

Sports

Preview finds returning Huskers talented, powerful

By Scott Ahlstrand

The 1982 Nebraska Cornhusker football team that ranked third nationally lost 14 starters to graduation. But don't feel too sorry for Coach Tom Osborne. Opposing coaches probably won't.

Osborne returns with enough talented performers on both offense and defense to pull down another high ranking this season, despite a stiff schedule that includes UCLA, Oklahoma and Penn State. Nebraska will open its season Monday against the Nittany Lions in East Rutherford, N.J., at 8 p.m.

The Husker offense is again quarterbacked by third-year starter Turner Gill. Gill completed 54 percent of his passes for a conference-leading 11 touchdowns, averaged five yards per rush and ran for four touchdowns in 1982. He will be backed up by senior Nate Mason.

The Huskers are loaded at the running back position. Senior Mike Rozier returns after rushing for a school record 1,689 yards last season. He also ran for 15 touchdowns while averaging seven yards a carry. As a third-string I-back behind Rozier and Roger Craig, junior Jeff Smith ran for 571 yards on just 56 carries for an amazing 10.2 yards per carry average in 1982.

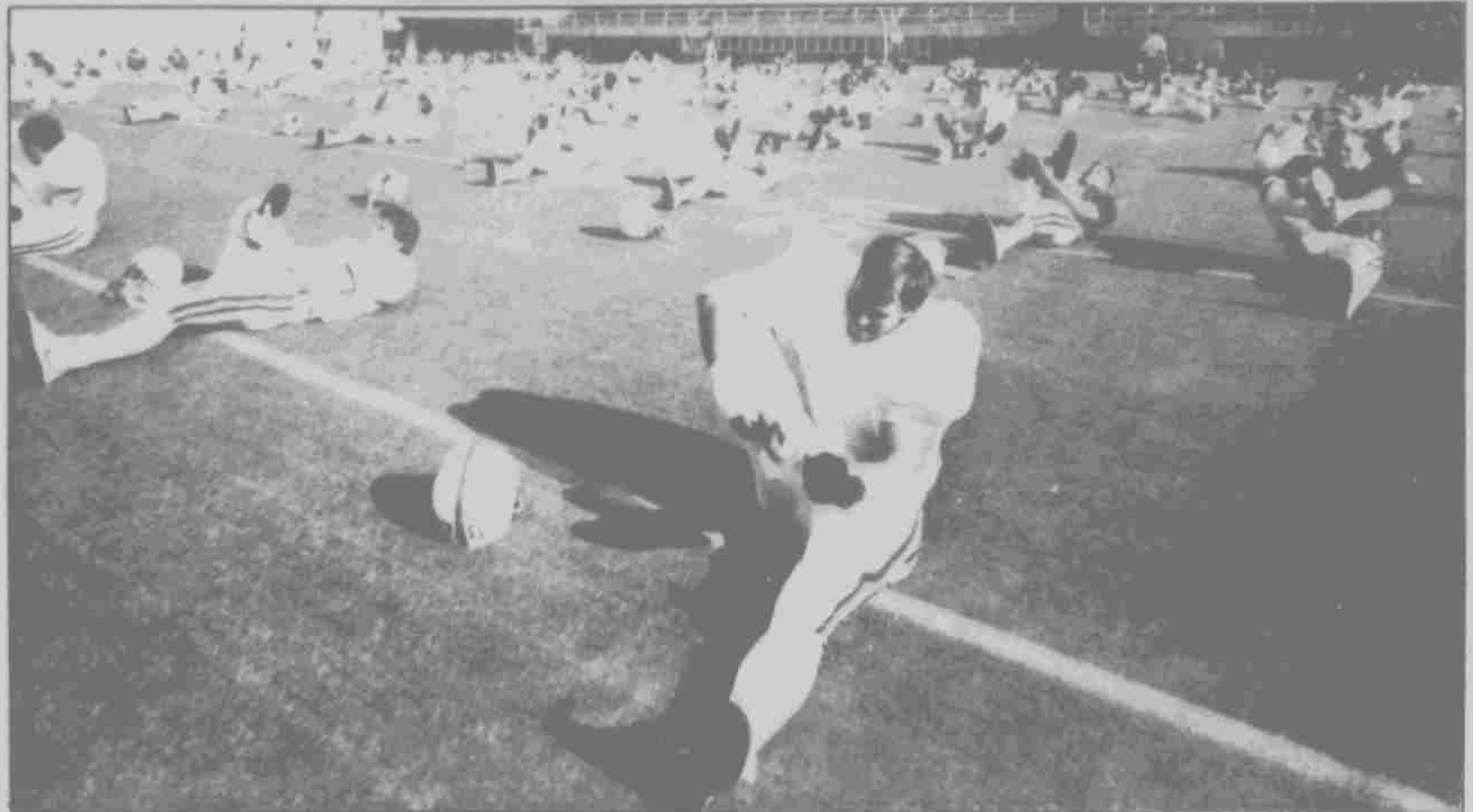
Nebraska returns four quality wide receivers led by senior flanker Irving Fryar. Fryar, along with Gill and Rozier, gives the Cornhuskers three legitimate Heisman trophy candidates. Most pro scouts consider Fryar the no. 1 pro prospect at wide receiver in college this year.

Starting opposite Fryar at split end is Ricky Simmons. Their back ups include Scott Kimball and Steve Swanson. However, Nebraska graduated the top three tight ends from last year's squad, leaving senior Monte Engebretson, who caught one pass for 21 yards all year, as the only returner to the position.

The offensive line lost Outland Award and Lombardi Trophy winner Dave Rimington and three more All-Big Eight selections. But this year's starters are both bigger and quicker, and most played a lot last season. Senior Dean Steinkuhler is the only returning starter.

One of the quickest guards in the country, Steinkuhler, at 257 pounds, will be the smallest player on the Cornhusker's huge offensive line.

"I think Dean Steinkuhler may be the best offen-



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Mike Zierke, a sophomore defensive tackle from Pierce, works out with the rest of the 96-man Nebraska squad in an early season practice at Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers will play Penn State Aug. 29 in East Rutherford, N.J., and open at home against Wyoming Sept. 10.

sive lineman we've ever had at Nebraska," Osborne said.

Mark Traynowicz will replace Rimington at center. Tackle Scott Raridon (266) will be one of the starting tackles and should be joined by either Jon Sherlock (260) or Mark Behning (280). The other starting guard will be either Harry Grimminger (271) or Anthony Thomas (285).

The defense won't grab the headlines that the offense will, but Osborne said he thinks they'll get better as the season progresses.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride is not worried about his front line players, but sees little depth in the Husker defense now.

"I feel better about the first team right now than I did at the start of practice," McBride said, "and I expect that confidence to grow."

The line is composed of tackles Rob Stuckey (252), Doug Hermann (270), Mike Keeler (243), and Jim Skow (225) and nose guards Ken Graeber (238) and Mike Tranmer (225). The end position will be manned by Dave Ridder (215), Bill Weber (210) and Scott Strasburger (207). Also there is converted monster Wade Bauener, who spent the last two seasons at end.

"We feel we have enough good players at monster," McBride said, "but we don't have that depth at end."

Linebacker will be Mike Knox (230) and Mark Daum (230). Knox is a real head knocker and is a

possible all Big Eight selection, but, again, McBride said he doesn't think he has many top players to back up Knox and Daum.

The secondary returns two solid players in free safety Bret Clark (196) and cornerback Dave Burke (200). The other two starters should be cornerback Neil Harris and one of three strong monster candidates, Dan Casterline (205), Mike McCashland and Kevin Biggers.

"Biggers is playing much better than we expected," McBride said, "and Neil Harris has enough experience to be a good player."

The kicking duties will be handled by three newcomers. Dan Wingard will be the punter, while Dave Scheider and Mark Hagerman will place kick. Nebraska has also recruited junior college transfer Scott Livingston to compete for the kicking chores.

"Obviously Penn State, UCLA and Oklahoma are going to be tough," Osborne said, "but Kansas could surprise a lot of people. I think they have a potentially excellent team. Missouri always plays us tough, so you can't overlook them. You really can't overlook anyone on this year's schedule."

Osborne enters the season with only one set goal. "Our main goal is to try to play football as best as we can," said Osborne. "There are a lot of factors you can't control, so we're just going to try to be the best team we can be."

Ticket application dates set

Several changes will greet new and returning students who try to buy UNL football and basketball tickets this fall.

Students who have not yet applied for football tickets may do so Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the UNL athletic department ticket office, 117 South Stadium.

Because of school starting later this year and a early Nebraska home game against Wyoming Sept. 10, it will be one of the earliest deadlines for student ticket applications.

Tickets will cost \$36 for single students and \$72 for married students. They can be picked up at the ticket office beginning Sept. 6 at 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tickets can be picked up until

Sept. 9.

Jean Walcott of the ticket office, said students who are not full-time during the first two days of school can still buy a ticket at the student price. However, he or she may not pick up the ticket until university registration records show that the student is full-time.

A current student identification card must be presented before a ticket can be issued, she added.

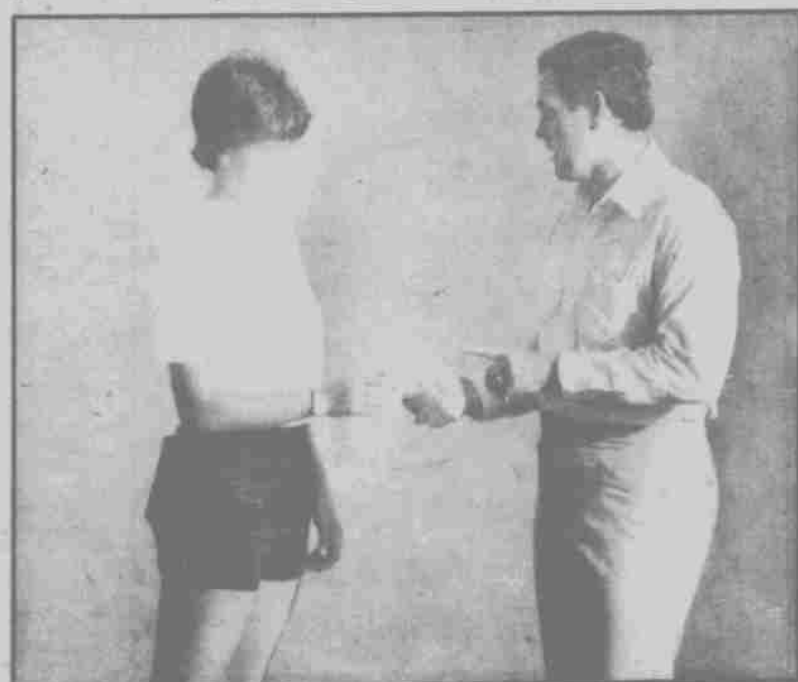
Basketball tickets will be issued in the same manner as football tickets for the first time this fall, Walcott said.

Instead of general seating on the main floor, each seat will be reserved. Applications for basketball tickets will be available Monday, but will not be accepted before Sept. 22.

1983 Nebraska Football Schedule

(Home games are capitalized)

- Penn State Aug. 29, 8 p.m.
- WYOMING Sept. 10, 1:30 p.m.
- Minnesota Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
- UCLA Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m.
- SYRACUSE Oct. 1, 1:30 p.m.
- Oklahoma State Oct. 8, 1:30 p.m.
- Missouri Oct. 15, 1:30 p.m.
- COLORADO Oct. 22, 1:30 p.m.
- Kansas State Oct. 29, 1:30 p.m.
- IOWA STATE Nov. 5, 1:30 p.m.
- KANSAS Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m.
- Oklahoma Nov. 26, 2:45 p.m.



Staff photo by John Zoz

New softball coach Wayne Daigle discusses pitching with senior Sandy Wolterman. Daigle was NAIA coach of the year in 1981 at Sam Houston State.

Daigle ushers in new softball era

By Scott Ahlstrand

The Nebraska women's softball team enters a new era this season. Coach Nancy Plantz resigned to take a position at Eastern Michigan University and was replaced by 1981 NAIA National Coach of the Year Wayne Daigle of Sam Houston State University.

Daigle's team won the NAIA National Championship in 1981, a NCAA Division II National Championship in 1982 and were runners up to Cal-Northridge in the 1983 NCAA Division II finals. In that span, Daigle compiled a 190-65 record.

"I think given the time to get my type of lady into the program, we can be very competitive at the national level," Daigle said. "It's going to be considerably harder to win a national championship at the division I level, but in a few years I think we'll be capable of that. What I'd really like to see, is for us to be competitive for the Big Eight Championship year after year."

Daigle is not the typical women's softball coach. As a linebacker for Southwest Texas State University, he was a division II all-American. He played as a free agent for the Pittsburgh steelers in 1969 before entering the coaching ranks as an assistant football coach at Southwest Texas State University. He coached for five years at Southwest Texas State and one year at Sam Houston State before being named head football coach. three years later he was offered the women's softball coaching job.

"Really, coaching softball was not that difficult a change for me, because I had been active in fast pitch and slow pitch softball for 11 years," Daigle said.

Despite his winning record, he said he had some qualms about accepting the coaching job at UNL.

"Nebraska is a heck of a school with a heck of a reputation. I was honored when I was offered the job, but I had doubts at first on whether or not I could do the job here," Daigle said.

Continued on Page 23