

Sports



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

I-back Mike Rozier is tackled by Rob Stuckey during Saturday's scrimmage at Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers continue spring drills which will culminate when the spring game is played April 23.

Osborne: Need some refining

By Barry Trevarrow

A goalpost wasn't the only thing missing Saturday afternoon at Nebraska's first major spring football scrimmage.

Cold north winds severely limited fan attendance as the Cornhuskers began serious preparation to keep the Big Eight championship title. The Huskers practiced without the north goal post that was torn down by fans in Nebraska's 28-24 victory over Oklahoma last November.

"It (the scrimmage) wasn't a real polished performance," Coach Tom Osborne said. "But I was generally pleased with the play of the top units."

Six touchdowns were scored in the two and a half hour-practice — three by the first team offense. The top unit's first drive was stopped by a Scott Strasburger interception and their second attack stalled at the 35-yard-line. The second team, quarterbacked by Craig Sundberg, drove 65 yards (all possessions began at the 35-yard-line) in nine plays against the second defensive unit and scored on Sundberg's one-yard run.

The biggest play of the day came when first unit quarterback Nate Mason, who is playing while Turner Gill is with the baseball team, optioned around right end and scampered 30 yards before pitching to I-back Mike Rozier. Rozier, who gained 99 yards on six carries, went the rest of the way for the score.

On their next possession, the starting unit scored when wingback Irving Fryar reversed inside for a seven-yard-touchdown. The drive was highlighted by a 35-yard-run by Mason. Mason finished with 54 yards on five carries and completed three of five passes for 27 yards with one interception. Sundberg completed four of six

passes for 65 yards and rushed for 28 yards on seven carries.

Playing against the first team defense, Sundberg led the top offense to their last score with two passes to split end Scott Kimball — including a 34-yard aerial to the five-yard line. Sundberg capped the nine play drive with a three-yard touchdown run.

Other scores came when Fullback Tim Brungardt ran eight yards to a cap a 12-play drive by the second string offense and freshman quarterback Pernell Gatson scampered 23 yards to score for the fourth team.

Osborne said the offensive line, which returns only one starter (right guard Dean Steinkuhler) from last year, needs some work.

"We need a little better coordination in the interior of the offensive line," Osborne said. "There is talent out there. Their ability just needs refining."

Osborne said the cold weather made it difficult for receivers, but "the passing game was fair considering the conditions."

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride seemed to have mixed feelings about the Blackshirt performance.

"We played pretty well considering the fact that we alternated a lot," McBride said. "We were changing ends and linebackers all the time."

McBride said he was not satisfied with the number two defense.

"Some of the younger linemen and linebackers were making fundamental mistakes," McBride said. "Our major concern is a lack of depth on defense."

Osborne plans to grade the practice films and release a new depth chart Monday. The team is scheduled to scrimmage again Saturday.

Braves will win World Championship. You'll see.

They call themselves America's Team, but for selfish reasons I'll never like the name. To me, they are the

Bob
Asmussen

South's Team, Georgia's Team, My Team, Atlanta's Team. Their real name, if you haven't figured it out yet, is the Atlanta Braves.

Opening Day predictions include Dodgers, Braves

One measure of the extent to which baseball remains the national pastime is that although there are seemingly 10,000 sports in the United States, when you talk about Opening Day, sports fans know you are talking about baseball.

Today, of course, is Opening Day, the day when the first ball and the first hundred predictions are thrown out to start the baseball season. With any luck at all, some of these predictions will be proven right, and the others will be forgotten by the time fall rolls around and proves them wrong. With that in mind, some of the Daily Nebraskan sports staff offer their predictions for the upcoming season. We reserve the right to be as arrogantly confident and notoriously inaccurate as any other set of predictors you will see.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are the closest thing the sports staff could get to a consensus choice to win it all this year, but one holdout, Sports Editor Bob Asmussen, claims they won't even win their own division. "I didn't pick the Dodgers because they don't have Garvey and Cey," he said, while also predicting a bad year for one of the Dodgers famed starters.

Barry Trevarrow cast the lone vote for a New York Yankees championship. "Billy Martin is back," he said. "Besides, they can't play that badly two years in a row. They have awesome talent."

Most of the staff took a less analytical approach. Pat Clark, for example, relied on the "put the names in a revolving drum" theory that has worked so well in the past, while staff photographer Craig Andresen boldly predicts that the Cincinnati Reds will vault from worst to first because they are the most photogenic team in the league.

I am a Braves fan from way back — 1970 to be exact. Like any true Braves fan, I resent the people who jumped on the bandwagon after the 13-0 start last year. Those same people who jumped on the bandwagon jumped off in July and August when the Braves lost 19 of 21 games and gave the Dodgers a big five game lead with a month to go in the season.

At this time I have to admit I too was down on the Braves. I questioned many of Joe Torre's decisions yet I never lost faith in him or the team. "The Braves are dead. They were a fluke," my friends who are not Braves fans would say. My response to them was "Just wait, the Braves will come back and win the National League West division title."

In the final week of the season, the Braves overtook the Dodgers for first place in the division. With one day left in the season, the Braves led the hated (by me) Dodgers by one game. The Braves lost on the final day, but Joe Morgan and the San Francisco Giants came through and beat the Dodgers to give the championship to the Braves.

The National League playoffs were almost anticlimactic. The Braves had won the division championship and anything after that would be gravy. No gravy was had by Atlanta. The St. Louis Cardinals beat them three

games to none on the way to the World Championships.

Today brings us another baseball season. It's a day I've been looking forward to since last October. At 1 p.m. today, Phil Niekro will step to the mound for the Braves against the Cincinnati Reds. I will be in front of a television watching WTBS — cheering on My Team, the Braves.

Despite the fact that they won their division last season, the 1983 Braves are not regarded as the team to beat. That honor goes to the hated (by me) Dodgers. I feel the Braves have not been shown much respect. They are picked as low as fifth in some of the national baseball publications. *Fifth!* Come on, guys. They did win the division last year, which should count for something. The Braves will just have to prove themselves once again to the rest of the baseball world as a viable contender. I may be a little bit prejudiced, but I believe in them — they will prove themselves.

Being a Braves fan has not always been something I would talk about, let alone write about. The first year I rooted for the Braves was 1970 and they had a good enough team to finish three games behind the eventual World Champs, Cincinnati.

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DN sports staff picks

Name	NL West	NL East	AL West	AL East	NL Champ	AL Champ	World Champ
Jeff Goodwin	L.A.	St. Louis	California	Milwaukee	L.A.	California	California
Bob Asmussen	Atlanta	Pittsburgh	K.C.	N.Y.	Atlanta	New York	Atlanta
Tim Woods	L.A.	St. Louis	K.C.	Baltimore	St. Louis	K.C.	St. Louis
Ward Triplett	L.A.	St. Louis	Oakland	Baltimore	L.A.	Baltimore	L.A.
Jack Denker	L.A.	Montreal	California	Milwaukee	Montreal	California	Montreal
Barry Trejarrow	L.A.	Montreal	K.C.	N.Y.	L.A.	N.Y.	N.Y.
Jeff Buettner	L.A.	Montreal	California	Milwaukee	L.A.	Milwaukee	L.A.
Kevin Warneke	San Francisco	Montreal	Chicago	Baltimore	S.F.	Baltimore	Baltimore
Pat Clark	L.A.	St. Louis	K.C.	Detroit	L.A.	K.C.	L.A.
Consensus	L.A.	Montreal	K.C.	Milwaukee	L.A.	K.C.	L.A.