

## sports

# Osborne stresses need for defense to score points

By Buck Mahoney

The importance of a defense that can score points has been stressed again by Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne.

Osborne said that when Nebraska had good teams in the early 1970s that scored a lot of points, seven to 14 of those points were either scored or set up by the defense, usually on a long punt return or interception return.

The Husker defense has scored two touchdowns in the last two games. L.C. Cole recovered a fumble against California for a touchdown, and Kenny Brown had a 52 yard punt return against Hawaii.

Brown has a 30.3 yard average on four punt returns this year. He may be ranked near the top in national standings for punt returns.

#### Brown a threat

"If he (Brown) can get past one or two men and we can get him some blocks," Osborne said, Brown is a threat to go all the way."

Brown said that getting past the first one or two men is the most important part of the punt return because no body blocks the first one or two men.

"Once you get past them, then you have a wall in front of you," he said.

The main reason that the punt return game has improved is because the return men are fielding more punts, Brown said. They did not field any punts against Alabama.

"This game, coach Osborne told us to field more punts in a crowd," Brown said.

His 52 yard touchdown return came on a low, line drive punt, he said.

"It was a line drive kick and they weren't coming up fast so I fielded it on the run," he said. "It was a return right, so I just followed my blocking down the right side."

#### Fine football team

Osborne reiterated this week that he thought Hawaii was a fine football team.

"I kept trying to say good things about them and everyone made fun of me," he said. "I still think they have a good football team."

He attributed most of Hawaii's difficulties to "some bad errors in the second quarter."

Osborne said that before the game he was worried that all the confidence everyone had would make the team overconfident. He said he thought that showing the team films of Hawaii kept the game in perspective.

"Our players really did have respect for Hawaii," he said.

The Huskers played well on defense Saturday he said. "The defensive secondary, though shaky at times, was better," he said. "But it is still our major concern."

#### Bad call

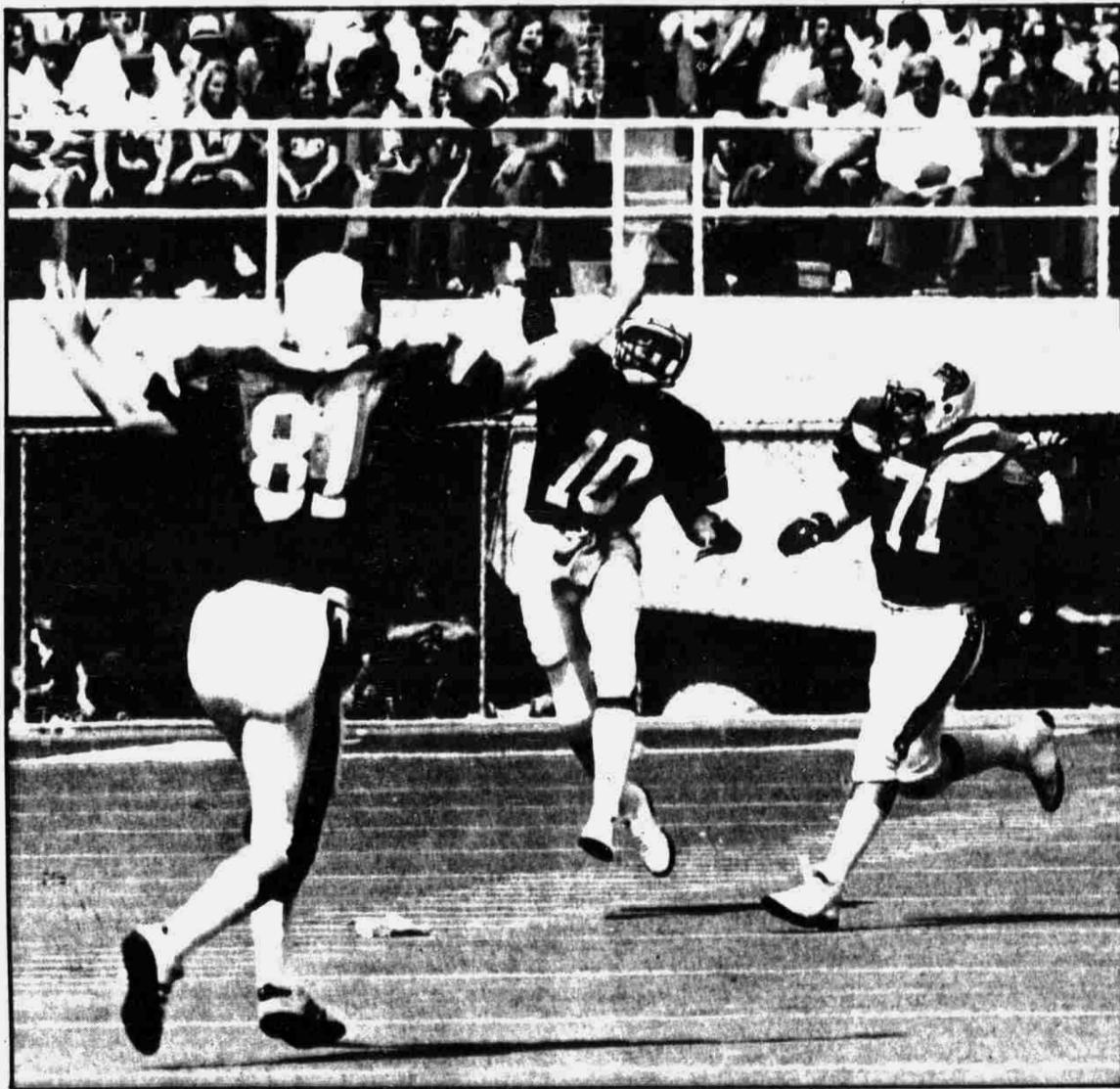
Osborne said that he thought the referees made a bad call by ejecting Dan Pensick when he was involved in a scramble to recover a fumble in a second quarter kickoff.

"As near as I can tell, Dan Pensick did nothing to get ejected," Osborne said. "I was not able to see anything that would cause a 15 yard penalty, let alone ejection."

On offense, Osborne said that his top three quarterbacks played well.

"(Tom) Sorley played almost flawless football," he said. "He played well mentally."

Osborne said that what a quarterback does at the line of scrimmage is just as important as how well he can pass. In the battle for second string quarterback, Osborne



UNL head coach Tom Osborne credited all of his quarterbacks, including Tim Hager (10), with good games against Hawaii.

Photo by Ted Kirk

said it was difficult to judge the performances of Tim Hager and Jeff Quinn because they played with different units.

#### Advantage for Hager

"Tim (Hager) was at an advantage because he was with the first and second teams," Osborne said.

"Quinn had the third and fourth units and some players haven't played before."

Many of the players that saw action in the fourth quarter have not been running Nebraska's offense, but have been running opposing teams' offenses, he said.

Osborne said that although Tim McCrady and Dave Rimington were listed on the third team, losing them is definitely a blow to the team.

Rimington, who had surgery for torn cartilage in his knee, was developing into a fine football player, according to Osborne. He is a 240 pound freshman center from

Omaha.

#### Rimington may be out

Rimington may be out for the rest of the season and Osborne said that every effort will be made to get him a hardship case so he will not lose a year of eligibility.

McCrady, who had surgery for a separated shoulder, is not eligible for a hardship case because he was redshirted last year.

McCrady will be out for at least eight weeks.

Osborne also said the kickoff team has shown a lot of improvement over the last couple of years on covering kick returns.

Osborne and all of the Husker assistant coaches are out of town recruiting this week.

He said he was going to do some recruiting in Lincoln on Monday and in the Omaha area on Tuesday before practice begins again on a full scale today.

## Football still fun after 15 years—Andrews

By Mary Ryan

Fifteen years experience is a lot in any field. Especially in football and especially if you are only 22 years old.

In his first year of graduate school, Nebraska defensive end George Andrews has been playing football since he was in the second grade when he joined a YMCA team.

"My dad was a coach," Andrews said. "He didn't push me, I was interested. I grew up playing football, baseball, basketball and track."

"I played football just for fun, it was something to do after school is how I looked at it."

Andrews is still playing because football is fun to him.

"You enjoy what you do and have the talent to do," he said. "I feel you are supposed to use the talents you have. And the games are fun."

#### No fun for foes

They may not be as much fun for Husker opponents though. The 6-foot-4, 220 pound Andrews has a career total of 164 tackles including 31 so far this year. He has been named the ABC-Chevrolet Defensive Player of the Game twice, against North Carolina in the Liberty Bowl (19 tackles) and in this year's opening game to Alabama (17 tackles).

The loss put a damper on the award, Andrews said because "the team takes precedence over yourself."

The game Andrews most remembers is last year's 31-24 victory over Alabama.

"The crowd, because we had lost the week before, and their high rank made it an exciting game to play in," Andrews said.

Andrews does not set season goals for himself he said, but he does set a number of tackles he would like to reach

in each game. He reached his goal against Alabama. Against Hawaii, he did not play as much because of the lopsided score.

#### Best is goal

"I would rather see every body get a chance to play," Andrews said. "To play my best is the main goal."

Since the business college changed its requirements 2 years ago, Andrews is taking three undergraduate courses along with his graduate studies. He said he doesn't feel the "full scope" of being a graduate student on the football team but that it "takes a lot of pressure off knowing you have your diploma."

He said it will take two years to get his masters, but if he is drafted in 1979 by a professional team, he will "see how that goes."

"If I have a chance to play pro football, I will give it a try and work on my masters," Andrews said. "If football is not around, I would like to work for a company that would let me go to school."

#### Leave town

An Omaha native, Andrews said he would like to go somewhere else after he leaves school because "living in a different town would be good experience."

Andrews has been involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for the past two years.

"I became interested through my freshman roommate Tom Sorley," Andrews said. "It just took awhile to sink in."

A third year starter, Andrews was red-shirted in the fall of 1975 and he found that difficult to adjust to.

"At first, it was tough being red-shirted and not playing," he said. "But as I look back on it, I can see that it helped me."



Photo by Bob Pearson

Defensive tackle Randy Poeschl welcomes a Hawaii player Nebraska style.