

# Sports

## Mistake-prone OSU 'closing gap' with Huskers

By Tad Stryker

With the nation's leading rusher and a defense that Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne calls "the best we'll have faced this year so far," why does Oklahoma State have a 2-3-2 record?

Mistakes.

Osborne and his staff have remarked about how good the Cowboys looked last Saturday in their 30-20 win over Missouri, but OSU Coach Jimmy Johnson said the Cowboy offense, defense and kicking game played about the same against Missouri as they have all year.

"The major difference in the Missouri

game was that we had only one turnover," Johnson said. "That kept us in position to win."

After a season-opening win against North Texas State, turnovers hurt OSU as the Cowboys lost to Tulsa, Louisville and Oklahoma and tied Kansas and Colorado. Still, Johnson said his team has what it takes to be a winner.

"I think we have more players and talent than we had four years ago," he said. "Nebraska probably does, too, but not that much more. We're closing the gap."

One Cowboy burst into the national limelight this year. Running back Ernest

Anderson leads the nation in rushing with 1,328 yards, and was the subject of an article in Sports Illustrated earlier this fall. The Cowboys' offensive mainstay has averaged 33 carries a game.

Kicker Larry Roach is another bona fide OSU star. Roach last year broke the NCAA freshman record for field goals. He has made 13 of 20 this year, including his last nine in a row.

The Cowboys have given up an average of 99.9 yards a game rushing and are ninth in the nation in total defense.

Linebacker Mike Green and noseguard Gary Lewis are two of OSU's defensive leaders. The Cowboys have an experienced

secondary led by Raymond Polk, Roderick Fisher and Chris Rockins.

Oklahoma State has not beat Nebraska since 1961. The two teams tied in 1973.

Johnson is trying to build up his team so he can leave streaks like that behind him, but he said that day could still be a ways off.

"There's no way we can match up man-for-man, either experience-wise or talent-wise, with Nebraska," he said. "But if we have a supreme effort and keep our mistakes to the very minimum, plus getting Nebraska to make a few mistakes, then I think we'll be in the ball game."

## Cowboy kicks beyond obstacle

By Jack Denker

Placekicking is fun again for Larry Roach.

After getting off to a slow start this season, going 0 of 5 in field goal attempts the first two games, the sophomore kicker from Oklahoma State was understandably dejected. But since then Roach has gone 13 for 15 and is a happy Cowboy once again.

In addition to that, Roach has connected his last nine field goal attempts, including 5-for-5 performance against Missouri last week, which tied a conference record.

"I just do the best I can and try to make the field goals," he said.

Roach was voted the Big Eight player of the week Monday for his performance against Missouri and now stands 13-for-20 in field goals this season.

Last season, he broke the NCAA record for field goals by a freshman, hitting on 19 of 28 attempts. In recognition of that, he was named to the freshman all-American team and was the Big Eight freshman of the year.

In many ways, Roach's early season troubles have been a direct parallel to the problems the OSU team suffered at the beginning of the season — they were both expected to do a lot better. Just as Roach seems to be turning things around individually, the Cowboys appear to be doing much of the same.

Prior to last weekend, he said, many of the Cowboys' troubles were because of their inability to generate the big plays, but they seem to have corrected that problem during their 30-20 victory against Missouri.

"We only had one turnover and everything seemed to be going right for us," he said. "We made very little mis-

takes."

On the basis of that performance, Roach said he is looking forward to their game with Nebraska Saturday in Lincoln.

"This game is very important to us in that we just have four games left, and it means a lot for our record and to the team," he said. "This is probably our biggest game so far."

Roach said he sees Nebraska as a team that is strong in all areas of the game. The only way OSU can beat the Huskers is to play hard football, eliminate mistakes and play the way they know how, he said. He also thinks a win in Lincoln could enhance the Cowboys' chances of a post-season bowl bid.

"I think that if we beat Nebraska and then continue to do well the rest of the season, then a bowl bid is a possibility," Roach said.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne has said that OSU's defense could be the best unit the Cornhuskers will meet this year, yet the Cowboys still gamed up 20 points against Missouri in their last game. Roach said the score was indicative of the way the OSU defense controlled the game with Missouri and he believes that performance will give them "momentum and show everyone that we can play defense."

The soccer-style kicker said he chose Oklahoma State over football powerhouses Southern Methodist, Texas, and Michigan, because he knew he could step right in and play as a freshman at OSU.

The Dallas native said the most satisfying aspect of his job as a placekicker is running off the field after a successful field goal and knowing he has contributed to the win.

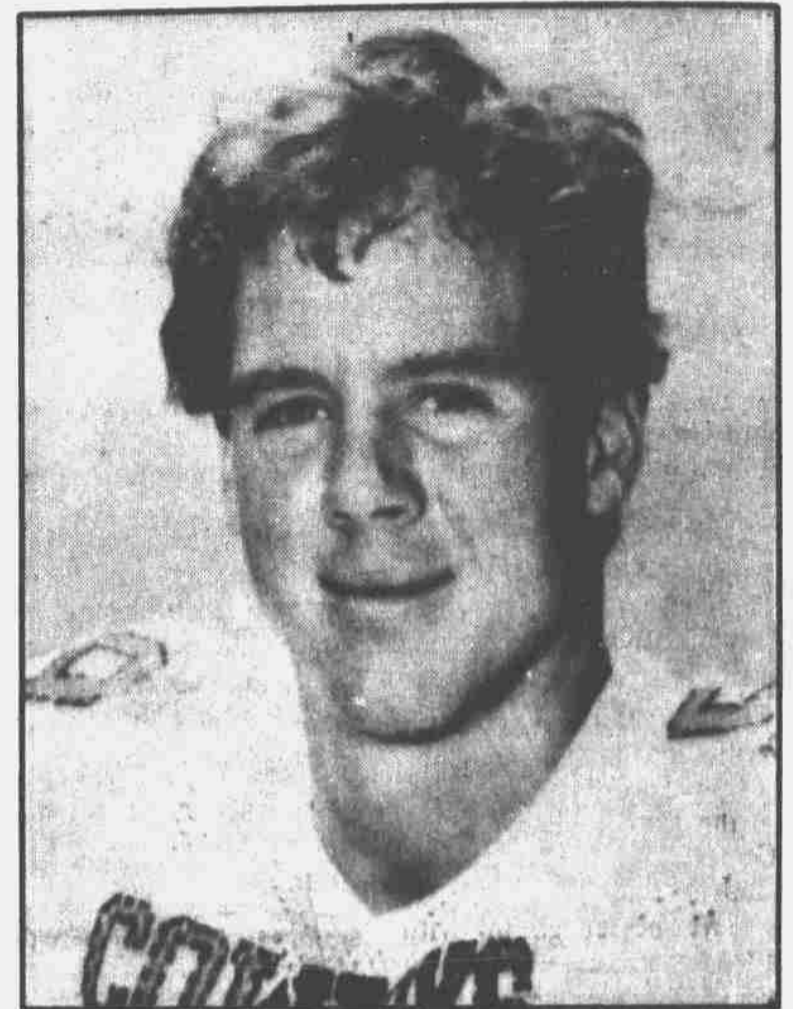


Photo courtesy Big Eight Service Bureau

Oklahoma State kicker Larry Roach

## Husker squad downs Kansas V-ball team

With a showdown against fellow midwestern power Purdue coming up Saturday, the Nebraska volleyball team defeated an overmatched Kansas squad for practice Wednesday night as the 12th ranked Cornhuskers crushed the Jayhawks 15-5, 15-5, 15-3.

It was the Huskers sixth consecutive win, and it improved their Big Eight conference record to 7-1, and 22 and 4 overall.

"I felt there were times when we played very well," said Husker coach Terry Pettit.

"Considering we knew Kansas didn't have as much talent as we had going into the match, I thought our concentration was pretty consistent," he said.

Kansas stayed close scorewise in the first set, but a combination of Jayhawk miss-hits and illegal hits with ace blocks by Annie Adamczak, Sharon Kramer and Gwen Egbert, broke open a 4-4 tie to 10-4 Nebraska. Mary Buysse tallied two ace serves for the games final points.

Kansas, whose record fell to 1-8 in the conference with the loss, surprised the Huskers by taking a 6-2 lead in the second set.

That single Jayhawk highlight was wiped out when Nebraska rallied for the next eight points and coasted to another win.

The Jayhawks weren't given any such change in the third set, as Nebraska jumped to a 7-0 lead. The Huskers extended the advantage to 14-1 before Kansas managed to score twice while fighting off three match points.

After a Debbie Thompsen spike or a sideout, Kramer, one of only two starters still in the game, ended the match with her fourth kill of the night.

Pettit said he was pleased that the Huskers managed to maintain a rhythm of play despite the frequent substitutions. He also said the team had succeeded in a practice goal of getting the ball to Adamczak more. The freshman from Moose Lake, Minn. responded with five solo blocks and five kills.

Cathy Noth led a balanced Nebraska attack with seven kills; Erin Dean followed with six; Egbert and Adamczak had five each; Kramer four and Sallye Ramsey, Michelle Smith and Lynae Loseke chipped in three each.

## It's one, two, three pro strikes?

The pro basketball season is barely two weeks old and already there are rumors of, you guessed it — a strike. The National Basketball Association players are saying that if baseball and football can have a strike, they can, too. So there.

The players are arguing that they are being paid too much money and want a cut in salary.

However, the owners won't give in, saying the players



Bill Allen

either take the money offered or get sued for breach of contract.

"We're not going to pay them any less," one owner said. "If they can't play for the inflated salaries we give them there are plenty of under-paid college faculty members who will."

NBA players aren't talking yet, because the strike is not official by any means, but some issues are causing problems.

For example, many players believe their education and seniority should give them more playing time.

"I have a degree in physical education," one six-year veteran looked down at me and said. "It's not fair that a player right out of high school, without my educational background, should receive the same benefits."

He mentioned players such as "Magic" Johnson and Isiah Thomas, who left college after two years, and Darryl Dawkins and Moses Malone, who went into the pros right out of high school and get plenty of playing time.

"Doesn't my degree mean anything?" he said.

The owners are worried about how much money in tax shelters the strike will cost them. Especially the management of teams such as the Utah Jazz, who now

make about as much money as lame duck Gov. Charles Thone's tax programs did.

The NBA will never find a better time to strike. They already are far behind baseball and football in the television ratings. A strike now might actually make some one say, "Oh, the basketball season has started."

It might give them recognition they usually don't get until the playoffs, the unofficial starting time for actual player effort on the court.

Television already is making programming changes in the event of a strike.

Brent Musberger then would have two strikes to cover, and Phyllis George said she would help, as long as the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League get an automatic berth in the NBA playoffs.

And they can always show reruns of their coverage of the New York City Marayawn.

For the most part, I don't think there's much to worry about. Nobody except a hard-core basketball fan watches the NBA before playoff time, anyway.

So a good suggestion might be to watch college football on Saturday and spend Sundays playing polo with friends.

As far as I'm concerned, in pro sports it's one, two, three strikes, they're out.

## UPI poll ranks Huskers fifth

Nebraska moved up to No. 5 in the United Press International football poll released this week, but remained in sixth place in the poll released by The Associated Press.

Pittsburgh, which was ranked first by AP last week, held onto the position and moved up to No. 1 in the UPI poll also. AP ranks Southern Methodist second, followed by Georgia, Arizona State and Arkansas. UPI's top five is rounded out by Georgia, SMU, Arkansas and the Huskers. UPI does not rank Arizona State because the Sun Devils are on NCAA probation.

Oklahoma, the only other Big Eight team ranked, is No. 14 in the AP and No. 12 in UPI.