

sports

Lee competing for elusive blackshirt title for third time

By Ed McClymont

Same song, third verse.

That's Oudious Lee's theme for his final campaign as a Nebraska Cornhusker. This will be the third year in a row that Lee has split playing time with Kerry Wienmaster at the middle guard position without reaching the blackshirt status.

"It doesn't mean a lot that I'm not a blackshirt, as long as I keep on playing," Lee said.

Charlie McBride, Nebraska defensive line coach, doesn't see anything that is going to stop Lee from playing.

"Oudious is a good, smart player. That's one thing that both he and Kerry have going for them," McBride said.

Lee's biggest attribute, according to McBride, is his pass rushing ability. That plus could be a big one for Lee as the Huskers face the potent air attack of Utah State this weekend in the season opener, he added.

"We might use Oudious in certain situations, but we'll stick with our platooning system for the most part," McBride said.

If the weather continues hot and muggy through the weekend McBride is looking for a game similar to the California contest a year ago, when the Huskers wore the Golden Bears down with fresh players.

"California threw a lot last year, and they got a little tired at the end," McBride said. "Fresh linemen can make a big difference."

Lee put on 20 pounds over the summer, due in part to a weight program. He doesn't feel his speed was hindered by the gain, however.

"I can move pretty well," Lee said. "The weight didn't slow me down at all."

Last spring Lee tried to make a switch from the nose-guard position to linebacker, something he did completely on his own.

McBride said that Lee probably thought he had a better chance at playing linebacker in the pros. However, Lee said the reasons were personal.

With sophomore Curt Hineline coming off a redshirt season, McBride said he looks for UNL to be stronger at middle guard than any other down lineman position on defense.

Lee enters this season as the sixth most experienced Husker on defense, playing 307 minutes the last two years. He has accumulated 51 tackles over that span, making 24 stops last year.

Lee said he has no lofty goals for his final season, only to "play well." And that's something the Huskers will be counting on this year.



UNL Sports Information Department

Oudious Lee

Beatrice pair will set season together

By Ed McClymont

The UNL volleyball duo of Ann Haberman and Lori Melcher have a lot more in common than just being teammates. Both are starters, both are setters, and both are from the town of Beatrice.

Haberman is a five year senior and this will be her third year starting for UNL, and Melcher is a junior in her second year of starting.

"We came from a good program at Beatrice, but things are totally different here," Haberman said.

Both girls earned spots on the squad by tryout, and each think that all-around ability and hustle are the keys to making the squad.

"They (the coaches) wait until you make the team before they try to specialize you in one position," Melcher said.

Their quickness and height, (Melcher is 5-6 and Haberman is 5-7) are the two reasons they were developed as setters.

The girls have been a part of a team that has racked up a 39-1 record in Big Eight competition in three years, the last two under the direction of head coach Terry Pettit. Three Big Eight championships and the Region VI title

last year, leading to the national tourney, also are part of the team's accomplishments.

Pettit said he feels that Melcher and Haberman will be a key part to the Huskers attack for '79.

"This year I have a feeling setting will be one of our strengths," Pettit said. He also credits Haberman as "one of the most aggressive servers on the team" and Melcher as "a good defensive player."

The women see coaching and year-around workouts as two of the keys to UNL's edge against the Big Eight. Intensity is also a big part of the program at Nebraska.

The new addition of Lynn Luedke to the coaching staff also puts an ace in the Huskers' hand. She is a two-time All-American and a member of the USC national champion team of '76.

"Lynn has had actual playing time on the national team," Melcher said. "She should help us in close matches."

The year-round training which includes weight lifting and running has helped the Huskers be better conditioned according to Melcher. Despite Nebraska's dominance the last three years, the Beatrice pair see the gap between UNL and the rest of the pack narrowing in a hurry.

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Coach Sanders hopes new player combination adds up to win

By Sara Martens

Husker baseball coach John Sanders, with a broad smile, red jacket and a wad of chew wedged between his teeth and cheek does not look like he is about to conduct an experiment.

Sanders however is experimenting as he

shuffles about 30 players on and off the diamond, 9 at a time, looking for the best possible combination.

The experiment takes place during the Husker's fall baseball schedule and will result in the probable line ups for the 1980 version of the UNL baseball team.

"We have a lot of work and a lot of

experimenting to do. There are several possible combinations, all workable. The coaches must decide where they (the players) will be the best," Sanders said.

Sanders said the Huskers fall schedule which begins Sunday at 1 p.m. with a double header against Kearney State at Buck Beltzer Field, will give the coaches a chance to look at players in different positions and decide on a combination for the best possible ball club.

In addition to setting line ups, the fall gives players a chance to work together.

"Our returning people will provide leadership. The new recruits are from winning programs and they should mold right in," Sanders said.

IN ADDITION to the returnees, recruits and invited walk-ons (good players for whom scholarship money was not available). Sanders was greeted at the first practice by about 60 "pure walk-ons," players who were not recruited or invited to practice with the team.

However, only two or three walk-ons will be playing with the team this fall along with three or four invited walk-ons.

Sanders will be looking for many of the players to fill graduation vacancies left by catcher Val Primante, the fourth leading hitter on the 1979 team, designated hitter Bob Gebler, second baseman John Russo and third leading hitter, first baseman Pete O'Brien.

O'Brien and former Husker Tim Carroll will help Sanders as graduate assistants this fall. O'Brien is a member of the Texas Rangers club while Carroll who played with the Huskers in 1977 returns from the Chicago White Sox organization.

The coaches are faced with a more difficult decision this season when setting

lineups due to the depth of the team, Sanders said.

Depth seems to be the key difference between this and last year's teams.

"There is probably as much talent if not more this year," senior pitcher Ray Tromba said, but more depth is the difference.

WITH A WEALTH of talent and depth, blending the old and new players together becomes the key objective.

"It could take two weeks, or it could be never, but I don't even think about that. It's the seniors last year and we're going to make sure it will happen," Tromba said.

As seniors like Tromba return to perfect and polish their skills, freshmen are adjusting to college ball.

Steve Gehrke, a pitcher from Murray, Utah is one of those freshman.

"I've got a lot to learn, new pitchers, how to control my temper and when to use pitches, it will take a year," Gehrke said.

Gehrke was drafted in the fifth round by the Chicago Cubs but chose college ball for the experience.

Like other freshman he is taking advantage of the experience of the older players.

"In high school everybody was out for themselves. I thought it would be like that here but everybody helps you, the coaches and the players," Gehrke said.

"Steve has a lot of promise and he's willing to listen." Tromba said after working on Gehrke's slider with him.

"The team is starting to form together already. They (last years seniors) will be hard guys to replace. They are good ball players and lent a personality to the team. They were winners. It hurt losing them but we've got winners coming in. If we work hard we'll do it," Tromba said.



Photo by Tom Geener

Senior infielder Greg Schafer grabs a throw to second base Tuesday during the Husker's intra-squad scrimmage.