

## Sports

# NU-OU tilt to test defenses

By Jeff Korbek  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The stage is set with players, fans and bowl officials hedging on the outcome of the Nebraska-Oklahoma television football game Saturday at 2:50 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

The oddsmakers have the top-ranked Huskers as narrow favorites over the sixth-ranked Sooners. The game will more or less decide the Big Eight championship. It will feature the nation's top rushing offense (Nebraska) against the nation's top rushing defense (Oklahoma).

But Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne is not as concerned with getting his team prepared for Oklahoma as he would be for a team not as strong.

"Sometimes, I get more concerned about games like Iowa State and Kansas because those are games you're heavily favored in," Osborne said after Wednesday's practice.

He said people would have a hard time understanding a loss against Kansas last week.

"There's a certain amount of tension to every game, but I have fewer things to worry about this week," Osborne said. "I'm sure the players are going to play

hard and prepare well."

A win over Oklahoma will ensure the Huskers an outright Big Eight title and a fourth consecutive trip to the Orange Bowl and another chance at the elusive national championship.

Last week Nebraska clinched at least a tie for the Big Eight crown with their victory over Kansas. But a loss this week will leave the Huskers' future plans uncertain until after the Oklahoma State-Oklahoma game. Both Oklahoma and Oklahoma State have a shot at sharing the conference title.

The only player to miss the Oklahoma game will be Jason Gamble. Gamble suffered a knee injury in the Kansas game and has had arthroscopic knee surgery. Three other players missed practice earlier in the week but returned Wednesday.

Wingback Shane Swanson missed practice Monday and Tuesday with a sore leg, kicker Dale Klein was out for two days with tonsillitis and I-back Doug DuBose missed Tuesday with a pulled hamstring.

Osborne said his team is reasonably healthy. He eased up on practices Wednesday and Thursday, allowing the players to practice in sweats.

The game has been touted as a defense struggle as

Nebraska's number-one defense faces Oklahoma's second-ranked defense. The Huskers are only allowing 203.5 yards a game and Oklahoma 211.8. Oklahoma's defense is faced with stopping the Huskers' powerful offense.

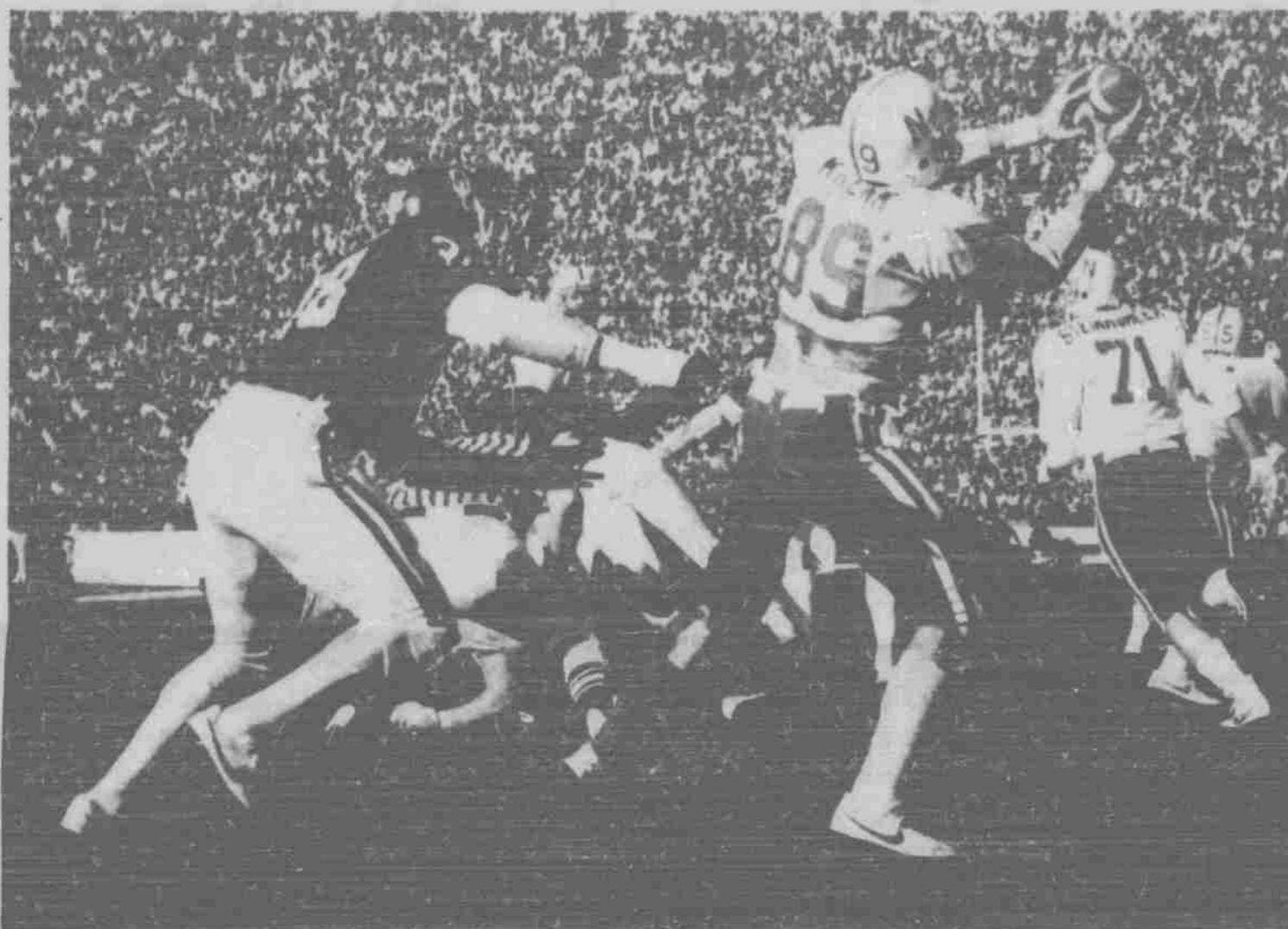
Nebraska leads the nation in rushing with 328.5 yards a game and is ninth in total offense with 433 yards a game.

Not only are fans, players and coaches anticipating Saturday's game, but Memorial Stadium's security is too. Chuck Pool, Assistant Sports Information Director, said it is natural to increase security for a game like Oklahoma — Nebraska.

Pool said Nebraska officials want to avoid the kind of ugly scene that occurred two years ago. The stadium's goal posts were torn down and Barry Switzer was knocked over by enthusiastic fans.

Pool said he urges the Nebraska fans to be a little creative and come up with something a little less destructive than tearing down goal posts or throwing oranges onto the field.

"Now is the big test," Pool said. "We see how truly classy Nebraska fans are."



Daily Nebraskan File Photo

Mark Mauer rifles a touchdown pass to tight end Mitch Krenk in Nebraska's 37-14 victory against the Sooners in 1981 at Norman. The pass put Nebraska ahead 24-7.

## Undefeated Brigham Young unranked about third ranking

By Richard Cooper  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Two teams in the national ratings are undefeated 1-1, BYU and South Carolina. But they are not number one, the Cornhuskers are.

After Nebraska lost to Syracuse earlier in the season the Huskers dropped to seventh in the polls. For the last five weeks the Cornhuskers slowly have moved up. BYU was ranked ahead of the Huskers until two weeks ago. They are 10-0 and ranked third in the country. So why isn't BYU number one?

Pat Arnold of Associated Press said that when the writers vote on who is number one, a lot of times an undefeated team that hasn't played a very tough schedule will not get as many votes as a team that has played a tough schedule and has lost once.

Brigham Young coach LaVell Edwards said not being number one doesn't bother him that much.

"There is nothing we can do about it," Edwards said. "We have never been on national television, by not getting that national exposure it really hurts us," Edwards said.

Edwards said he has no complaints about Nebraska being number one.

"Nebraska deserves to be number one. They have come back well since their loss to Syracuse," Edwards said.

BYU quarterback Robbie Bosco said the rankings really don't mean that much to the team

because the season still is not over yet.

We still have a chance to be number one, Nebraska and South Carolina still could lose, and this is the highest we have ever been in the rankings," Bosco said.

Bosco is currently one of the top passers in the nation and is a candidate for the Heisman trophy. Bosco said he hopes BYU will play a team in the Holiday Bowl that is ranked in the top ten.

"I would love a shot at South Carolina or even Nebraska because I know that both teams would be a real challenge to play," Bosco said.

"But the likelihood of playing those two teams is real remote," he said.

The Cougars have already received their bowl berth because they have clinched the Western Athletic Conference title. The conference has a contract with the Holiday Bowl so the Cougars will not be able to play in any other bowl games.

"I am very content with playing in the Holiday Bowl because if we had a 7-4 record and still won the conference, then we would still get to go to a bowl," Edwards said.

A possible opponent for the Cougars in the Holiday Bowl is Boston College. South Carolina was being considered until they beat Florida State last week. They are now in the number one spot for the Orange Bowl.

Edwards said he heard from Holiday Bowl officials that there is still a possibility that Oklahoma or Oklahoma State could face the Cougars in the Holiday Bowl.

## Ex-Husker quarterback says team effort needed

By Kevin Warneke  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

Mark Mauer remembers Nov. 21, 1981.

It was one of the highlights of his collegiate football career, he said.

He remembers receiving the starting assignment after an injury sidelined quarterback Turner Gill. He remembers leading the Huskers to a 37-14 victory over arch-rival Oklahoma.

Although he remembers the victory, he doesn't remember the specifics.

Those specifics show Mauer turned in an outstanding performance. He passed for 148 yards on 11 completions of 16 attempts. A Mauer-to-Mitch Krenk touchdown pass gave the Huskers a 24-7 half-time lead.

But, he said, the victory was a team effort.

"I wasn't a great quarterback," he said. "I needed help from the team. It took 11 of us to win."

Now he hopes someone will have a big game Saturday against Oklahoma when the Huskers attempt to win their fourth undisputed conference title. It may be quarterbacks Travis Turner or Craig Sundberg, or running backs Jeff Smith or Doug DuBose.

But for those players to do well, Mauer said, all 11 offensive play-

ers must have a good game.

Mauer said he is confident that starting quarterback Turner will play well. But, he said, he won't give him advice about playing the Sooners.

"Travis will play well because he wants to play well," Mauer said. "I'm not in the position to give advice. He knows what to expect."

Mauer, who is the offensive coordinator for the freshmen team, also scouts Nebraska opponents and had the opportunity to watch Oklahoma defeat Colorado.

The Nebraska-Oklahoma game will be decided at the line of scrimmage, he said.

Oklahoma has fast, aggressive defensive linemen, Mauer said, and Nebraska's offensive linemen will have to come off the ball well. They will have to control the line of scrimmage, he said.

If the offensive linemen don't dominate Oklahoma's linemen, he said, the running and passing attack will be hampered.

And Turner, Smith, Sundberg... won't have big games, he said.

Defensively, Nebraska will have to control Oklahoma's speed, he said.

When the Huskers take the field Saturday, Mauer said, he will be caught up in the excitement.

"There's a lot lying on this game," he said.

## College Football Bible

**Oklahoma at Nebraska:** The favorite here, despite the records, despite the loss to Kansas, is Oklahoma. Series belongs to Oklahoma with 7-4 record in last 11 years and 9-2 against the spread. The Sooners have covered six of eight times in Lincoln. The Huskers on the other hand are 1-5 against the spread against a top team, 1-3 against heavy runners. Football Bible says bet Oklahoma or pass.

**Penn State at Notre Dame:** The bottom line: Do you want your money on Joe Paterno or Gerry Faust? Let history be the guide. Bet Penn State as a dog or pass. Both teams had a week off to prepare for this game, and Paterno has a history of making the most of those.

**Iowa at Minnesota:** Another game determined by current per-

formance. Based on past performance, consider that Minnesota leads series 10-4-1, and 4-3 against the spread in last seven games. Key is how important it is to Iowa to win it big. The series is 6-2 against the spread in last eight games.

**Texas vs. Texas Christian:** With Horned Frogs' sudden climb to prominence, a low point spread may favor Texas. Past performance rating says bet Texas at 17 under. Another to double-check with current performance ratings.

The College football Bible is a handicapping guide to college football published by Chuck Bauer of Hacienda Heights, Calif., who designed and researched the book. Bauer encourages prospective betters and interested others to call 1-818-336-3745 for current performance updates on games.