

sports

Cornhuskers enter third week of football practice

By Paul Martin

Greeted by record breaking 90 degree weather, Tom Osborne's Nebraska football team began their third week of practice Tuesday.

The scramble to get a foothold on the quarterback duties continues, as it has all spring, to be one of the most hotly-contested positions.

While all of the quarterbacks have had good days this spring, according to Osborne, nothing has been settled yet.

"Overall, Nate Mason probably had the best day Saturday," Osborne said, "but Wednesday Mauer (Mark) was almost flawless."

In Saturday's scrimmage, sophomore quarterback Steve Michaelson suffered a shoulder separation and underwent surgery Sunday. Returning letterman Jeff Quinn remained out of action with an ankle sprain.

Although Quinn "still isn't a hundred percent," Osborne said he will hopefully be ready for tomorrow's scrimmage.

"He (Quinn) still can't accelerate and cut very well but he has almost got to scrimmage Wednesday," Osborne said after Tuesday's practice.

After a potent performance Wednesday, the offense sputtered Saturday, which Osborne said concerned him somewhat.

"Our quarterbacking (Saturday) was probably the poorest of the spring but the defense did very well," Osborne said. "I think they're (quarterbacks) under a little more pressure than usual and there's not quite as much concentration as there should be."

Osborne said that Saturday the offense had four or five interceptions and fumbles and while "some things were caused by the defense," the Huskers were primarily plagued "by our own ineptitude," according to Osborne.

The offensive turnovers led Osborne to say the unit was "lacking consistency."

"When you don't have any continuity in that way, it wrecks your momentum and timing," Osborne said. "We had the ball inside the 15 about four times but that extra 10 yards just didn't come."

Despite having difficulties getting the ball in the end zone Saturday, Osborne is confident the problems can be overcome.

"I'm not at all discouraged," Osborne said. "We'll improve offensively as time goes on."

Defensive back Randee Johnson, who was seriously

injured when he broke his neck earlier this spring, is "gradually improving," according to Osborne.

Osborne said the Lincoln Northeast graduate "can stand up with assistance" and has progressed to where he is "able to lift his left leg."

As of yesterday's practice, running back Duke Vair from Papillion had quit the squad, according to Osborne.



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Jarvis Redwine (12) drives across scrimmage. Redwine is one of several I-backs fighting for the number one position in spring football practice.

Ruggers say comradeship sets their sport apart

By Tad Stryker

A bond of friendship and brotherhood between competitors makes rugby refreshingly different from other sports, according to several rugby players.

"There's a lot of comradeship among the team members and between teams," said senior Scott Carlson, a member of the UNL Rugby Club. "You play hard out there and try to beat the other guys, but after the game, both teams always get together to drink, sing, party and have a good time."

Traditions that have been with the game since it began in Europe make the game unique, Carlson said. One of the important rituals is the post-game party.

"You don't have the animosity or resentment between players that's common in other sports," said Scott Burcham, a junior member of the UNL ruggers. "We realize that it's just a game and we try to have as much fun as we can."

Money rarely involved

"It's always been a club sport," Carlson said. "There's never been a lot of money involved like in football. Only guys who really love the sport and are real team players stay with rugby very long."

"You can't go into a game thinking about yourself," Carlson said. "Guys who look for glory don't last very long."

The club is not sponsored by the athletic department and, except for its name, is not associated with the university. A local beer distributor has helped the team buy equipment, besides supplying refreshments for the past three years.

"We're independent of the university, even though we're all students," Carlson said. "And we like it that way."

The UNL Rugby Club was organized in 1975 by several students, including present coach Vince Powers. Powers' younger brother, Jim, is co-captain along with Dan McGuire. Both are seniors and are four-year members of the club. Stan Studheit, Charles Rothwell, and Carlson also have

been with the club four years.

Family tradition

Rugby is a family tradition for the McGuires of Wisner, Neb. Before Dan, two McGuires, Kevin and Tom, were members of the UNL club and now Bobby (in his second year on the team) and Jerry (first year) are players. Next year a sixth McGuire, Dave, is expected to join.

Another part of the sport is the traditional singing fest after each game.

"The singing is real important," Carlson said. "Rugby songs have been around for a long time. It gives both teams a feeling of

togetherness—the singing and drinking together. Every club has its own song, too. You'd be surprised at how many songs we come up with."

All the factors help create a "common bond among rugby players," Burcham said. "And in a lot of other sports you don't see too much of that any more."

Huskies split with Mavericks

By Ron Powell

If injuries and sickness are part of sports, they're the part UNL softball Coach Don Isherwood would like to forget. Despite having only ten players, three of

which Isherwood estimated to be at full speed, the Huskers managed a split with the University of Nebraska at Omaha in a doubleheader Monday night at Ballard Field.

The Mavericks won the first game 2-1 in eight innings, but the Huskers came back to win the nightcap 5-1, bringing their season record to 17-12.

The Huskers brought back more than just a fourth-place finish at the Big Eight tournament in St. Joseph, Miss. and a victory over the nation's ninth-ranked team, Oklahoma, last weekend. Unfortunately the flu bug also came home with the Huskers. Isherwood said all but three girls caught it.

"About 11 this morning, I thought about trying to postpone the games," Isherwood said. "But I checked with the training staff and there were only one or two that were doubtful."

But then Monday afternoon, pitcher Connie Gonyea came down with the flu as well as shortshop-pitcher Linda McCrea.

Despite taking the loss, Gonyea gave up only three hits while striking out five through seven innings. But illness forced her to the sidelines after facing one batter in the eighth after UNO's Diane Winemire tripled to lead off the inning.

Winemire and Caroline Reither scored on Husker errors to win for the Mavs.

McCrea was the winner in the nightcap, giving up four hits while striking out seven in six innings. McCrea also helped her cause with an RBI single in the third inning and a single in the fifth. McCrea later scored on a bases-loaded walk to JoAnn Johnson.

To make matters worse, the Huskers' regular third baseman Shelley Scott was hit in the nose by a UNO flyball during warm-up, forcing her out of the games. Isherwood said X-rays were to be taken this morning to see if the nose was broken.

The Huskers are playing at Iowa State today.

Volleyball team wins AA tourney

The Cornhusker volleyball team won the United States Volleyball Association women's AA championship Sunday at the UNL Coliseum.

UNL defeated Southwest Missouri State 6-15, 17-15, 15-9 in the title match, completing its USVBA regular season with a 27-6 record.

Baseball wins bring UNL closer to lead

The Huskers took a four consecutive game sweep from Iowa State in weekend Big Eight baseball action and pulled to within one game behind Eastern Division leader Missouri.

The Huskers tripped Iowa State 5-4 and 8-2 in a double-header Saturday after claiming 2-1 and 6-2 victories in Friday's games.

Jeff Hunter and Joe Scherger each hit home runs in the final game Saturday to lead the Huskers. Hunter raised his season total to nine.

Nebraska used strong pitching from Tim Burke and Cliff Faust to post Friday's wins, both throwing five hitters.

Oklahoma State claimed three of five weekend contests against Colorado to raise its conference record to 9-3 and take a three-game lead over Oklahoma in the Western Division.

Graceland College won the men's AA division championship for the third straight year. Graceland and the UNL women's team qualified for the national USVBA tournament scheduled for the week of May 10 in Portland.

Husker Coach Terry Pettit cited Omaha sophomore Lori Zimmerman for her play in the championship match.

"Lori ran the 5-1 offense with her as the only setter and enabled us to come back after losing the first game," Pettit said.

Nebraska beat Iowa State 15-4, 15-13 in the quarterfinals and then beat Southwest Missouri 15-2, 15-12 in the semifinals. Southwest Missouri finished second.

Husker crew team wins three events

The Husker crew team won three events Saturday in the Big Eight Conference crew championship in Lawrence, Kan.

The Huskers won the freshman women's eight, varsity women's four and freshman men's eight, which the UNL B boat won.

In the varsity men's eight, Nebraska had no varsity entry but the freshman team finished second.