

High school friends lead junior varsity at Missouri

By Paul Martin

When the UNL junior varsity football team travels to Columbia, Mo. this week to face the Tiger junior varsity team in a Friday afternoon contest, they will, "without question," face their toughest test to date, according to Frank Solich, head junior varsity coach.

While the Husker squad is predominantly made up of freshmen, Missouri likely will have several upperclassmen playing.

Solich said MU has played a lot of upperclassmen in past years and has done the same so far this fall. He said he doesn't expect that to change in Friday's game.

The junior varsity is currently 3-0 and will attempt to hand the Missouri junior varsity their first loss of the year.

According to UNL freshman wingback Ricky Simmons the Huskers will have to execute well to emerge victorious.

"We've just got to execute and play the good football that I know we're capable of playing," he said.

Simmons, in addition to his wingback duties, will re-

turn kick-offs and punts for the Cornhuskers.

The 5-2, 160-pound speedster from Greenville, Tex., has been clocked at 9.3 seconds in the 100-yard dash and is "capable of going all the way at any time," according to Solich.

Simmons has handled five kick-offs this year, averaging 38.0 yards per return. In a 17-8 victory against Kansas earlier this year, he demonstrated his breakaway ability by returning a kick-off 99 yards for a touchdown.

On offense, when Simmons handles the ball, it is likely the man getting it to him will be his former high school teammate and starting junior varsity quarterback, 6-2, 179-pound freshman Nate Mason.

In his senior year, with Simmons in his backfield, Mason led Greenville to a 9-1 record and a co-championship in Texas' largest high school classification.

In their final year at Greenville, the pair had a combined total offensive production of 3,566 yards and scored 38 touchdowns between them.

When it came time to decide where to attend college, the two said they discussed the various possibilities and

decided that wherever they went, they would go together. "I wouldn't have come here if he (Simmons) wouldn't have come," Mason said.

Simmons echoed Mason's sentiments saying they decided that "if one came (to NU), the other would too."

According to Simmons, the junior varsity team has no problems in playing consistently well. The team is generally well prepared, he said.

Mason said, though, that his consistency is hurt by not playing every week as he did in high school. He said he felt by playing each week he could plan more consistently.

Nebraska's junior varsity lost the last two times they made the trip to Columbia. To come home with a victory Friday, Solich said the team has to rid itself of "mental and physical errors" and "play a little more consistently" than the squad has in its three previous games.

The game, originally set for Faurot Field, has been changed to a practice field because of the wet conditions.

Basketball...

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The Huskers' other junior college transfer is Chris Kowalski, a 6-1 forward-center from Bergen Community College in New Jersey. She scored over 1200 points in two years there.

Other players on this year's team include: freshman Lynne Miller, a 5-10 all-state forward from Grand Island, Nebr., freshman Molly Shanahan, a 6-1 center from Ventura, Calif., freshman Renee Murphy, a 5-10 forward from Macedon, N.Y. and sophomore Connie Ottman, a 5-5-6 guard from Rupert, Idaho.

New assistant coaches are Paulette Gebert from Pennsburg, Pa. and four-year UNL performer Laura Tietjen from Byron, Nebr.

Gallagher said she has the players for a good team, but added that they'll need tremendous fan support this year.

"We need students to come out to yell and scream for us," she said. "We're going to be an exciting basketball team with our pressure defense, fast breaks, and an improved offense."

The Lady Husker's first action will be Nov. 16-17 in the Nebraska Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



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