensive dangers, fullback Ric Enis and split end Keith Calvin.

Indiana head coach Lee Corso said the Hoosier's biggest concern as they face Nebraska is injuries.

"We've got a lot of guys out. But that goes with the game of football. It's hit us a little bit more this year. We'll just have to rally behind the guys we have and come back better," Corso said.

Corso's biggest loss came in a pre-season scrimmage when sophomore tailback Mike Harkrader injured a knee. Harkrader, who led Indiana in rushing as a freshman with 1,003 yards last year, had surgery three weeks ago.

UNL's leading rusher Rick Berns remains doubtful with a hip pointer injury. Redshirt sophomore Isaiah Hipp, who rushed for 122 yards in last week's win over Baylor University, is scheduled to start in Berns' place.

The game is expected to be the 91st consecutive sell-out of Memorial Stadium.

## Wake up, fans!

Nine "sons" and their "mom" faithfully turn out at 5 a.m. every Thursday morning to play music for early-rising Big Red fans.

The 10-member UNL Pep Band jolts sleepy-eyed fans awake to the tune of the Husker fight song at the KLIN radio review-preview breakfast held at Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on East Campus.

"Mom" is senior Debbie Wehrmann, who is the student leader of the band. She is the only female in the ten-member band, so the rest of the members refer to her as "mom".

"Actually we're nine guys and a house mother," Wehrmann said.

"We're up at five every Thursday to practice," Wehrmann said. "People say we're crazy, but it's a lot of fun."

The members of the pep band also are part of the university's marching band.

"It's really double duty," Wehrmann said. "We always go to (marching band) practice after we're done here."

The football breakfasts begin at 6:45 a.m. and the pep band has marching band practice by 8 a.m.

She said the pep band's extra work is good publicity, "but it's a lot of work," Wehrmann said. "We were contacted by KLIN to play on Thursdays. Traditionally, when anyone wants the pep band, it has to be done through the main office with Jack's blessing."

Jack Snider is the director of bands. The marching band is directed by Robert Fought.

## sports

### Leading receiver ignores rankings, enthusiastic about 'horses up front'

By this time of the season, one might have expected Missouri's Joe Stewart to be running away with the Big 8 pass receiving title. He led the league last year with 45 receptions and had quarterback Pete Woods back to get the ball to him.

But Woods has been out since the first game with a knee injury, and Stewart is nowhere to be found among the receiving leaders. Husker tight end Ken Spaeth and Colorado's Bob Niziolek lead the list with 10 catches each.

But to hear Spaeth talk, such rankings are the farthest thing from his mind. In fact, he seems to be more enthusiastic about the Huskers' stress on the running game this year.

"It takes a great running game to win, and this year we've got the horses up front," he said. "It's also safer to move the ball on the ground."



Spaeth talks about the unity of the offensive line, the most he's seen in his five years at UNL.

"These guys are close friends on and off the field," he said. "This year we know we have to really pull together."

Unity seems to have paid off so far—the Huskers are averaging 263 yards a game rushing, better than the school record of 252.5 yards a game set in 1971.

Spaeth said blocking is about 65 per cent of the tight end's game, with receiving the other 35 per cent. But he doesn't mind blocking for such speedy Husker backs Rick Berns and I.M. Hipp, who both have clocked 4.5 seconds over 40 yards.

"You know if you block well, they're going to do a lot of great things," he said. "It's an inspiration to block for them."

Spaeth started for the Huskers last year. He caught 19 passes for 265 yards and four touchdowns and was named second-team All-Big 8.

This year the Nebraska football guide is touting him as an All-American candidate, and he was the pre-season

All-Big 8 pick of Big Eight magazine. However, Spaeth said he tries to disregard such predictions.

"Anybody who puts any store in them shouldn't go on the field," he said.

Spaeth came to Nebraska in 1973 from Mahanomen, Minn. (pop. 1,300), where he earned 10 sports letters in high school. He sat out 1974 as a redshirt, before lettering in 1975 as a backup to Larry Mushinski and Brad Jenkins.

"When I got reshirted, it was a letdown, but now I realize it was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. "It gave me another year to mature, and I am now able to play two years as a starter instead of just one."

Spaeth said about half of his receptions this year have come after the quarterback audibled (changed the play at the line of scrimmage to take advantage of a defensive weakness).

With his 6-foot-5, 230 lb. frame and 4.7-second speed over 40 yards, Spaeth seems like a good pro prospect. "Everybody would like to try the pros," he said, "I'd like to give it a shot, too."

The Big 8 regained some of its respectability last week by winning seven out of eight games to raise its nonconference record to 14-10. Only Missouri failed to win, dropping a 28-21 decision to California, ranked 17th in the Associated Press national poll.

Missouri, the only Big 8 team without a win, has lost to second-ranked Southern California and Illinois. The Tigers face another tough task against 20th-ranked Arizona State this Saturday. If they lose that game, it will be their most inauspicious start since 1955 when they dropped their first six games in a 1-9 season.

On the bright side, three Big 8 teams are rated this week, No. 1 Oklahoma, No. 7 Colorado and No. 11 Nebraska.

If Oklahoma scores against Kansas in the Big 8 opener this Saturday, it will mark the 123rd straight game in which the Sooners have scored, tying the NCAA record they set in 1946-57.

The Huskers have scored in 41 straight games since Oklahoma shut them out, 27-0 in 1973. That Sooner win broke a 58-game scoring string for the Huskers, leaving them one short of the team record of 59 set in 1961-67.



Photo by Tim Ford

Husker cross country runner Cindy Dixon will lead UNL tomorrow at the Kearney State College Invitational.

### Husker jogs daily

By Lisa Broman

An early morning jog may not thrill late sleepers, but one Husker cross country runner says getting up with the birds makes her day.

"In fact," says Cindy Dixon, "if I don't go out and run in the morning, I feel draggy all day."

At 5 feet 2 and 100 pounds, Dixon, a senior, is the Husker Women's top runner this year. She won the Grinnell Iowa Invitational last week and tomorrow she will lead the Huskers in the Kearney State College Invitational.

The Utica native, however, said she is not a morning person and sometimes wonders why she makes her early morning jogs.

"I think every runner thinks every now and then about quitting, but I really like it and I don't think I will ever reach the point of quitting," she said.

Dixon, who considered herself a "not too serious" runner in high school, said her interest in cross country started when she enrolled at UNL three years ago.

UNL did not have a team then but Dixon said she and other women runners pushed cross country until it became a recognized sport.

Although she prefers track to cross country, Dixon said to excel in long distance track events, a runner must be involved in cross country training.

Training for Dixon is a year-round program. Dixon runs about 10 miles a day.

The cross country team has organized practices every day except Saturday, when women are expected to run on their own, she said.

In addition to running, Dixon lifts weight two times a week.

### Cross country team faces Wildcats

The Kansas State University Wildcats will host the UNL men's cross country team in Manhattan tomorrow.

The dual meet against the Wildcats will be the opening meet for the Huskers. It is the third outing for KSU.

Last weekend, the Wildcats finished second behind the University of Colorado in an invitational meet, Husker coach Frank Sevigne said.

"They ran well against Colorado, Kansas and a few others he said. "Kansas State is a fair to good team, probably on the good side."

KSU finished fourth last year in the Big Eight Conference meet, UNL finished last.

"We don't know at this stage, but we feel this year's team is better than last year's," Sevigne said.

The Manhattan Country Club, is the site for the dual meet and the site for the Big 8 meet later this year.

"It's a nice course, very hilly. It's right on a golf course which makes for pretty good running. It's one of the better courses in the Big 8," Sevigne said.

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