

Spring workouts needed for smoother fall practices

By Rick Huls

While UNL is in its third week of spring football practices, the players of last year's losingest Big Eight team have hung up their pads for the spring.

The problems at Kansas State University began last year. Unable to win a Big Eight game last year, Kansas State saw its coach, Ellis Rainsberger, resign after players were deliberately misidentified in a junior varsity game to preserve their red-shirt status.

When new coach Jim Dickey arrived at Manhattan, he discovered that Rainsberger handed out 43 scholarships, 13 more than the NCAA limit of 30. Now Dickey can only recruit 17 players this spring because of the violation.

Adding to those problems, Kansas State ended its spring practice two weeks ago after practicing only three days. A Kansas State physical education instructor spotted Dickey holding an organized practice in February—a violation of Big Eight rules. So, Dickey canceled spring practice to organize the program.

Sports Illustrated described Kansas State's situation in the April 10th issue. "Schools that violate conference or NCAA rules are usually prohibited from going to bowls or appearing on TV, but Kansas State is no candidate for either. And the Big Eight is not eager to make K-State any less competitive than it already is. Indeed, K-State is an embarrassment to the conference, both on the field and in the public eye."

With spring practices going full speed at UNL, coach Tom Osborne and players feel fortunate to be able to hold spring workouts which they say make fall practices go smoother.

"I would hate to go without spring practice," Osborne said, referring to Kansas State's cancellation of spring practices. "We have a lot of players to look at and we can't look at all of them in the fall."

Osborne said spring football gives the coaches more time to spend with the players and to evaluate them.

"We also have a good walk-on program and without spring ball, our walk-ons

wouldn't have as good a chance to show what they can do," Osborne said.

Senior quarterback Tom Sorley said spring practice is a necessity because it is the time to experiment with different things.

"I don't know how any team could do without it," Sorley said. "Kansas State is definitely going to have their work cut out for them."

Kerry Weinmaster, defensive starter at noseguard, said Kansas State especially needed a spring practice this year because of last year's season. Weinmaster said Kansas State will be a little behind everybody next fall.

"Spring practice is for establishing your players," Weinmaster said. "The fall camp should be for polishing up."

According to Weinmaster and Sorley, UNL's offense and defense still have a long way to go.

"We've got to shut down the traps up the middle," Weinmaster said of the defense. "We're giving up too many yards up the middle."

Although the second offense scored quickly on the first team defense Saturday, Weinmaster said the defense improved through the rest of the scrimmage.

Offensive inconsistency is bothering Sorley, although he said the amount of fumbles is decreasing.

"We have too many breakdowns. One or two good plays and then we make a mistake," Sorley said. "I don't want to make excuses but the wet turf did hurt our backs in scrimmage."

Sorley said that running backs like Richard Berns and I.M. Hipp depend on quick cuts to gain speed.

"When our backs are slipping all over, we don't gain anything," he added.

Sorley said the offense was adapting to the veer and making less mistakes in the new formation.

The list of injuries is smaller this week, Osborne said, but a few still injured are: Randy Poeschl, knee; I.M. Hipp, foot; Jeff Finn, foot; John Selko, knee; Tim Fischer, broken thumb; Jim Pillen, shoulder; L.G. Searcey, knee; and Weinmaster, ankle.

Senator profiles available

By Kris Hansen

Biographical reports on most Nebraska state senators including their voting records and political sentiments, will be available in the NUPIRG office in several weeks.

"We'll probably have 15 to 20 people in our own division using it (the file). We strongly hope the rest of the student body and organizations, like GLC (ASUN Government Liaison Committee), will use it," said NUPIRG's Legislative Director Jim Jenkins, a sophomore from Oconto, Neb.

"Other people, like those running for office, have also expressed interest in using our information," he said.

The reports are now being compiled by NUPIRG staff members and will include senators' voting records, senatorial motivations and achievements. Accessibility will be a major concern, Jenkins said.

Secretaries, journalists and others in contact with each senator also will be interviewed for the two-page report.

"Since different people gather the information from various sources, the individual reports will vary some," Jenkins noted.

Only 35 to 40 of the state's 49 senators will be covered.

"Several of the senators are retiring or running for other offices. Many of those we know for sure won't be back won't be included in the files," Jenkins said. The file will be updated yearly, he said, and will improve as research continues.

Jenkins estimated most reports would be available in three to four weeks. "We'll get most of them before the legislative session is over (in three weeks), but some may take until the end of the year," he said.

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Applications are now being accepted for students on the ASUN Constitutions Committee and the ASUN Community Relations Committee for the 1978-79 term of office.

Applications are also being accepted for ASUN students appointments to CSL, Faculty Senate Committees, ASUN Campuswide Committees and Government Liaison Committee Chairmanship for the 1978-79 academic year.

Information on committees and applications can be obtained in the ASUN office, Room 335, Nebraska Union.

Interviews will be held April 20.



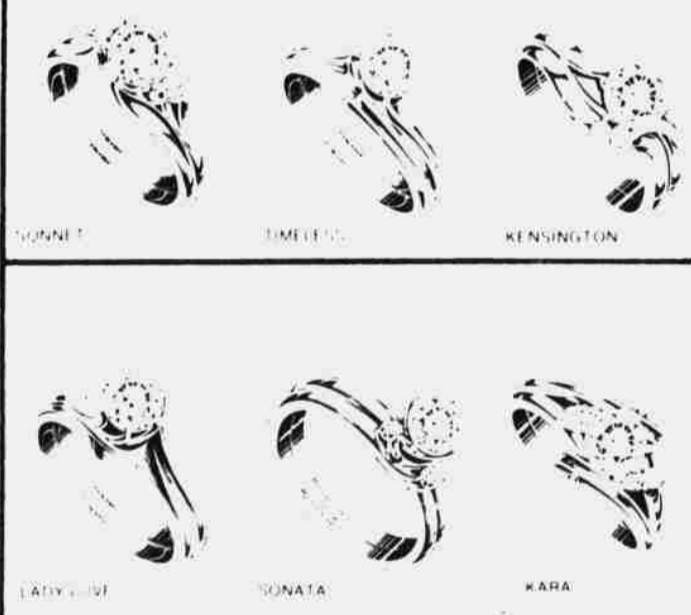
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