

# Sports

## Osborne sees signs of improved Husker defense

By Jim Rasmussen  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Mark Mauer couldn't resist poking a little fun at Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne at Monday's Extra Point Club luncheon.

Mauer, the former UNL quarterback and current offensive coordinator for the Cornhusker freshman team, was giving a scouting report on Minnesota, next week's opponent.

Mauer said he thinks the Gophers could be "a respectable football team" this season.

"I don't think it'll be a 84-13," Mauer said, "although I'm sure coach Osborne will try to make it 84-13, the way he is."

Mauer's joke got a laugh from the 250 or so fans in attendance. Several writers accused Osborne of running up the score against the Gophers last year. The 84-13 win was the most lopsided in Nebraska football history against a Division I opponent.

Osborne laughed along with the crowd at Mauer's remark, although his face turned a little red. Mauer followed up his comment with another that drew more laughter.

"Of course he knows I'm only kidding," Mauer said of his boss.

Osborne responded with a joke of his own.

"I'd like to remind Mark that with all these microphones up here, the part about only kidding is usually edited out."

Then the coach got serious as he discussed the Huskers' 42-7 win against Wyoming Saturday.

"I do feel a little better this week than I did last week," he said. "Until you play a game,



Husker defenders Mark Daum (51), Chris Spachman (76) and Chad Daffer (46) close the corner for Wyoming quarterback Dave Gosnell.

you've got no idea how good you are."

Osborne said he was pleased with the Huskers' play on both sides of the line. He singled out safety Bret Clark for playing "a great game." Clark led Nebraska with eight tackles, five of them unassisted. He also recovered a Wyoming fumble.

Nebraska's defensive pass coverage depends on how the opponent's offense sets up, Osborne said. Several of the coverages Saturday called for Clark to come up

and support against the run. "He played it pretty much to perfection," Osborne said.

Nebraska's defense, which held the Cowboys to 11 first downs and 202 net yards, drew praise from the coach.

"We were banking on defensive improvement," he said. "And barring injury, I think we should be improved."

Osborne said he thinks the defense is quicker than last year and might have more athletic

ability. He said the defense played well early last year but were slowed by injuries later on.

The kicking game was also a positive factor in the Wyoming game, Osborne said. The difference in return yardage, 162 for the Huskers to only 37 for Wyoming, was probably worth "a couple of touchdowns" in Saturday's game, he said.

Although the offense didn't break the big play against Wyoming, Osborne said he thought the

Huskers played well.

"We thought the offense would be pretty good, and I think it is," he said.

Husker quarterbacks Craig Sundberg and Travis Turner drew passing grades from Osborne.

"They made a few mistakes, but who doesn't?" he said. "There are guys that have played quarterback in the NFL for nine years and they're still making mistakes."

Osborne also praised Jeff Smith, who rushed for 170 yards on 28 carries, and fullback Tom Rathman, who rushed for 108 yards in 13 carries. The offensive line, he said, may be further along than last year's line was at this point.

The Huskers went through the game with only minor bumps and bruises and should be in better shape, injury-wise, for Minnesota than they were for Wyoming, Osborne said. Defensive end Bill Weber missed the game because he had the flu, but is expected to be ready this week. Defensive tackle Rob Stuckey, who saw minimal action Saturday because of a knee strain, should be "almost 100 percent" against Minnesota, he said. The flu bug has been bothering a few other players, including middle guard Ken Graeber and running backs Thurman Hoskins and Paul Miles.

Osborne said Minnesota is a good team on offense. The Gophers rolled up 485 yards in a 31-24 win against Rice Saturday. Osborne said Minnesota had 70 freshmen report for football this year, which shows new coach Lou Holtz is emphasizing a walk-on program.

"I'm sure Lou Holtz will get all he can out of that football team," he said.

### Federal judge rules for Pac-10

By Jim Rasmussen  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

A federal district judge ruled Monday that the College Football Association and the ABC network cannot prohibit the telecasting of games between CFA member schools and members of the Pacific Ten and Big Ten conferences.

The ruling apparently clears the way for the Nebraska-UCLA game to appear on CBS Sept. 22, providing UNL officials agree to the telecast.

Judge Richard A. Gadbois Jr., who made the ruling in Los Angeles, Ca., upheld the anti-trust suit brought by UCLA and USC against Nebraska, Notre Dame, ABC and the CFA. USC joined in the suit because of the Trojans' Nov. 24 game against Notre Dame.

Although Gadbois ruling applies to home games of Pac-10 and Big 10 teams, USC and UCLA officials said they "acknowledge" that the ruling would permit the televising of crossover games played at CFA member schools.

In a joint statement issued by UCLA Chancellor Charles E. Young and USC President James H. Zumberge, the two men said "the way is now cleared for Nebraska and Notre Dame to proceed with the network telecasts of these games."

## Sooners try newfangled wishbone in title quest

By Jim Rasmussen  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

The Oklahoma Sooners will look to an old friend in 1984 to help them out of a three-year championship drought in the Big Eight.

That old friend is the wishbone defense, which coach Barry Switzer reinstated this season after a one-year shift to the I-formation. The wishbone returned

### Big Eight Preview

during OU's 19-7 victory against Stanford, but will have a few new wrinkles, said Mike Treps, Oklahoma's sports information director.

The Sooners gained 348 yards Saturday, with 258 of them coming on the ground. Senior quarterback Danny Bradley threw 14 passes, completing six for 84 yards.

Although his team scored only 19 points, Switzer chalked the Stanford game up to inexperience.

"First of all, it's a new offense," he said. "It was a learning process, and I think we got a lot of benefit."

Switzer will count on the arm of Danny Bradley and the receiving skills of Buster Rhymes and Derrick Sheppard to make the Sooner passing game work. Steve Sewell, who starts at halfback, played wingback last year and should help give OU more of a passing threat.

Super-sophs Spencer Tillman and Earl Johnson provide solid

talent at halfback and fullback. But after that, things get a little thin in the backfield. Fred Sims, who was expected to start at fullback, failed to make grades. After the first teamers, only Jerome Ledbetter and Alvin Ross have much experience. Switzer may call on freshmen Chris Richards, Patrick Collins and Don Maloney for relief help.

Several starters return in the offensive line, led by senior center Chuck Thomas. Thomas, a three-year letterman, is expected to challenge Nebraska's Mark Traynowicz for all-Big Eight honors. Other returners include seniors David Dillingham and Brent Burks and sophomore Jeff Pickett.

Only four starters return from a tough 1983 defense, but Treps said several newcomers should fill the gaps well.

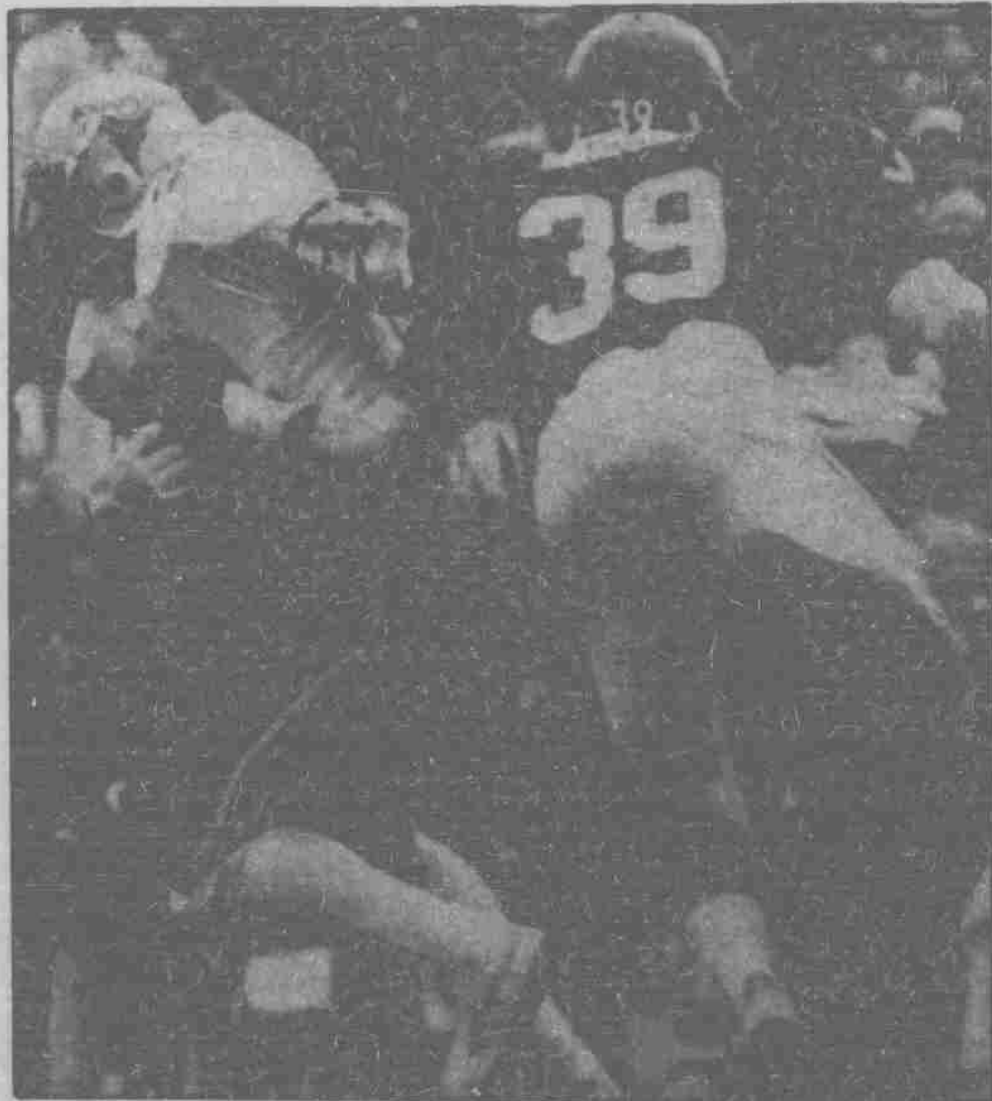
"We think we may be better than last year," he said.

Kevin Murphy, UPI's Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year in 1983, made several pre-season All-America teams. He and freshman Darrell Reed will start at the ends. Switzer said he thinks Reed is better than last year's starter, Darryl Goodlow.

Keith Stanberry, an all-conference candidate, returns at strong safety. He'll be helped by Andre Johnson, a redshirt freshman who beat out returning starter Brian Hall for the starting job.

Up front, noseguard Tony Casillas will anchor the defensive line. The Sooners are inexperienced at tackle and linebacker, but Switzer said he's expecting big things from freshman Brian Bosworth.

"He's better than any linebacker in the Big Eight right now," Switzer



Oklahoma defensive end Kevin Murphy flags down Iowa State's Tommy Davis.

said. Switzer may be feeling the pressure this year. After three straight four-loss seasons, the OU Board of Regents voted not to extend Switzer's five-year contract, he still has four years remaining. Treps downplayed the importance of the regents' decision. "He's not under a mandate," Treps said. "I think they were sending him a message that they

wanted a few changes." The biggest change has been discipline. Switzer and the coaching staff have tightened the reins this year, imposing stricter penalties for skipping classes or being late to practice.

"The regents wanted increased academic progress and more discipline," Treps said. "Those are important foundations for any football program."