

Sports

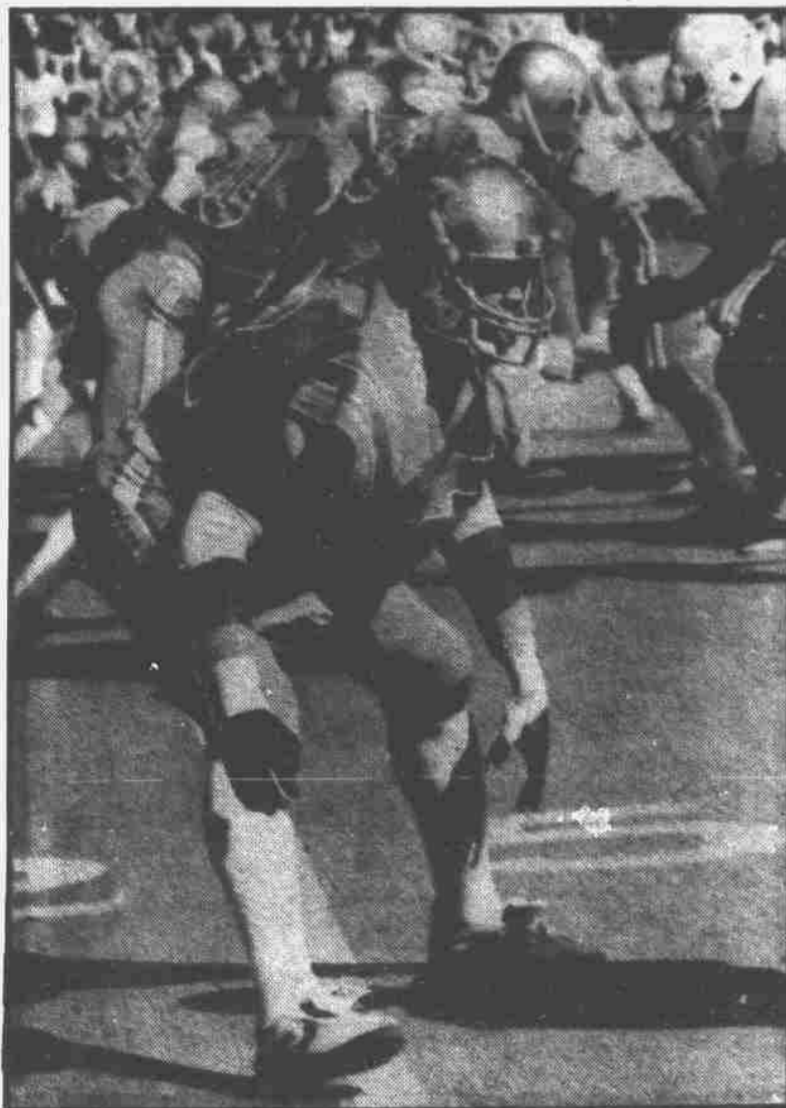


Photo courtesy of Big Eight Service Bureau

Colorado left cornerback Victor Scott

CU Buffaloes hope to avenge shutout

Editor's Note: This is the fifth part of a series previewing Nebraska's 1982 football opponents. The stories will appear in the order Nebraska plays the teams this fall.

By Cindy Gardner

Nebraska's 59-0 thumping of Colorado last season has not been forgotten, and the Buffs will be using their four non-conference games to prepare for the Oct. 9 rematch.

Colorado University Information Director John Clagett reports that new coach Bill McCartney has his sight set on the Big Eight opener against Nebraska.

"That's the game he wants to be ready for," Clagett said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "He's treating the non-conference games as what they are. He won't be afraid to experiment, and won't be overly down if he loses one."

McCartney will be trying to overcome a general lack of depth to bring Colorado up out of the Big Eight cellar. The new mentor has said he feels that Buffaloes will be competitive with every team on their schedule.

Part of McCartney's optimistic outlook lies in a defensive secondary that Clagett describes as one of the best in the Big Eight.

The secondary includes junior Clyde Riggins, who led the conference in interceptions with five in 1981. The right corner back didn't become a starter until midseason

and then had interceptions in three of Colorado's last four games.

Second team all-Big Eight selection Victor Scott fills the other corner back position. The only senior in the defensive backfield is free safety Ellis Wood, who came back after missing the second half of the 1981 season with a fractured elbow.

Strong safety Jeff Donaldson completes the secondary and may be the "unsung hero on defense," Clagett said. The junior was second in tackles for the Buffs last season with 83.

The secondary will join forces with a quartet of linebackers including three returning lettermen (Terry Irvin, Dave Alderson and Alan Chrite) and a newcomer who Clagett predicts will draw attention.

The man Clagett calls the "Spring Sensation" is inside linebacker Ray Cone. Chuck Fairbanks and his former coaching staff thought the senior played all-Big Eight caliber ball during spring training, Clagett said.

This season's Colorado defensive ranks also will include Mark Washington. At 6-6, 260-pounds, Washington is described by Clagett as the most naturally talented defensive tackle to play for the Buffaloes in years.

The defense will employ new tactics under McCartney's direction this fall. Clagett said Fairbanks' big play defense is gone, and it will take long drives to score against Colorado this fall.

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Plenty of talent on team

Returning starters boost softball team's chances

By Jack Denker

Returning starters are so plentiful on the Nebraska softball team this fall, the primary problem facing Coach Nancy Plantz is not how to win consistently, but rather, how to keep her talented players satisfied.

"It's going to be hard," said Plantz of her dilemma. "With the re-entry rule, I plan to use a lot of players to give them experience. Hopefully, I will be able to rotate them in the fall, but the nine best players will play in the spring.

"Last year it wasn't bad, but this year it could be different because we have some real good athletes.

Nebraska returns 13 of 15 players off last spring's team, which finished first in the Big Eight, won the Midwest regional and finished fifth nationally.

"The team is real enthusiastic right now and they want to be there (top-rated) again. They know they can do it and they want to do better," Plantz said.

Heading the list of returning starters are all-Big Eight performers Rhonda Revelle and Cindy Aerni, both seniors, and shortstop Denise Day. As a freshman last spring, Day led her team in hitting, with a .291 average.

Senior all-Big Eight pitcher Jeanne Wagner, however, will be ineligible to play this fall because of scholastic problems.

Wagner, who, according to Plantz, was the primary reason the Huskers finished where they did last season.

will be missed by the team this fall. She compiled a 15-6 record with an 0.41 ERA last spring.

"Certainly I'd prefer to have her this fall, but we're optimistic she will be back in the spring," Plantz said.

Pitching staff

With the loss of Wagner, much of the attention this season will fall on the pitching staff, where Revelle, junior Sandy Wolterman (a former 30-game winner) and sophomore Mori Emmons will form the rotation.

"Our pitching could be strong if they pitch up to their potential," Plantz said.

On a more positive side, Plantz said the loss of Wagner will give the other pitchers more experience and pull the team closer together.

"We do have good pitching depth and now they have a chance to show what they can do. The team needs to see that. Their confidence will come from experience," she said.

To offset the loss of Wagner and graduate Andrea Casella, Plantz recruited Marty Pump, an all-American pitcher from Waldorf Junior College in Forest City, Iowa. She also signed Peg Richardson, a junior college Region 11 all-American catcher from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"They both come out of two strong junior college programs and are experienced players. They are ready to move right in and play immediately," Plantz said.

The strength of the Huskers this fall will again be the defense, while their weakness appears to be team hitting.

Plantz said her young people will help out in that area, though.

College World Series

Plantz, who begins her third year as Husker coach, said last season's trip to the Women's College World Series in Omaha was her greatest coaching achievement so far. She also said the experience her team gained will be a positive influence on this year's team.

"I think the ability to compete under pressure will help us this year," Plantz said. "The girls are proud and have something to live up to now. The only problem is that last year, we were kind of a dark horse, and this year everybody will be out to get us. Hopefully we can rise to the occasion. I think we can; we have that type of athletes."

Practice for the fall season began Wednesday, with 21 girls reporting for drills. Plantz and her new assistant coach, Linda Spradley, intend to trim the roster to 15 girls by Sept. 1.

The Huskers play their first double-header of the season Sept. 3 at 4:30 p.m. against UNO. The games will be played at the new Husker Softball Complex located directly behind Mabel Lee Hall.

Both Plantz and Terry Beek, women's sports information director, said the new complex will be a big boost to the program.

"It's going to help tremendously," Beek said. "Before, the girls had to go all the way to Ballard Field, which is a 15-minute drive to play games and just practice. It's really nice to have an on-campus site for them to play and practice. Also, they should be getting better crowds because people won't have to go so far to see them play."

Husker practice not up to par

By Tad Stryker

The Nebraska football team is entering a critical period as it prepares for the upcoming season, Husker Coach Tom Osborne said.

That's why he was a little upset with Thursday's practice.

"It wasn't a terrible practice," Osborne said. "It just wasn't very good. The intensity was down after our scrimmage Wednesday."

Osborne said he hopes the players would resist the temptation to coast through workouts.

"The newness of playing football again has worn off," he said, "and there are still two and a half weeks to the first game. You've got to push yourself.

"It's easy to get up the week before the Iowa game, but we need to start getting ready now," Osborne said. "I told the players that one of the reasons we lost to Iowa last year was because we didn't practice well."

Osborne said he is hoping the team looks sharper tomorrow in preparation for its Saturday scrimmage.

The Huskers continued to stay free of crippling injuries. Still, several players missed practice Thursday, including quarterback Bruce Mathison, fullback Doug

Wilkening, tight end Mitch Krenk and defensive back Kris Van Norman.

Mathison suffered a slight concussion in last Saturday's scrimmage. Trainer George Sullivan said several tests have been run on Mathison, and the results are expected to be in today. Osborne said Mathison might practice Monday if the test results are encouraging.

Wilkening continues to fight mononucleosis. Sullivan doubted Wilkening would be able to practice for about a week.

Krenk, whose cancerous toe on his right foot had to be removed this spring, has missed practice this week because the foot swelled up after two-a-day workouts put undue stress on it. Krenk probably will suit up again next week, Sullivan said.

Van Norman missed practice because of a dental appointment.

Quarterback Turner Gill is nearly fully recovered from a slight groin pull.

"It's not serious," Sullivan said. "He ran on it OK."

The Big Eight Skywriters are in Lincoln today for interviews with Husker coaches and players, starting this afternoon in Memorial Stadium.

Sports Shorts

There will be a meeting and clinic for intramural flag football officials Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Coliseum 7.

Arash Soccer Club and GAS of Omaha will kick off the Lincoln portion of the Eastern Nebraska Soccer Association Tournament when they meet at 11 a.m. Sunday at the East Campus Fields. Following that match, the Lincoln Soccer Club will play the Omaha Chargers at 1 p.m.

Coors will sponsor an Intramural Festival today and Saturday on the UNL campus.

The Nebraska volleyball team's annual Red-White scrimmage game has been set for Tuesday at the Grand Island High School Gym beginning at 7 p.m.

The evening's events will open with a warm-up session and drills, with the match beginning at 7:30 p.m. After the match, those in attendance will be able to meet the players and coaches.

Missouri will open the Big Eight football season Sept. 4 when they meet Colorado State in Columbia, Mo. The rest of the conference schools begin play Sept. 11.