

## sports

# Celebrated coaches could have made Husker history

Praise the Lord. Oh what a relief it is. That's a load off my mind. Happy days are here again.

Which cliché did you utter Tuesday when word came that head football coach Tom Osborne decided to stay at UNL? Turning down a generous offer from University of Colorado officials in Boulder, Osborne wants to stay in Lincoln after he

kevin schnepf

gave some thought about the players he recruited.

Tuesday's news prompted so much

statewide attention that the Lincoln New Car Dealers Association, a consistent supporter of UNL football, wanted to send a bouquet of red roses to Osborne's wife, Nancy. You, like many others across the state were probably shocked by even the thought of such a change occurring to the Big Red Machine.

#### Start speculating

Now that speculation has ended, let's start speculating. Let us pretend Osborne had accepted the Colorado offer and departed winter-worn Lincoln for winter wonderland Boulder. If Osborne took his entire staff with him, who could Bob Devaney sought out to coach a beleaguered Husker team next fall?

UNL's football program could have sported a who new look, a new identity, a

new way to please the fans. It could have become a celebrity staff.

Chosen as head coach to replace the conservative Osborne, thumb licking George Allen could fill in Tom's shoes. His forte, building winners and nothing but, could have been a good enough reason to hire him.

#### Ara the Great

Assisting Allen would be the human football encyclopedia himself, Ara Parseghian. Instead of relaying his knowledge to a television audience, Parseghian could have been offered the jobs of coaching the linebackers, offensive backs, receivers, defensive ends, defensive linemen, and tight ends and wingbacks. One man filling in for so many positions could have cut the costs

of paying salaries by incredible margins.

Tired of the pinstripes of the baseball's New York Yankees, Billy Martin could have been hired as the kicking coach. In order to replace Billy Todd sufficiently, Martin could have instilled the killer instinct into Dean Sukup to kick footballs as often and as far as Billy kicked chalk dust and baseball caps.

#### Raise the dead

The offensive line, which will be missing the majority of its top blockers next fall, would have needed a coach that would begin a legend. The job opening would have produced enough interest that Vince Lombardi would have raised from the dead to accomplish this feat.

Continued on page 15

## Returning letterman key to Tiger's basketball fortunes

**Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles previewing Big Eight Conference basketball outlooks this season.**

Norm Stewart sounds like a man who has been dealt a lousy hand in poker, but he's still smiling at the thought of having a few aces up his sleeve.

The Missouri basketball coach, now in his 12th year as head coach, lost a lot of talent from last year's Big Eight post season tournament champion team. But he doesn't feel destitute.

"We do have key positions to worry about," Stewart said, "and a thin nucleus. But we have good talent, an excellent attitude and should come along fast."

Playmaking guard Jeff Currie, a four-year letterman and three-year starter; center Stan Ray; and forward Clay Johnson, last year's leading scorer and rebounder, are all gone from last season's 14-16 team.

#### Three vets return

But three top returnees should pace Missouri through the the early going. Larry Drew, a 6-foot-2 junior guard from Kansas City, has started 55 of the 58 games Missouri has played in the last two seasons.

Brad Droy is the only senior on this year's squad and can play any one of four positions.

Curtis Berry started in 17 games for the Tigers last season and led the team in field goal percentage by hitting .555 from the field.

Drew was the number two scorer last year with a 12.7 per game average. He was the most valuable player in Missouri's Show-Me-Classic Tournament and also led the team in assists with 78.

"From baseline to baseline, I've never had a player as effective as Larry Drew," Stewart said. "He's not only great at spotting the open man, but also delivering the ball to him."

#### Versatile player

Droy was third in scoring and rebounding last year for Missouri. Stewart said Droy's versatility was an advantage for the Tigers.

"Brad can play any of four positions comfortably, which should add a lot to our ball club," he said.

Berry broke into the starting lineup last season when Ray broke his hand and aided the Tigers' point and rebound production.

There are four other returning lettermen led by sophomore guards Kenn Stoehner and Mike Foster, with Stoehner specializing in offense and Foster in defense.

Stewart will get some added height in his front line with the return of 7-foot-2 center Tom Dore and 6-foot-9 forward Carl Amos.

Dore is the tallest player to ever compete for Missouri and will probably start now that Ray has left school because of academic difficulties. Dore's main problem has been a recurring knee injury that has plagued him during most of his collegiate career.

Amos is a relatively untested 18-year old sophomore whom Stewart expects to improve with game experience.

#### Newcomers

The newcomers on this year's team include junior college transfer guard Steve

Wallace, a 6-foot-3 sophomore who averaged 21.8 points per game at State Fair College last year, and 6-foot-1 freshman Barry Laurie, who scored 33.3 points per game his senior year in high school at Versailles, Mo. High School.

At forward Stewart recruited two Missouri all-state high school players. 6-foot-6 Mark Dressler and 6-foot-6 Kirk Shawver are both given chances of starting for Missouri this year.

If Dore's knee doesn't respond this year,

the center position may be filled by 6-foot-10 freshman Lex Drum from Poplar Bluff, Mo.

"He should log a lot of playing time," Stewart said of Drum. "He's a strong individual with an unusually good shooting touch from a pretty good distance."

#### Winning so far

Missouri is currently 3-1 this season with wins over Butler University, 75-65, Eastern Kentucky, 82-81, and Southern Illinois University 68-65. The lone loss has

been to the University of Illinois, 69-57.

The Eastern Kentucky and Southern Illinois wins came in the sixth annual Missouri Show-Me-Classic, which the Tigers won again this season.

"There's a lot of intangibles," Stewart said. "But this particular group of guys all come from winning backgrounds. They expect to have success and do have success."

Nebraska plays at Missouri on Jan. 20 and the Tigers come to Lincoln to play on February 17. Both games are on Saturdays.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Missouri guard Larry Drew (22), the team's second leading scorer of a year ago, will be one of the few stars returning for the Tigers this season.

## Nine Nebraska players on academic team

Two Nebraska seniors have been selected as honorary captains of the 1978 Academic All-Big Eight Conference football teams.

Offensive tackle Tom Ohrt has a career grade point average of 3.69, the best on the offensive unit. Monster Jim Pillen, with a 3.87, was tops on the defense and the honorary team.

"I came to the University of Nebraska to pursue an education," Pillen said. "Football was a very close second in my mind."

Pillen said by dividing his time properly, he could maintain a high average.

"It's not that difficult," he said. "You just have to budget your time and become

a disciplined person. I've worked hard to keep a respectable grade point, and it's an honor to be named defensive captain."

Matt Miller of Colorado and Chris Garlich of Missouri were named to the team for the third time. Huskers George Andrews, Tim Smith and Pillen were repeaters from last year, as was center Pete Allard of Missouri.

The overall team average was 3.3. Nine Huskers in all were named to the team. Missouri and Kansas State each placed three players on the team, followed by Iowa State, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma with two each.

Kansas and Colorado each had one

member make the team.

The Nebraska players who made the team and their grade points included: Smith, wide receiver, 3.26 in Business Administration; Ohrt, offensive tackle, 3.69 in Pre-Med; Tom Sorley, offensive backfield, 3.29 in accounting; Tim Wurth, offensive backfield, 3.38 in Pre-Med; Kelly Saalfeld, tied with Allard at center with a 3.3 in Economics; Andrews, defensive end and a graduate student with a 3.1 in Business Administration; Rod Horn, defensive lineman, 3.19 in Agriculture; Pillen, defensive back, 3.87 in Agriculture; and Tim Fischer, defensive back, 3.79 in Agriculture.