

sports

Van Zandt: Defensive depth needed against Aggies

By Shelley Smith

He said he couldn't say who would win, but there's one thing Lance Van Zandt, Nebraska defensive coordinator, did say about Saturday's football game between the Utah State Aggies and the Cornhuskers.

"I'm glad I'm a coach at Nebraska playing Utah State rather than coaching at Utah State and playing Nebraska," he said.

The Huskers, ranked eighth in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls, open their season Saturday against the defending Pacific Coast Athletic Association conference champs.

The Aggies, last week, tied San Jose State 48-48, racking up the highest scoring tie in NCAA history.

"I told Coach (Tom) Osborne that if we score 48 points I could guarantee him a tie," Van Zandt said.

Utah State quarterback Eric Hipple is a threat to Nebraska's defensive secondary, according to Van Zandt.

Last week, Hipple had 401 total yards. He threw 44 passes, completed 25 and threw one interception. He is the second leading passer in Utah State history.

And Van Zandt said that worries him.

"HIPPLE'S A GOOD PASSER and a strong runner," he said.

"We've worked real hard on pass defense these last ten days and they've done a good job of picking up the offensive keys," he said.

The Huskers have an advantage, according to Van Zandt, because of their defensive depth.

"We've got a lot of depth on the defensive line, at nose guard and at tackle," he said. He said because the Aggies are considered a passing team, he plans on using fresh players throughout the game.

"Against a passing team they do a lot of running," he said.

"It's difficult to defend the forward pass and we want to have fresh people in there," he added.

Earlier in the week, defensive end Coach because they've practiced against each formation.

George Darlington expressed concern because Utah State lines up in six different formations which can confuse a defense.

HOWEVER, VAN ZANDT said, this shouldn't be a problem for the Huskers

What might be a defensive problem, according to Van Zandt, is the new NCAA rule involving defensive blocking.

The rule makes it illegal for the defense to block below the waist after it gets the ball on a turnover. It might be difficult to

adjust to, Van Zandt said.

The defense has practiced blocking above the waist, but the excitement of an interception or mid-air fumble during a game may override the practice, he said.

Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne said that defensively, the team may be better than last year because of the number of players returning.

Offensively, he said he hopes "we can score some points."

"CONSISTENCY IS SOMETHING we always look for, and we'll need it Saturday. We also have to be careful not to make mistakes," Osborne said.

In judging Utah State's defense, he said it is difficult because he can't use its first game against San Jose State as an example.

"They got caught with a lot of things they couldn't handle," Osborne said.

He said that Husker quarterback Jeff Quinn has improved during Nebraska's fall camp, and should be strong Saturday.

"Jeff's been playing very well this fall. I would say he's about par to other quarterbacks that have played with us," he said.

However, earlier in the week Osborne said he's worried about how Quinn will perform under game pressure.

"IT'S HIS FIRST GAME to start and if he doesn't perform well I'm not going to give up on him," he said.

Husker I-back Jarvis Redwine, moved to 4.35 seconds, the top of the depth chart Monday and will share time with I.M. Hipp.

Hipp, who is trying to be the first player in Husker history to gain 1,000 yards for three consecutive seasons, should be effective against the Aggie defense, according to Osborne.

But, he said, he also is looking for good things from Redwine, who runs 40 yards in 4.35 seconds.

Redwine, a transfer from Oregon State, sat out last season to become eligible this fall. He rushed for 139 yards in the Husker's second scrimmage and scored two touchdowns during the third.

Osborne, who will begin his seventh season with the Huskers, said the first game is always one of his concerns.

Nebraska hasn't won its first game since beating Louisiana State University, 10-7, in 1975.

Osborne said he hopes to break the jinx.

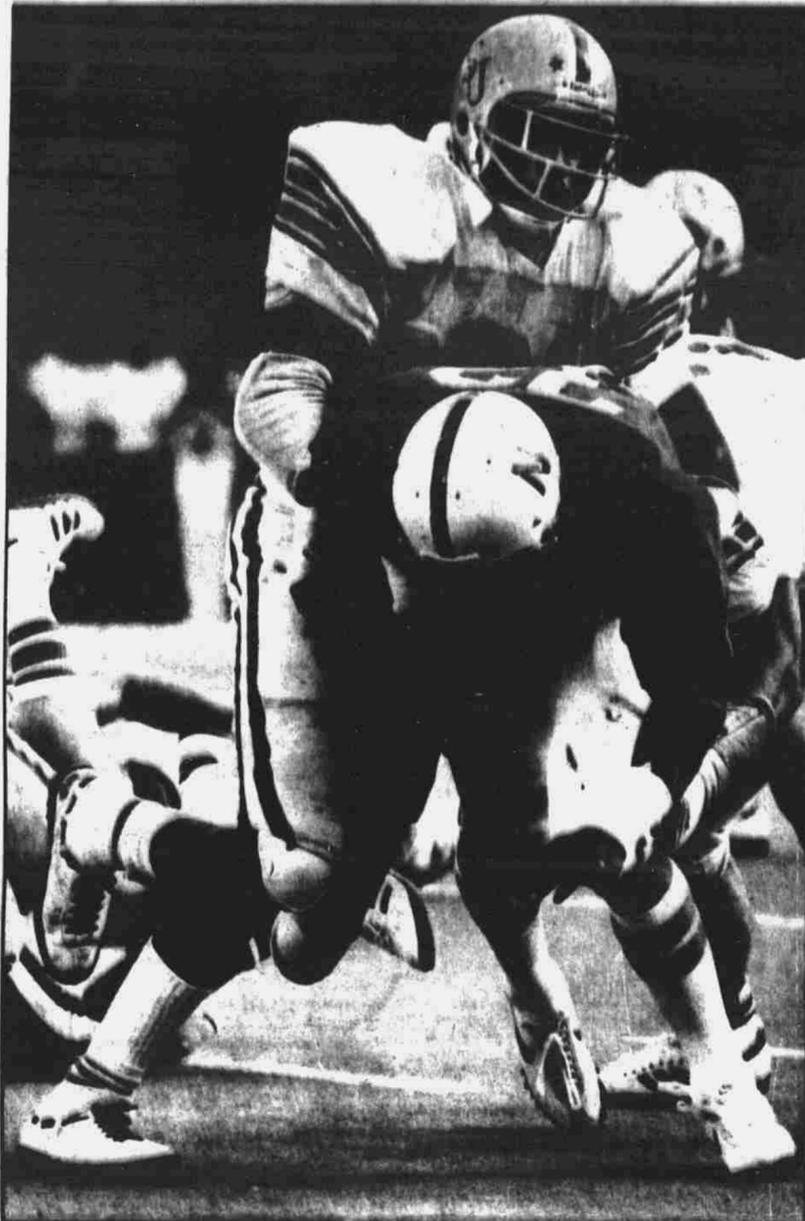


Photo by M. Billingsley

I.M. Hipp lunges for more yardage in a 1978 game.

'Big time' tennis pros to play on Lincoln courts Sunday

By Ron Powell

Two years ago, the Lincoln prize money tennis tournament was called "Joy's toy."

But this year's \$25,000 American Express-Frontier Airlines Pro Tennis Classic promises to be "big time tennis" according to Joy Rodenburg, tournament referee.

Rodenburg said this is the second year for the American Express circuit tourney in Lincoln. She added it was fortunate for the city to have the tournament again.

"Last year, there were 14 cities on the circuit," Rodenburg said. "This year, there are only 10, and only two got their tournaments back—Raleigh, N.C. and Lincoln."

"It's a real honor for Lincoln to get this tournament back."

The tournament will begin at 9 a.m. Sunday with the qualifying rounds at the UNL Coliseum courts. The 32 players in the qualifying rounds will play down to eight. These eight will then advance to the main draw.

Rodenburg said the main draw will consist of 49 players who automatically qualify, eight who qualify through qualifying rounds and seven through wild card entries.

THE MAIN DRAW will start at 10 a.m. Monday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Matches through Friday will begin at 10 a.m. and will run well into the evening, according to Rodenburg.

The semi-finals are scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 with the finals being at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.

Rodenburg said last year's final drew 700-800 people at the Lincoln Racquet Club. She added that she expects more this year since the indoor track and tennis area at the Sports Center can seat 3,000 people.

Tournament director George Grothe said this year's tournament has better caliber players than last year.

He said one of the reasons for this is because tennis' main ranking body the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) has increased the points given to an American Express Tournament winner from 20 to 30 points. The ATP ranks 750 players.

Another reason for the strong field, Grothe said, is because there is only one other U.S. pro tournament, \$175,000 Grand Prix tournament in Los Angeles, running the same week as Lincoln's.

THE TOP SEED is South Africa's David Schneider, who owns a ranking of 76th in the ATP world rankings. The second seed is Mexico's Emilio Montano, who is ranked 113.

The third seed is American Trey Waltke, who is a two-timer winner on the '79 American Express circuit tourneys. With a 115th world ranking, Waltke has victories over Stan Smith, Harold Solomon and Wojtek Fibak. Solomon and Fibak are both currently ranked in the top 15 in the world.

There are four former NCAA national champions in the tournament. Fourth seeded Kevin Curren from South Africa was the 1979 NCAA singles champion while at the University of Texas. Curren registered a big victory at the U.S. Open two weeks ago when he upset 11th seeded Adriano Panatta.

Six seeded Chris Lewis was a 1977 NCAA doubles champion while at USC. Lewis is ranked 140th in the world. 1977 NCAA singles champion Matt Mitchell is seeded seventh and enters the tournament with a 141st ranking.

JOHN AUSTIN, the 16th seed, was a 1978 NCAA doubles champion and is ranked 185th in the world. Austin is better known, however, for being the brother of 16-year old Tracy Austin, the third ranked women's player in the world and 1979 U.S. Open champion.

Another player to watch will be 20-year old Van Winitzky, the tenth seed. Winitzky was the top junior player in the U.S. two years ago and is now ranked 151st in the world.

Grothe said the tournament is an international event since 15 countries are represented in the tournament.

To get into the qualifying rounds, a player had to have an ATP world ranking, Grothe said. However, there are three wild card spots in the qualifying rounds and that one of them will go on to UNL tennis player Scott Baker, he added.

Baker, a sophomore, will be the only player in the qualifying round without an ATP ranking.

"It's going to be a tough tournament," Baker said.

"This tournament is easily the toughest I've ever played in. College competition doesn't even compare to the competition in this tournament."

"I'll just have to take it as it comes and hope for the best."

This is the fifth year the Lincoln Tennis Foundation will sponsor a professional tennis tournament. The tournament will benefit the junior tennis development programs in Lincoln. In addition, all American Express circuit tournaments benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Association.