

Wants career in counseling

Craig ends team-oriented career without regrets

By Dirk Maley

Roger Craig's collegiate career will not come to an end when the Nebraska Cornhuskers meet the Louisiana State Tigers in the Orange Bowl.

The senior from Davenport, Iowa, will end it on a high note when he participates in the Hula and Senior Bowls. In attendance will be coaches and scouts from almost all professional football teams.

For Craig, it end a four-year career at Nebraska filled with both peaks and valleys. As a third team sophomore he finished with 769 yards on 108 carries. In addition, he scored 15 touchdowns which ranked him sixth nationally. Last season, he led the Huskers with 1,060 yards. Great things were expected this season as well, but the 220-pounder assumed a back-up role to All-American Mike Rozier and had a nagging ankle injury. Through all that, though, Craig finished with 586 yards rushing, second best on the team.

The ankle injury is gone now and Craig is finishing the season in grand fashion. Against Hawaii, he led all pushers with 127 yards and one touchdown. But forget the yards — the unselfish Craig is concerned more with team victories.

Concerned with winning

"I don't worry about the statistics too much," he said. "I'm concerned mainly with winning. I don't worry about not getting a thousand yards."

Yet Craig is taking the post-season bowls seriously, especially after his slow start this season.

"It's very important as far as professional football is concerned," he said. "I get a chance to redeem myself, it's important to look good."

But there's still something more important for Craig, namely the New Year's night contest against LSU. It will be his second straight trip to Miami. Last year, he finished with 87 yards against the national champion Clemson Tigers.

The 13th-ranked LSU Tigers enter the contest with one of the nation's top defenses. The Tigers are ranked fourth in both rushing defense and total defense in the latest NCAA statistics.

But the Huskers will counter with the No. 1 offense in the country. Craig and his offensive teammates lead the country in rushing, scoring and total offense.

"After the Orange Bowl is over, I'll be sad that I'll no longer be a Cornhusker," Craig said. "My four years at Nebraska have been very fun. I've enjoyed playing here. I have no regrets."

Team player

Craig came to Nebraska a team player and will leave the same way. When asked to play at fullback early on in the season, Craig went along with Coach Tom Osborne,

even though it was a totally new position for him. Above all else, he made the move to help out the team.

The same holds true when Rozier took over as Nebraska's top I-back. Craig was there patting his teammate on the back. When Rozier broke Bobby Reynolds' 1950 record of 1,342 yards in Nebraska's 48-10 win over Oklahoma State this season, Craig was one of the first to congratulate him for an outstanding effort.

"I don't worry about being jealous," Craig said. "In order to be successful, you've got to learn to work together. Mike had a good year and I'm happy for him. I'm just real happy to be associated with the players we have. We do a lot of things together. This team is a real close family knit group."

For Craig, helping others is far more important than personal glory. That's why the criminal justice major has important plans besides football. Those plans include counseling young kids, he said. "They're in the process of picturing how their lives are going to be. I like to share my time with them."



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Johnson says Cornhuskers to play bowl game for pride

By Tad Stryker

It could have been one of the biggest games in Nebraska football history. Now it looks like the What-Might-Have-Been Bowl.

The Orange Bowl, by the slimmest of chances, could turn out to be for the national championship, but Husker second-string center Brad Johnson and many others think that chance was lost in the final seconds of the Penn State game.

"The Penn State game was pretty crushing for me and all the other people," Johnson said. "It seemed like everything slipped through our fingers in that one."

"But the next Monday we put on our working hats and got ready to work for the Big Eight championship. That became our major goal," he said.

Fourteen consecutive conference wins and a second Big Eight championship are satisfying, and so is the way the Huskers rebounded from their disap-

pointing loss, Johnson said.

"It takes away a little of the sting," he said, "but I was expecting a lot from this season, and I know a lot of other people were, too. I wanted the national championship because it's the last time around for me."

The Huskers will play Louisiana State Jan. 1. Even though the game probably won't mean as much as the Nebraska-LSU Orange Bowl confrontation 12 years ago, Johnson said he doesn't think the Huskers will suffer a psychological letdown.

Though LSU has not had much national exposure, he said, the Tigers "are probably better than most Nebraska fans think."

"I haven't seen much of them yet, but we'll be watching them a lot on film for a couple of weeks," Johnson said.

Even if their slim chance at a national championship (a Penn State-Georgia tie in the Sugar Bowl) does not materialize, pride will carry the Huskers, Johnson

said.

"We want to show the country we've got a good team," he said. "Our defense is improving steadily, but I'm pretty prejudiced about our offense. We think it's the best in the nation."

"Another offense like ours might not come along for quite awhile," Johnson said. "We want to go out in style. We've got a lot to prove."

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