

sports

Osborne expects Tiger confrontation to be tough

By Tad Stryker

Nebraska faces what is considered by many to be one of its toughest chores of the season when Missouri comes to Lincoln Saturday.

The Tigers, who are tied with Nebraska and Oklahoma for the league lead, have not lost in Memorial Stadium since 1972 (a 62-0 romp for the Huskers).

Head Coach Tom Osborne said he expects the job to be tough.

"I can't see any weakness in their team," he said. Osborne said he doesn't feel past years' games will have much bearing on this year's contest.

"I think every year's a new year," he said. "The other years' games don't matter. I don't think that because we won last year is going to make much difference. It doesn't make any difference to me. Nebraska-Missouri games are always battle royals. This game will be no different."

If you put faith in the old saying about the kicking

game deciding close ballgames, a comparison between the two teams' kicking games may be noteworthy.

In senior Ron Verrilli, Missouri has the Big Eight's top-ranked field goal kicker. Verrilli has made seven of nine field goals and kicked 30 extra points. Husker sophomore Kevin Seibel has made one of two field goals, and also has kicked 30 extra points. The Missouri punter, senior Jeff Brockhaus, has punted 42 times for a 42.9-yard average. Husker senior Scott Gemar has a 40.0 average on 24 punts and has had one blocked.

Dave Liegl, the Huskers' 5-8 punt returner, is second in the Big Eight with a 9.3-yard average. Bill Whiteker's 5.0-yard average leads the Tigers.

Osborne earlier in the season called the Husker kicking game one of the team's "weak points," but said he feels it showed much improvement in last week's Colorado game.

"I think we're all right in our kicking game," Osborne said. "Our punt coverage and punt returns have been

good, and so has our kicking off and PAT's. The field goal kicking has not been real good, but we've mostly tried long kicks. The punting's been so-so, but it looked good last week. Every week's a new experiment," he said.

Another thing that gathers Osborne's weekly concern is injuries. The Huskers will be in "reasonably good health" this week, he said.

"Jarvis (Redwine) will start," Osborne said. "I think he's all right." Roger Criag will be the second-string I-back, he said. Craig Johnson is still caring for a sore shoulder, and is questionable for Saturday's game.

Two Husker defenders, middle guard Curt Hine and monster Sammy Sims, are also questionable as starters. Hine has been bothered with a form of "turf toe," and hasn't practiced this week.

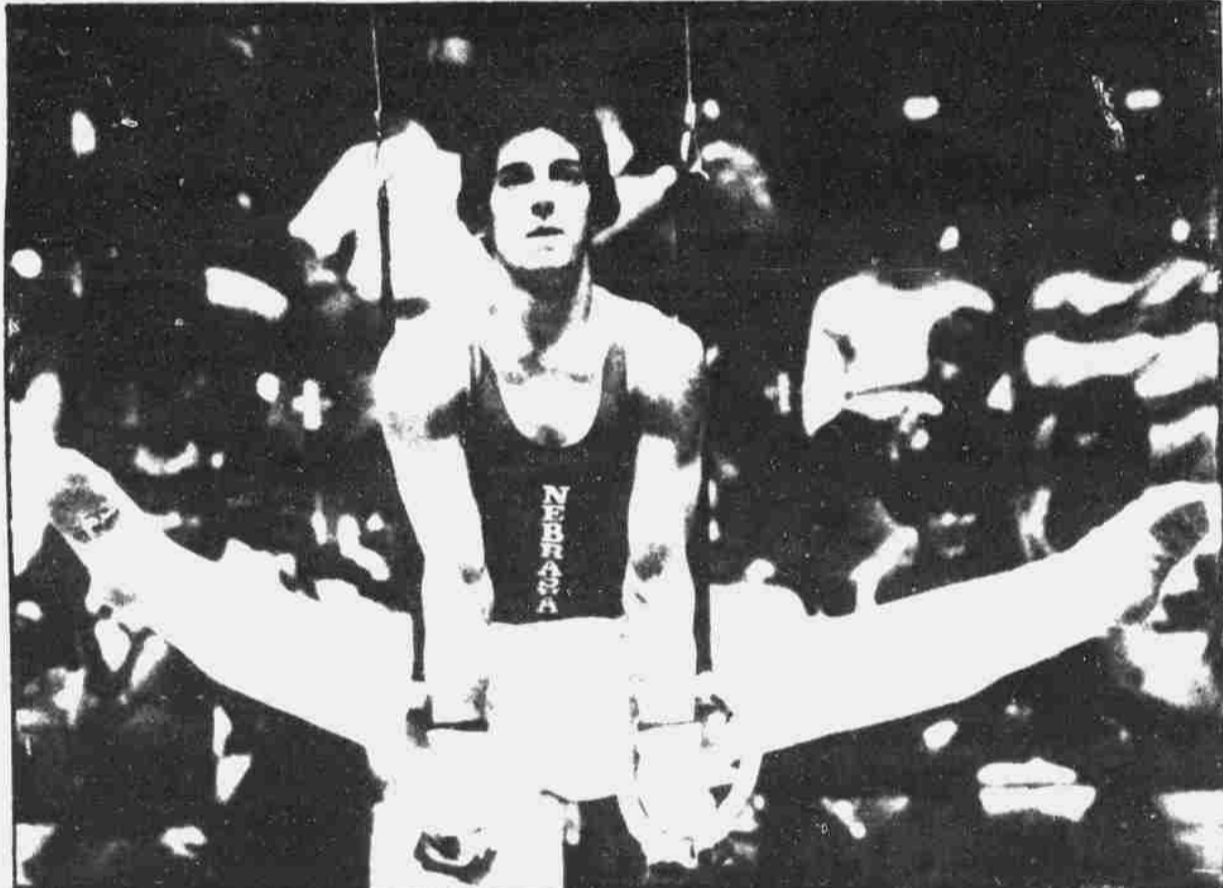
Osborne said Hine's injury concerned him, but that "he's got a chance to play." Sims jammed his wrist in Wednesday's practice, Osborne said, but X-rays have shown it was not broken.

Big Eight is trend-setter for gymnastics—Allen

By Scott Ahlstrand

Francis Allen, Nebraska's men's gymnastics coach said he is confident about the upcoming season.

The Cornhuskers will host the Big Eight Invitational this weekend in the Bob Devaney Sports Center, and, according to Allen, Nebraska should be the favorite to win not only the invitational, but also a third consecutive national championship.



Nebraska sophomore Phil Cahoy performs on the still rings during last year's dual with Colorado.

"The whole nation will be looking at the results of this meet," Allen said. "The

last four years the national champion has come out of this conference, and if everything goes right for us, this year could be the fifth time. I think the Big Eight Conference is the trend-setter for college gymnastics. This year we (the Big Eight) probably have three of the top four teams in the nation."

Although Allen believes Nebraska should be the favorite going into the meet,

there is one element that he thinks could hinder the Huskers' chances.

Injured finger

"A lot depends on how Jim Hartung's finger holds up. He dislocated it last week in the World Games at Toronto, and had to withdraw from the team portion of the competition," Allen said. "He's worked out some on it, and if he does OK we should do pretty well. But if his finger doesn't hold up, Iowa State might win the invitational."

Hartung was the national all-around champion last year, and a member of the U.S. Olympic team, of which Allen is the coach.

If Hartung can remain healthy, Allen said he likes his team's chances of winning a national championship.

"When we have everyone healthy, we're a tremendous team," Allen said. "We have the strongest group of all-arounders in the nation, and we have some excellent specialists. If we can stay healthy, we have a potential to be the best team in college men's gymnastic history."

Although the Huskers are shooting for their third national championship, Allen discourages any talk about a dynasty.

"I don't know what a dynasty is. The only dynasty I can talk about is the Ming dynasty in China," Allen said.

"You can say that we've been very fortunate to have good training facilities, great athletes and a fantastic following and support from this area. Our goal is to try to stay on top and be consistent, but who knows. We could lose."

Fan support

Allen feels that the key ingredient in

Nebraska's success, has been the support of the fans.

"The people in this area have helped our program tremendously. Most colleges are lucky if they can get 1,000 fans to show up, but we've been drawing 8,000 to 9,000 for every home meet," Allen said.

"I know that in our triangular home meet against Oklahoma and Iowa State last year, our fans won us the meet before it even started. We came out to a crowd of 9,000 fans and they gave us a standing ovation, and that just blew the other two teams away. They were so awe struck that by the time they were ready to compete, we were too far out ahead of them."

Another element that should aid the Huskers cause is the overall team spirit and leadership that is present on this year's squad.

"I think we get excellent leadership right down the line," Allen said. "Everyone tries to contribute, but I guess you could say Hartung's presence is probably the strongest. Jim possesses an amazing ability to have a great rapport with people, and be great in gymnastics. His personality kind of outweighs everyone else's."

Hartung should have plenty of competition at the invitational as fellow Olympic team members, Bart Connors of Oklahoma, Ron Galimore of Iowa State and Husker Phil Cahoy will be present also.

Allen feels that this meet will offer the fans a great deal of action.

"I think the fans will really enjoy this meet," Allen said. "They'll get a chance to see some of America's, as well as some of the world's, best gymnasts."

Huskers to end home field jinx with 30-24 win

Last week's record was 29-6. That works out to 83 percent. With the season heading into its last month, my record is 194-67, a 74 percent clip.

The Nebraska-Missouri game has always been a bitter rivalry. It grew more bitter last year after Missouri's Norman Goodman tried to injure Jarvis Redwine.

goodwin

Stormin' Norman is playing in Canada this year and, from all reports, is very happy. He found a new hobby—hunting baby seals.

Phil Bradley had to sit out last week's game against Kansas State and it was obvious how much the Tigers missed him. But if he can walk, he'll play in this game. Missouri also has James Wilder, one of the best power runners in the country.

Like Bruce Springsteen, Jarvis Redwine was born to run. And, like Bruce, Jarvis is ready for a big comeback. The Huskers haven't beaten Missouri at home since 1972, but it can't stay that way forever: **Nebraska 30 Missouri 24.**

North Carolina at Oklahoma. This might be the biggest game in the history of North Carolina football. A win over the Sooners, even a Sooner team that already has two losses, would give them a great deal of prestige and, even more important, confidence in themselves.

The Sooners showed last week that they are capable of a good game when they don't fumble. If Oklahoma manages to hang on to the ball, and that's a big if, they should manage to edge the raucous **Oklahoma 28 North Carolina 21.**

South Carolina at Georgia. This game features a matchup between the two top running backs in the country. South Carolina has George Rogers, the number two rusher in the country.

The Bulldogs have a star of their own in Herschel Walker. Walker is only a freshman but he's already being talked about as Heisman material. Not as a junior or even a sophomore but this year. Obviously Georgia has a very good sports information director.

Georgia is always tough at home but South Carolina should be really up for this one. A big day for Rogers could make him the frontrunner in the Heisman race. The Gamecocks win a squeaker: **South Carolina 27 Georgia 24.**

EAST: Rutgers 28 Army 14, Duke 23 Georgia Tech 20, Maryland 31 North Carolina State 24, Notre Dame 28 Navy 14, Penn State 26 Miami, Fla. 21, Pitt 34 Syracuse 14, Virginia Tech 35 West Virginia 24, Clemson 24 Wake Forest 20.

SOUTH: Arkansas 38 Rice 14, Baylor 49 San Jose State 10, Florida 28 Auburn 21, Florida State 40 Tulsa 13, Houston 33 TCU 7, LSU 23 Mississippi State 9, SMU 28 Texas A & M 7, Tennessee 31 Virginia 20, Texas 39 Texas Tech 17, Tulane 30 Kentucky 24.

MIDWEST: Iowa State 38 Colorado 14, Illinois 27 Minnesota 20, Michigan 35 Indiana 17, Iowa 24 Wisconsin 17, Kansas State 26 Kansas 20, Ohio State 32 Michigan State 10, Purdue 45 Northwestern 14.

WEST: UCLA 34 Arizona 7, Oregon 24 Washington State 7, Oklahoma State 28 San Diego State 10, USC 35 California 7, Stanford 41 Oregon State 13, Washington 28 Arizona State 24.

Cross country team competes in Big Eight Conference meet

The UNI men's cross country team travels to Missouri this weekend for the Big Eight Conference Meet.

"We will be hoping to finish in the middle of the pack, but it won't be easy," Coach Frank Sevigne said.

"Missouri will be running on their home course, so they should be right up among the leaders," Sevigne said.

For the Cornhuskers, freshman Marc

Adam and senior Brian Dunnington should be the front runners, with freshman Jett Egan right behind. Sevigne said, Junior Tom Bowman and freshman Mark Goke round out the top five and will be an important part of how the Huskers will finish, Sevigne said.

The remaining two squad members are Dave Cudmore and Todd Hornung.