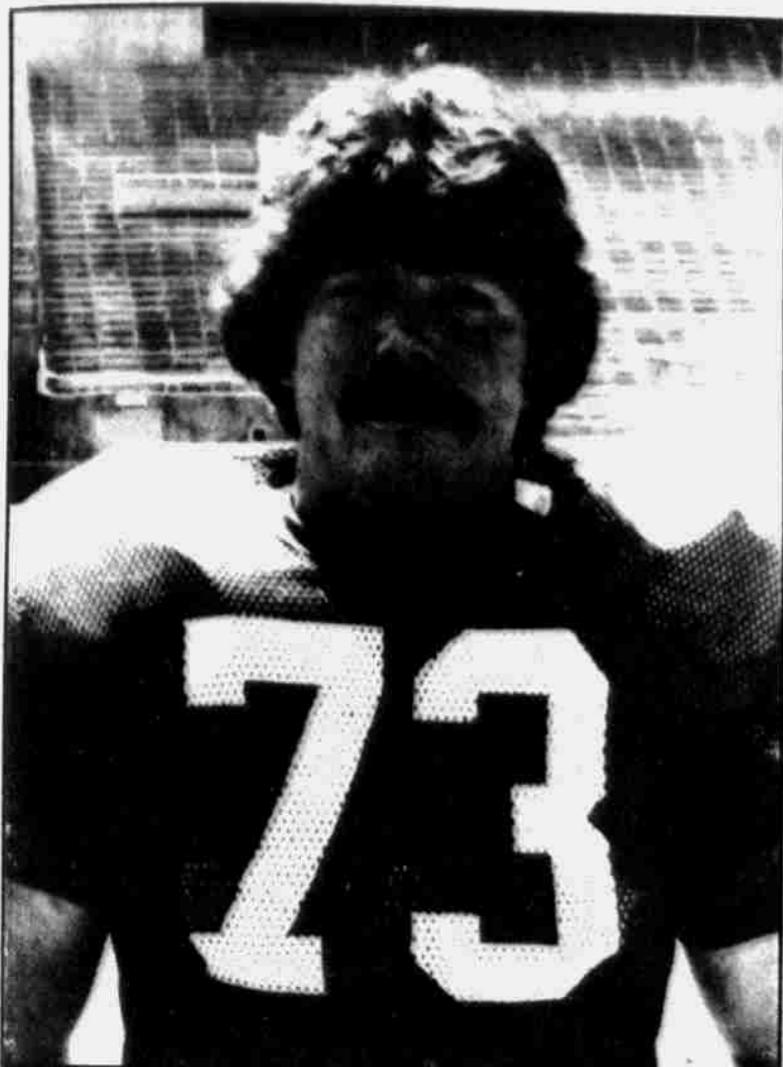


# Hurley says he's happy with offensive line spot

By Bob Asmussen

After his freshman year at Nebraska, Dan Hurley saw an opening on the offensive line. The then defensive tackle went to Coach Tom Osborne and asked if he could make the switch from defense to offense. Osborne consented and Hurley was converted to offensive tackle. A



UNL Sports Information Photo

Nebraska offensive tackle Dan Hurley.

few Nebraska quarterbacks are probably glad the switch was made.

"I used to have to always block against Bill Barnett and Rod Horn in practice," Hurley said. "I moved them around pretty well."

The switch caused Hurley to have to learn the whole system of the offensive line in the spring of his sophomore year. Hurley said he was able to get the plays down.

"I played quite a bit as a sophomore," Hurley said. "Then I was able to start last year and this year."

Hurley was an all-state player at Omaha Roncalli High School. He played on the defensive line and at fullback. The urge to run the ball still exists in Hurley.

Last year against Oklahoma State, Hurley got his chance. Mark Mauer was stacked up by the Cowboy defenders when out of the pack came Hurley. He was able to carry the ball to the end zone knocking over two Cowboy defenders in the process.

### Likes to run

"It was a legitimate play," Hurley said. "I grabbed the ball away from Mark and took off. One of the officials had blown the play dead."

"It was fun running the ball again," Hurley said. "I always kid around with Coach Osborne about using a tackle reverse. I don't think there's any danger we'll use it in a game."

Besides running the ball he also enjoyed playing defense. He said his switch to offensive tackle was a practical one.

"You're not as vulnerable to get hit in the knee on the offensive line," Hurley said. "I had a knee injury during my freshman year and I didn't want to take any chances."

Hurley said he is happy with his decision to attend Nebraska. He said he was recruited out of Roncalli by several schools.

"A few schools wanted me to play fullback for them but I knew Nebraska was the right place for me," Hurley said. "I feel I've done very well."

Hurley said after playing for a losing team during high school, he is happy to play for a winner like Nebraska.

### Frustrating

"High school was just a matter of playing the best I could," Hurley said. "It was frustrating losing but I looked around and saw the personnel wasn't that good. There was nothing I could do except keep playing hard."

Hurley said the offensive line is a place where you don't receive a lot of attention. He tries to keep it in perspective.

"There is more self-satisfaction than anything else," Hurley said. "I'm not trying to be a glory boy. I just like to go out and hit people."

Hurley said that despite the team's early problems, it could still have a fine season. He said it's important the Huskers take the games one at a time.

"We have a lot of tough games left," Hurley said. "We have to play Missouri this week and Iowa State is going to be a tough game. Oklahoma is the least of my worries right now. If we play like we can we can win it all."

Hurley said pro football is a definite possibility. He said he would like to get the chance to prove himself in the pros.

"It's looking pretty good right now," Hurley said. "Some pro scouting reports are saying that I'll be drafted in one of the first three rounds. I want to get a chance and give it my best shot."

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## Craig second on rushing charts

Nebraska I-back Roger Craig moved up to second place on the Big Eight charts released by the conference office this week. Craig's average of 112.3 yards per game was second to Dwayne Crutchfield of Iowa State who has a 135.2 yards per game average. Second string I-back Mike Rozier was fifth on the chart.

Craig's 112.3 yards per game ranks him sixth in total offense. Iowa State quarterback John Quinn leads the Big Eight in that category. Craig is also fourth among all-purpose runners.

In the pass receiving category, tight end Jamie Williams was sixth with 15 catches. Missouri's James Caver has 18 receptions to lead the conference.

Husker quarterback Turner Gill leads the conference in

passing efficiency with a rating of 193.4. The figure is a computation involving a quarterback's attempts, completions, total yards and interceptions. Gill's closest competitor is Mike Hyde of Missouri who has a rating of 121.5.

Wingback Irving Fryar is second in the conference and 17th in the nation in punt returns. Fryar is averaging 11.5 yards per return. Caver of Missouri is first with a 12.9 average.

Kevin Seibel is sixth in scoring and in field goals. Seibel has kicked three field goals and 24 extra points so far this season for a total of 33 points.

On defense, Jeff Krejci leads the Big Eight in pass interceptions with a total of three.

The Nebraska team leads the conference and the country in rushing offense, averaging 354.8 yards per game.

Nebraska also leads the Big Eight in scoring offense with a 31.7 per game average, total offense with a 472.3 yard average, punt returns with an 11.7 average, pass defense where it gives up only 78.7 yards and scoring defense, allowing 10 points per game.

Nebraska's rushing defense, with 133 yards per game, ranks third among conference schools. Oklahoma State leads with a 62.2 average. The Huskers are fourth in passing offense, averaging 117.5 yards per game. The Missouri Tigers have an average of 203.7 yards to top the chart.

The Huskers are second in total defense, allowing 211.7 yards per game, fifth in kickoff returns at 19.1 yards, and third in net punting at 42.8 yards.

## Defense...

Continued from Page 10

"We need to take care of the ball better than we've been doing," he said.

Osborne is not the only coach that is saying "show me." Down in Missouri they're saying it about Turner Gill.

"Gill has played two games, but he hasn't had the big test. It'll be interesting to see how he does," Missouri defensive back coach, Zaven Yaralian, told the *Lincoln Star*.

If the Huskers are to "show 'em," they will have to do it on the Tigers' home turf. Osborne said because the Huskers use a "straight-ahead" offense, the I-formation, playing on a grass field does not make as much of a difference as it would to a wishbone attack.

Besides, the Huskers have played Missouri "better down there most years than we have up here," Osborne said. Nebraska holds only a

15-13-1 edge in games played in Memorial Stadium, but leads 24-19-2 at Faurot Field.

Saturday's game, which will be televised by ABC, will kick-off at 11:50 a.m. Coverage is scheduled to start at 11:30 a.m.

## sports shorts

Lee Grosscup, former all-American quarterback at Utah and sports commentator with ABC Sports, will be the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Alcoholism Council of Nebraska next week.

Grosscup, a recovering alcoholic, has been a sports commentator since 1967. He was a professional football player for seven years, starting his career with the New York Giants as the No. 1 draft pick of 1959.

He is the author of *Fourth and One* and *Football, How to Play and Watch It*. His articles have also appeared in *Sports Illustrated* and the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Tickets for the dinner and program are available to the public. Call 474-0930 for further information.

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ABC sports has announced that its No. 1 television crew of Keith Jackson, Frank Broyles and Steve Davis will cover the Nebraska-Missouri football game Saturday. The telecast is set to begin at 11:30 a.m. with kickoff 20 minutes later.

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The Husker junior varsity football team will end its season when it plays UNO at Memorial Stadium today. Kick-off is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

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Iowa State has been picked to win the Big Eight men's cross country championship next week, by a vote of the conference coaches. The Huskers are tabbed for seventh place.

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The Nebraska women were also picked for seventh place in the Big Eight cross country championship by the coaches. Missouri was the pick for the top spot.

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Iowa State quarterback John Quinn was named the offensive player of the week in the Big Eight conference. Cyclone cornerback Darren Longshore received the defensive honor. Quarterback Turner Gill and linebacker Steve Damkroger were Nebraska's nominees.

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