

Restless Husker freshmen get first game—maybe

By Jim Hunt

The Nebraska freshman football team hopes to open its season Monday against the Drake junior varsity in Des Moines. But the Huskers' hopes aren't too high yet.

The Huskers were scheduled to open their five-game season Sept. 23 against Kansas State. However, the Wildcats were forced to cancel the game after injuries depleted the number of Wildcat players.

"Both the players and I were disappointed (after Kansas State canceled the game)," head freshman coach Guy Ingles said. "But the next day we had the game with Drake scheduled. Morale has been good."

However, Ingles said six weeks of practice have taken their toll on the

Huskers.

"The players are so tired of practicing and I'm so tired of practicing, it is unbelievable," he said. "There's not much we can do though because we still have a long way to go before we are ready to play."

Even though the Huskers gained another week of practice because of the canceled game, Ingles said he has not tried to put in a lot of new plays.

"We are not going to put in much more offense," he said. "These guys have enough offense, probably more than they need."

Ingles said many of the freshmen are playing well. However, the key is to have all of them playing well on the same day, he added.

Ingles said both the offense and defense have looked good in practice.

"The offense has moved the ball well, but it has not really been consistent, and that's what we are looking for," he said. "Our quarterbacks and our skilled people have looked good. Our biggest problem is the lack of depth in the line."

"Our defense has looked aggressive, but it is not deep in the line. The addition of (Sammy) Sims and (Bobby) Marks is going to help the secondary."

Sims and Marks were practicing with the varsity, but the varsity coaches wanted them to suit up for the freshman game, Ingles said. Offensive backs Andra Franklin and Jeff Woodard are the only two freshmen now practicing with the varsity.

Ingles said that even though last year was termed a good recruiting year by Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne, there is no added pressure on him.

"The only pressure we feel is the tradition in the past success of the freshman team," Ingles said. "The players feel the same way as the coaches do about keeping this tradition alive."

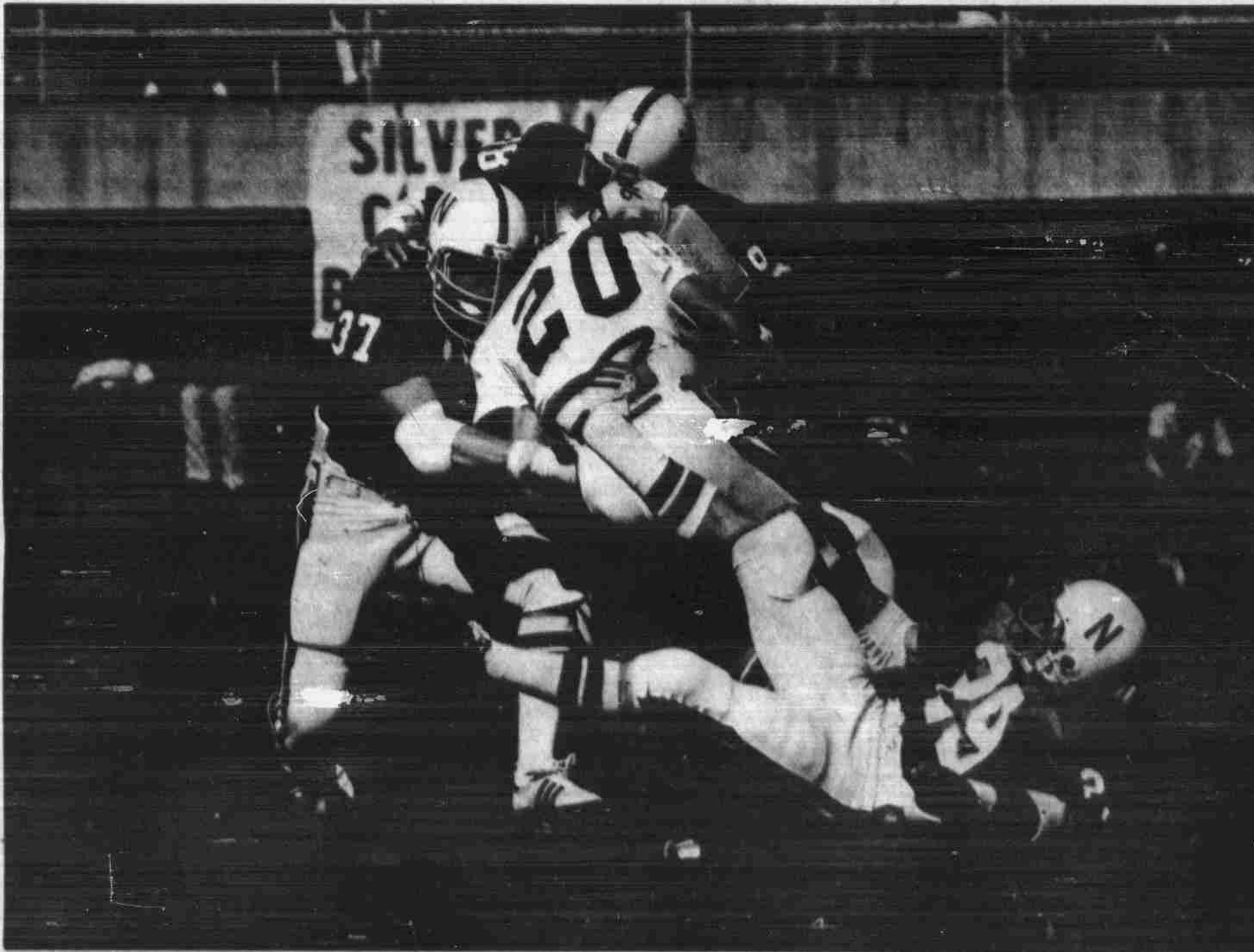
"The main thing we want to do is make them the best football players we can so they have the best chance of making the varsity team."

Ingles is in his second year as head freshman coach after replacing Jim Ross. He lettered three times at UNL and was a member of the 1970 national championship team. His 1976 Husker freshman team compiled a 4-1 record.

Ingles is assisted with this year's freshman squad by Pat Fischer, Dan Brock, Jake Cabell, King Block, Brad Jenkins, Dale Zabrocki and Mike McClanen. All are former Husker players with the exception of McClanen, a graduate student who played one year of football at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C.

After the Drake game Monday, the Huskers will have two home and two away games remaining.

The Huskers will be at the University of Nebraska at Omaha next Saturday, at home against Iowa State on Oct. 14, at Missouri on Nov. 4, and at home against Kansas on Nov. 11.



Jeff Carpenter (37), Jim Pillen (29) and Tony Samuel (98) sack Baylor quarterback Sammy Bickham in last week's 31-10 Husker win.

FIRST DOWN

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