

Sports

Returning starters lead Huskers in opener

By Kevin Warneke

One new face, along with four old ones, will comprise the starting lineup for Nebraska when the men's basketball season opens with an exhibition game with Brandon University tonight at 7:35 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

According to Nebraska Coach Moe Iba, 6-6 forward John Matzke will make his debut as a starter. He will join returning starters David Ponce and Eric Williams, guards; Stan Cloudy, forward and Dave Hoppen, center, Iba said.

Although it is only an exhibition game, Nebraska will be looking for a victory, Iba said.

"We're going to be playing to win," he said. "That's most important."

But Iba said he wants more than a victory. He said he hopes that Nebraska plays well enough so everyone will get a taste of playing time.

"I hope to play everyone," he said. "But it will depend on how the game goes."

Iba said he is unsure who would be the first reserves to see action, because it will "depend on how the game goes."

Earlier this month, Iba said guard Brian Carr and forwards Ronnie Smith and James Moore will be seeing plenty of action this season.

Iba said that Canada's Brandon University has two excellent players in center Will Marshall and forward John Carson that Nebraska must shut down.

"They've also got some players who are Americans, and they're older," Iba said. "They're a different type of ball player and they'll have the experience."

But Iba said he isn't so worried about Brandon's play as the organization of the Huskers.

"We have some new players and we hope they do what they've been doing in practice."

Iba said that although the exhibition game came before the usual red-white intra-squad classic, which normally marks the beginning of the Huskers' season, it shouldn't make a difference in the players' performance.

"We usually take the red-white game out of Lincoln, so it doesn't matter which game we play first," he said.

Madballers get revenge

By Kirk Zebolsky

Madballers Revenge finally got revenge.

The independent intramural flag football team of law students won the All-University Flag Football Tournament Tuesday night against Abel Eight, 48-25, revenging a disputed loss that occurred in 1981. The Madballers lost to the Holysmokers team in a penalty-ridden game in the Independent League playoffs two years ago.

The team name at the time was "Madballers." They added the rest this year.

"This year we decided to beat everybody," co-captain Stan McCammon said. The team set out to revenge the loss and other losses and they succeeded.

The Madballers' offense exploded against Abel Eight, dominating as it has all year, scoring on the first play in five out of their seven possessions.

Abel Eight moved the ball at times, but fell behind 24-8 after throwing two interceptions in their first three possessions.

Abel 8 came back with a quick score

to make it 24-14, but the Madballers scored three times in their next three offensive plays, which included the last play of the first half and the first play of the second half.

The crucial point for Abel Eight in the game was when they failed to score on eight straight offensive plays while behind 30-13. One of those plays was a touchdown called back for illegal procedure.

Abel Eight did not score again until the Madballers had racked up their 48 points.

McCammon said the newly installed offense was the reason for their success this year. Referring to their scores on first down, McCammon said, "It was that way all year."

Abel Eight had success on defense in the tournament holding Phi Kappa Psi to 20 points and Alpha Tau Omega to 13. "They were a lot smoother running the ball than other teams," Abel Eight captain Darrell Parks said. "We were surprised to get this far. We didn't even expect to get to the play-offs." Abel Eight just took the season game by game, Parks said.



Mike Rozier sidesteps a Kansas tackle in Nebraska's 67-13 trouncing of the Jayhawks Saturday.

Staff photo by John Zoz

'83 Huskers rewrite record books

By Scott Ahlstrand and Cindy Conger

The 1983 Cornhuskers may warrant their own edition of the Guinness Book of World Records. The nation's No. 1-ranked team has racked up numerous chart-topping statistics en route to an 11-0 record.

Led by I-back Mike Rozier, the Husker offense has established, tied, or is the running for 22 NCAA or Big Eight team or individual records.

Rozier has rushed for 1,943 yards this season, eclipsing Oklahoma State's Ernest Anderson's record of 1,877 last season. Rozier has 4,575 carrier rushing yards — just 7 shy of the conference record set by the Cowboys' Terry Miller. Miller covered 4,582 yards in in four seasons.

Nebraska's Heisman Trophy candidate also has shown an affection for the end zone this season. He

has run for 28 touchdowns, topping Penn State's Lydell Mitchell's mark of 26 rushing touchdowns in a season. Another touchdown will tie Rozier with Mitchell's single-season total touchdown record of 29.

The 285 yards Rozier covered against Kansas marked the 10th time he went over the 100-yard mark this season. A 100-yard game against the Oklahoma Sooners will put Rozier in the elite company of Archie Griffin, Tony Dorsett, Terry Miller, George Rogers, Marcus Allen and Herschel Walker. Each of these backs had an NCAA record 11 100-yard games in a season.

While Rozier has been busy setting records on the ground, quarterback Turner Gill has the chance to establish some aerial standards. Only 10 of Gill's 412 career passing attempts have been picked off for a 2.43 interception percentage. At this point, Gill is

ahead of the 2.56 percent NCAA record set by the University of Southern California's Paul McDonald from 1976 to 1979.

Being on the receiving end of Gill's passes may have wingback Irving Fryar in line for a record or two. Three touchdown catches against Oklahoma would tie Fryar with the Big Eight season record for touchdown receptions set by former Husker Johnny Rodgers in 1971.

The backfield trio of Rozier, Gill and Fryar has sparked the Husker offense to several team records. With one regular-season game remaining, the Huskers already have smashed the NCAA record for most points scored in a season. Nebraska's 596 points easily outdistances Brigham Young's former record of 560 points.

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Meet the new Husker basketball players



Photos courtesy of UNL Sports Information Office

Nebraska will open a new season at 7:35 p.m. tonight against Brandon with six new players. From left, Keith Neubert, 6-7 freshman from Fort Atkinson, Wis.; Ronnie Smith, 6-9 junior from Galveston, Texas; Anthony White, 6-2 junior from Wichita, Kan.; Curtis Moore, 6-4 junior from Mount Vernon, N.Y.; Brian Carr, 6-1 freshman from Muncie, Ind., and Titus Dock, 6-5 freshman from Perkins, Ga. In addition to those six, two redshirts, James Moore and Mike Martz, will suit up for their first varsity game.