

Hawaii no vacation for Husker; Rainbow offense worries Osborne

By Cindy Gardner

The Nebraska football team is in Hawaii, but Coach Tom Osborne said the trip across the Pacific to play the Rainbow Warriors is no vacation.

The Huskers left at 8 a.m. Wednesday on what Osborne called a business trip. The business at hand for the Big Eight champions Saturday will be to keep from being tripped up by a respectable Hawaii ball team.

"We'll have to play well," Osborne said at Monday's Extra Point Club meeting. "We're playing a good football team."

When Osborne talks about a good football team, he means one that has an offense comparable to most of the Big Eight schools and a quarterback that he said may be better than any Nebraska has faced this season including Penn State's Todd Blackledge.

Rainbow quarterback Bernard Quarles set a University of Hawaii record last season for fewest passes intercepted. He had just one of his 76 attempts picked off. Quarles has completed more than 57 percent of his passes so far this season.

Talented backfield

Quarles is not the only talented member of the Rainbow backfield. Tailback Anthony Edgar, a transfer from UCLA, rushed for three touchdowns and 242 yards on 22 carries last week against Air Force. The Rainbow Warriors beat the Hall of Fame Bowl-bound Falcons, 45-21.

"Hawaii has good skill players — as good as we've seen," Osborne said.

It is not the skill of the Rainbow Warriors alone that concerns Osborne. The 10-year coach said Nebraska's own

intensity may be its biggest stumbling block.

Motivation was no problem in the Huskers' 28-24 win against conference rival Oklahoma last Friday. But having the big game over with, combined with the vacation atmosphere of the Hawaiian islands, may take its toll on intensity Saturday.

"You're down 10 points to start with," Osborne said. "Hawaii is not an easy place to play."

The Huskers had fairly good practices Monday and Tuesday in Lincoln, Osborne said. Nebraska has been practicing daily at Hawaii's Aloha Stadium since Wednesday.

Healthy Huskers

The Huskers will be in good health for the 7:30 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time kickoff Saturday (11:30 p.m. CST). Outland Trophy-winning center Dave Rimington was bothered by the flu early in the week.

Rimington and middle guard Jeff Merrell, who sprained his ankle and aggravated a neck injury against Oklahoma, were the only players to miss Tuesday's workout.

I-back Mike Rozier, who reinjured his ankle against Oklahoma, has been practicing and showing improvement, Osborne said.

"He's (Rozier) probably better than he was at this time last week," Osborne said.

Defensive tackle Toby Williams returned to practice this week after missing the Husker-Sooner shoot-out with a knee injury.

Osborne said he is expecting a tough game under tough conditions, but if the Huskers play up to their potential they should be able to extend their record to 11-1-0.

"If we play well we should win the game. But we have to make sure that we do play well," he said.

Kiffin quits Wolfpack

Former Nebraska football assistant Monte Kiffin announced his resignation Wednesday from the head coaching job at North Carolina State.

Kiffin compiled a 16-17 record in his three years with the Wolfpack. He cited a lack of support from the athletic department as the reason for his decision, according to a report by United Press International.

Kiffin was an assistant at NU from 1966 to 1976.

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The men's, women's and co-recreational intramural tug-of-war will be Wednesday in the Men's Physical Education building. Weigh-ins for the men's 160-pound-and-under division will begin at 5:45 p.m., with men's competition set to start at 6:30 p.m. Women's competition will begin at 7:15 p.m., and the co-recreational division is set for 7:30 p.m.

Weigh-ins for the men's lightweight basketball leagues for the spring semester will be in the men's locker room at the Coliseum Dec. 10 and Jan. 11. The weigh-ins will be from 4 to 6 p.m. both days.

The co-recreational swimming relays will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday in the pool at Mabel Lee Hall.

The Nebraska varsity volleyball team will meet Penn State at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Coliseum. The contest is a first-round game of the NCAA championships.

The Husker women's basketball invitational will be today and Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Competition begins at 6 p.m. both days.

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