

Sports

Bufs 'biggest game' of year

By Jeff Browne

Four pages in the Colorado Football Media Guide are devoted to "Buff Milestones." One such entry reads: "November 2, 1898 — Colorado plays first opponent from outside state boundaries, lose to Nebraska in Boulder, 23-10."

What was then a novelty has become a ritual as the Cornhuskers have defeated Colorado 15 times in a row and 20 of the last 21 times the teams have met. Saturday at Memorial Stadium, Nebraska will be shooting to extend its victory string against the Buffaloes.

Because of Nebraska's dominance and Colorado's lack of a natural rival, Buffalo head coach Bill McCartney has made Nebraska his team's biggest game of every year. Defensive coordinator Lou Tepper said it hasn't affected the team that much, though, as it prepare for the game.

"Nebraska's the number one team on a lot of teams' schedules, so it's not like we're going to catch them by surprise," he said. "It (the rivalry) just makes us concentrate more on what we need to do."

Many of Colorado's problems in the team's two-win, four-loss start have come about because of injuries, Tepper said.

"Coming out of spring practice, we knew we were paper thin," he said. "We started this year with 13 bona fide Big Eight players on defense, but now we're holding things together with baling wire and Scotch tape."

Colorado's defensive depth chart has become a misnomer because of the loss of sophomore starting linebacker Barry Remington and a shoulder injury that has slowed won senior linebacker Terry Irvin, Tepper said.

"Barry Remington was playing all-Big Eight football before he was injured," Tepper said. "Terry Irvin was our most improved player through the Oregon State game, but he's been playing on one shoulder ever since."

Colorado also lost starting defensive tackle Vince Rafferty before last week's 22-10 loss to Iowa State. Tepper replaced him with Randy Hogbin.

"Randy has been an offensive tackle ever since he came to Colorado," Tepper said. "He practiced for

two days at defensive tackle and played the whole game against Iowa State."

Tepper said both Hogbin and Irvin will start against Nebraska although Irvin is still a bit shaky.

With his "paper thin" defense, Tepper said he doesn't know how he is going to be able to stop Nebraska's league-leading offense.

"If I could pick out a strong point on our defense, maybe I would know," he said. "Nebraska also has the best offensive team I've seen in my 17 years of coaching. I thought maybe Pittsburgh when they won the national championship in 1976 with Tony Dorsett was great, but Nebraska is better."

Tepper is optimistic, though, that the Buffalo offense will put some points on the board against Nebraska.

McCartney isn't so sure.

"We need a more effective running game which will allow us to throw the football when we want to," he said. "Against Missouri (a game Colorado lost 59-20), we were inept at times in our running game. We're not big and strong enough to blow Nebraska off the ball, so we've got to constantly try to keep them off balance."

Buffalo starting quarterback Steve Vogel has come under fire in Colorado for his performance in the last three games — losses to Notre Dame, Missouri and Iowa State. In those games, he has been unable to complete half of his passes. But McCartney is not ready to switch to Vogel's backup, Derek Marshall.

"Steve Vogel is still our quarterback and Derek Marshall is his backup," McCartney said. "I look for Steve to break out of it against Nebraska."

Despite the criticism against him, Vogel has completed 71 of 148 passes for 151.5 yards a game and seven touchdowns.

Colorado's running game is led by junior tailback Lee Rouson. Rouson led the team in rushing as a freshman and leads the team this year with 368 yards on 79 carries.

Colorado passed for 361 yards last year against Nebraska in Boulder, and tight end Dave Hestera accounted for 105 of those yards in receptions. Hestera has caught 14 passes for 178 yards this year.



Staff photo by John Zox

Nebraska's Cathy Noth follows through on a spike attempt in an earlier season game at the Coliseum. Nebraska will travel to Norman, Okla., Saturday and put its 16-3 record on the line against Oklahoma. The Sooners are 3-2 in the conference, with victories against Kansas State, Kansas and Iowa State, while Nebraska is 4-0. The Huskers will return home for the first time since Sept. 28 to play Missouri Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. The Huskers lead the Big Eight in hitting efficiency, service aces and kills per game with an average of 13.7.

NU bowlers hope to strike it big

By Jeff Browne

UNL's men's bowling team finds itself in a familiar position as it prepares to travel to Manhattan and Lawrence, Kan., this weekend to finish a five-day tournament in the Kansas-Nebraska bowling league.

Coach Bill Straub's squad is currently in second place behind national power Wichita State in the tournament which began Oct. 1 and 2 in Wichita and Emporia, respectively, and continued in Lincoln last Sunday.

"There's no way we can finish lower than second," Straub said, "but it will take a supreme effort for us to overtake Wichita State. We can beat them, though."

Straub said Wichita State has been a national power for many years, but his team is ready and able to overtake the Wheatshockers.

"We've got a chance to be the top team in the country this year," he said.

Straub is pinning his team's hopes on improvement before the national finals in San Jose this spring. To qualify for that tournament, though, the team must win a tournament. Barring a dramatic comeback in this weekend's tournament, UNL then must win one of their future tournaments.

They begin that quest Nov. 5 in the Mid-States tournament in Columbia, Mo. The team then travels to St. Louis over Thanksgiving weekend for a national tournament. Straub takes the team to Las Vegas for another national tournament over the semester break.

Nebraska's top-seeded bowler is junior Mike Sander from Grand Island. Straub is convinced that Sander could be one of the best bowlers in the country.

Wichita State's top bowler, Mike Jasnau, has won regional Professional Bowler's Association events

and was last year's collegiate singles champion, but Straub said, "Mike can beat him on any given day — Jasnau can be beaten."

Straub's women's team probably won't be as competitive as the men's team, he said, because they are inexperienced.

The team's top bowler is Marilyn Snook, a senior from Phoenix, Ariz., but the second-through fourth-seeded bowlers are all freshmen. The women are currently tied for second with Emporia State in the five-day tournament.

Ruggers face stiff test

The UNL rugby team will travel to Lawrence, Kansas, this weekend to play Kansas in what should be one of the stiffer tests of the year for Nebraska.

William Henry, one of UNL's more experienced players, said the Jayhawks are ranked No. 1 in the Heart of American Rugby Union, while Nebraska is ranked first in the Great Plains Rugby Union.

"It should be a real good game," Henry said. "I think our chances are good, but it'll be tough."

Henry said that several experienced players have helped Nebraska, coached by Vince Powers, to a 7-1 record this season.

The experience has been provided by seniors Bob Hansman, Layne Liley, and Scott "Toad" Johnson, and Charlie Rothwell.

Henry also said that several inexperienced players have contributed to the success of this year's team. He said junior Chris Welsch, senior Christopher Burbach and sophomore Larry Skipper "have really been a pleasant surprise."

Nebraska will close out its fall season Oct. 29 and 30 in Omaha. The Huskers will play the Omaha Rugby Club on Oct. 29, and finish the season against the Omaha GOATS on Oct. 30.

Freshman team eyes longer victory streak

By Jeff Korbek

Although many people may not realize it, the Nebraska freshman football team is 19-0 during the past five years, and the team will try to lengthen its winning streak today, when it Waldorf Junior College (3-3), 1 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

"We have watched them on video tape, and they appear to throw the ball half the time," freshman coach Dan Young said. "They play a wide tackle six on defense and they have pretty good size."

Young said Waldorf will use the game as a placement tool. The Waldorf coaches will showcase their best players in order to impress Nebraska coaches.

"They will be playing hard because this game is important to them," he said.

The game will be the fourth meeting between the two schools in as many years.

Young said that although the offense is playing well, he would like to see more consistency.

"We had a lot of penalties against Northern Iowa, and we scored pretty quick against William Jewell," he said. "We would like to have 10- or 12-play drives and run some time off the clock."

Against Waldorf, Omaha's Jeff Taylor will be making his second start. McCathorn Clayton will play in the second quarter, and Hendley Hawkins will start the second half. Young said all of them have been playing well.

Taylor has completed nine of 12 passes for 173 yards in Nebraska's three games. Hawkins is six of 10 for 53 yards, and Clayton is two of six for 10 yards. Clayton is also the fourth-leading rusher with 86 yards in 10 carries.

Nebraska's defense has limited its opposition to 138.8 yards per game, 137.7 yards in the air and a mere 8 yards on the ground.