

# Sports

## Tight defense needed to cut Tigers off at pass

By Larry Sparks

Missouri's defense may force Nebraska to resort to the pass when the two teams meet in Saturday's Big Eight football showdown in Memorial Stadium, Husker Coach Tom Osborne said at Monday's Extra Point Club luncheon.

Osborne said the Mizzou defense probably is as good as it was last year when the Tigers shut out Nebraska until the last minute of the game before the Huskers came through with a 6-0 win.

"It may mean that we have to do everything we possibly can to try to move the ball," he said.

The Missouri offense relies on a number of short passes, similar to the kind of offense Colorado ran against the Huskers, Osborne said. He said that makes the Tigers the kind of team that could give Nebraska trouble.

Nebraska's pass rush will be vital to the Huskers' chances of shutting down the Tiger offense, he said.

"If you don't get to their passer on those kinds of plays, somebody is going to be open," Osborne said. "If you give them four-and-a-half or five seconds to throw those kind of passes, they're going to complete a good percentage of them."

Osborne said a good defense is indirectly related to having a good passing game. He said that if a team has confidence in its defense, it won't be afraid to take a chance on incompleting or intercepted passes.

### Missouri confident

"Missouri does have a good enough defense that I feel they will feel confident to put it in the air," he said.

The Tigers still are in the Big Eight title race, and

## ABC to televise game

ABC Television announced Monday that it will televise Saturday's Nebraska-Missouri football game from Memorial Stadium. The game will be one of five regional telecasts carried by the network.

Kickoff time has been changed to 2:50 p.m. to accommodate the broadcast, and ABC will begin its pre-game show at 2:30 p.m.

ABC will pay for a portable lighting system to be installed in case the game runs past sundown. The system, similar to the one used earlier this year at the Penn State-Nebraska game in State College, Pa., will be brought in by Musco Lighting Co. of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The temporary lights will be mounted on top of the Memorial Stadium press box and also on hoists supported by Musco trucks at various points around the stadium.

That should give them added incentive for Saturday's game, Osborne said.

The Tigers are 0-0-1 in conference play with a 7-7 tie against Kansas State and a 17-17 tie with Iowa State, but Osborne said Mizzou still could go to the Orange Bowl if it defeats the rest of its opponents.

The Huskers could enter the game without their top two running backs. Osborne said I-back Mike Rozier and fullback Roger Craig both could miss the game.

Rozier suffered a hip pointer and a knee strain against Kansas State, and Osborne lists him as "very questionable." Craig sprained an ankle Saturday, and although Osborne said his status still is uncertain, he is expected to be ready for Mizzou.

Safety Bret Clark suffered a bruised back against KSU but probably will be healed in time for Missouri, Osborne said.

### Offense pleases Osborne

Assessing Saturday's 42-13 win against Kansas State, Osborne said he was pleased with the offensive effort but disappointed in the Huskers' four turnovers.

"I thought the strongest part of their (Kansas State) football team was the defense, and I really thought we might have some problems moving the ball but that didn't prove to be the case. We moved the ball pretty consistently," he said.

"I can't remember a game when we didn't have to punt the ball," he added. "That was partly due to pretty good execution on offense and also offensive ineptitude in that we either scored or dropped the ball every series."

Osborne praised quarterback Turner Gill's 91.7 pass-completion percentage against the Wildcats and said he had planned to pass more in the game. He said he chose to keep the ball on the ground, however, because Nebraska's rushing game was so successful.

Because of the turnovers, Osborne said the offense has to shoulder at least part of the blame for 10 of the 13 points K-State scored Saturday.

Osborne said the Blackshirt defense showed signs of improvement Saturday and played with more confidence than it had earlier in the season.

"I don't mean to say that we've got all of our defensive problems licked, but we're getting a little bit better," he said.

## Hurley sees pro strike nearing end

By Bob Asmussen

If Dan Hurley's thoughts on the National Football League players strike turn into reality, the season may not be lost.

"I have a feeling the strike will end a week from Sunday," Hurley, a member of the New York Giants, said in a telephone interview from Omaha. "I'm going back to New York this week."

Hurley is in his rookie season in the NFL. The offensive tackle from Omaha is on the injured reserve list after suffering a knee strain in training camp. Hurley said he's ready to get back into action.

"I can practice right now," Hurley said. "The fact that I'm on injured reserve is a good thing because I understand we'll get back pay after the end of the strike."

Hurley said the strike is frustrating to him, but he is totally supportive of the players' position.

"I'm all for the players," Hurley said. "I think we deserve better pay and better pensions. The average life of an NFL player is four-and-a-half years. After that you have to find something else to do."

Hurley said compromise is the key to a settlement. He said a big help toward a settlement was bringing in federal mediator Sam Kagel to the talks.

### Both sides losing money

"I think both sides have to give in a little bit," Hurley said. "I think they're working towards that. The owners aren't stupid and the players aren't stupid. Both sides realize that they're losing a lot of money."

Hurley said that during the strike he has tried to keep in shape by running and lifting weights. He said he is in good shape but probably not ready to play.

"I was in real good shape right before the strike," Hurley said. "It frustrates me not to play the game or watch the game. Lack of money is another thing that

frustrates me."

The National Football League Players Association started a series of all-star games featuring the striking players. The players won the right to play in the games in a court battle with the league. Ted Turner's WTBS is televising the games.

"Some are playing for fun," Hurley said. "Some are playing for money and some are playing because they're tired or raking leaves in their backyards."

### Big names oppose strike

Several big name players have come out against the strike. Players such as Terry Bradshaw and John Stallworth voiced their opinions that are counter to that of the players' union. Hurley said he understands those players' positions on the strike.

"I think if I was in their shoes I'd say the same things, too," Hurley said. "They're part of the 3 percent of the players making the big money."

Dave Jennings, the Giants' all-pro punter, also has come out against the strike, saying the "whole thing is ridiculous." Hurley said Jennings is the only one of the Giants to come out against the strike.

"Butch Woolfolk is making good money but even he's behind the players," Hurley said. "He realizes he's got linemen up in front of him who makes his job easier."

Hurley said after the strike, it will take the players a few weeks to get back into the swing of things. He said the players will return to the fundamentals they learn in the pre-season. If the strike doesn't end, Hurley said he thinks the players might turn somewhere else.

"The USFL (United States Football League) is a good possibility for a lot of the players if they close up the season," Hurley said. "I know some of my teammates were talking about it. I'm planning on playing in the NFL."



Staff Photo by Craig Anderson

Nebraska quarterback Turner Gill gets off a pass in Saturday's 42-13 win against Kansas State in Memorial Stadium. Gill completed 11 of 12 passes Saturday for a 91.7 percent completion rate. That broke the school and conference record formerly held by Dave Humm, who completed 23 of 27 passes against Kansas in 1974 for an 85.2 percent rate.

## Mizzou team plagued with 3 injured players

Missouri wide receiver Curtland Thomas broke his right leg Saturday against Iowa State and will not play for the rest of the season, MU Coach Warren Powers said Monday.

Thomas likely will be replaced in Saturday's game against Nebraska by Craig White, a 6-2, 187-pound junior who caught two passes for 21 yards against the Cyclones, Powers said.

Other Mizzou injuries include center Tom Hornof, who probably won't play Saturday because of an ankle injury, and running back George Shorthose, who is doubtful because of a sprained knee.

Strong safety Kevin Potter, who missed the ISU game because of a sprained right ankle, appears healthy and should be ready for Saturday's clash with the Huskers, Powers said.

## Sports Shorts

Student season basketball tickets are on sale now at the Athletic Ticket Office, South Stadium 117. The tickets are \$10 each and students must be prepared to present their ID card showing full-time status.

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The Nebraska football team continues to rank as the top offensive team in the nation. The Huskers are No. 1 in rushing offense (404.2), total offense (562.0) and scoring offense (42.8).

The Cornhuskers also are seventh in the nation in scoring defense, allowing an average of only 11.3 points per game.

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