

Sports

FSU game to be 'grand experiment'



Nebraska linebacker Marc Munford, 41, helps tackle a running back during a scrimmage. Munford should get a test from Florida State Saturday as the 17th-ranked Seminoles raid Lincoln.

By Mike Reilley
Senior Reporter

In his 13 years as football coach at Nebraska, Tom Osborne said he has never been more uncertain about an opening game than he is about the Cornhuskers' game against Florida State Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Osborne's justification of his uncertainty is two-fold.

First of all, he said, the Huskers' inexperience could cause some problems. They return only four starters from last year's 10-2 squad, the lowest total in 21 years.

"We have a lot of kids that haven't been out there before," Osborne said. "A lot of them have played in games when the score was 44-0, but there's a big difference between that and being out there for the opening kickoff."

An experienced Florida State team is another cause for uncertainty, Osborne said. The Seminoles opened their season last week with a 38-12 win against Tulane.

"One thing Florida State has going for them is they already have a game under their belts," he said. "They went into the Tulane game with somewhere around 13 returning starters whereas we're going into our first game with six or seven experienced people."

Osborne said the Huskers view Saturday's game as "the grand experiment."

"We've done all we can to prepare to this point," he said. "We've had a good fall camp and we have some talent on our football team. I just wish I knew a little more about how they're going to perform in a game situation."

Another question that may not be answered until Saturday is whether sophomore I-back Keith Jones will redshirt. Osborne said the coaching staff is "still debating" about Jones' status.

"Keith's ready to play but we'll do what's best for the team," Osborne said. "We feel like it depends on the situation. If we have an injury early in the season, Keith is going to get to play. But if Doug (DuBose) holds up and plays well and so does Paul (Miles) and Jon Kelley, he may

redshirt."

If Jones, who is slated to return kickoffs with DuBose, plays one down, he can't redshirt without losing a year of eligibility, Osborne said.

"We don't plan to use him in a frivolous way," Osborne said. "If he plays, we'll use him enough to justify a year of eligibility."

After the Huskers worked out in sweats Thursday, Osborne said they looked "fairly sharp" and "reasonably healthy."

Dana Brinson, who is listed as the No. 3 wingback and No. 1 kick returner on Nebraska's depth chart, was sidelined with a knee injury during practice Wednesday but returned Thursday.

"Dana was out here and able to do a little bit but he's still stiff and is still questionable for Saturday," Osborne said. "I don't think he has a severe injury that will knock him out of the Illinois game or beyond."

Except for senior left guard Brian Blankenship, who was held out because of a sinus infection, every member of the varsity practiced Thursday, Osborne said.

Although he was unable to obtain a game film of Florida State's game against Tulane, Osborne said he watched the game on television. Secondary coach Bob Thornton went to New Orleans, La. to scout the Seminoles in person.

"I sent Bob down there to watch all of their pass patterns," Osborne said.

"Defensively, they have a lot of people returning up front," he said. "They look a little stronger in that area than last year."

Florida State returns six starters from an offense that ranked third in the country in scoring last year with a 35.4 average. But that number has shrunk to five since wide receiver Hassan Jones re-separated his shoulder while diving for

"His teams are exciting, well prepared and well-coached," he said. "He's done a fantastic job there over the years turning the program around and bringing it to a higher level." a pass in the Tulane game. He's expected to be sidelined for the next two to three weeks.

Osborne said Seminole coach Bobby Bowden "is one of my favorite people in coaching."

Top twenty teams face off in five key games

Writer predicts FSU upset

By Herschel Nissenson
AP Sports Writer

The end of the season usually is the time for in-state rivalries. But Florida and Miami get together at the start.

The Orange Bowl will have a rare sellout when fifth-ranked Florida visits Miami Saturday night. The game matches two coaches who are former colleagues.

Florida's Galen Hall and Miami's Jimmy Johnson were on the Oklahoma staff together from 1970-72. They arrived in Florida last year by different routes: While Johnson's travels took him from Oklahoma to Arkansas to Pitt to Oklahoma State (as head coach from 1979-83), Hall remained at Oklahoma until last season, when he became Florida's offensive coordinator.

Hall has yet to lose as a head coach. He replaced Charley Pell three games into the 1984 season and posted an 8-0 record the rest of the way as the probation-bound Gators won the Southeastern Conference championship — at least the SEC Executive Committee's version. The presidents took it away from them in May.

The major newcomer is neither Hall nor Johnson. It's Vinny Testaverde, who inherited Miami's quarterback job when Bernie Kosar opted for the NFL. At 6-5, Testaverde is about the same size as Kosar. What may surprise some people is that he has a better arm.

But Testaverde has only thrown 46 passes in two seasons (1982 and 1984), completing 22 for 263 yards and a touchdown.

"Vinny has the capabilities to be a great quarterback," says Johnson. "He has a great arm and has studied the system for three years."

The Gators are 3½-point favorites but the pick is Miami 24-21.

The first week of the season produced an overall 8-3 record, which might be good enough for a major bowl these days, and 5-4 against the line.

The highlight of the opening week's predictions was nailing the exact score of Brigham Young's 28-14 victory over Boston College in the Kickoff Classic.

The first major weekend of 1985 features five games between members of the Associated Press Top Twenty, and Florida-Miami isn't one of them.

No. 6 Southern California at No. 11

Illinois (favored by 3): You won't find either of these teams on TV during the regular season as they finish NCAA penalties, but you could see them in the Rose Bowl. Illinois 28-21.

No. 19 Penn State at No. 7 Maryland (by 7): Despite being an underdog, Penn State leads the series 27-1 and has won 20 straight since a 21-17 loss in 1961. Maryland 28-14.

No. 20 UCLA at No. 8 Brigham Young (by 6½): What's this? BYU, a Western Athletic Conference "nobody" favored over a Pac-10 somebody? Next thing you know someone will have the Cougars winning a national championship some day. BYU 30-17.

No. 17 Florida State at No. 10 Nebraska (by 6): The Seminoles have a game under their belts, a 38-12 trouncing of Tulane. Nebraska will never be too far down but the Cornhuskers lost most of last year's starters. Upset Special of the Week. Florida State 21-14.

No. 16 Oklahoma State at No. 12 Washington (by 2½): Having knocked off Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl for a No. 2 national finish in 1984, the Huskies begin 1985 by taking on . . . Oklahoma State 17-14.

Other games:
East — Boston College (by 7) 28, Temple 14; North Carolina (by 2½) 21, Navy 14; West Virginia (by 18) 35, Louisville 21.

South — Duke (by 7) 24, Northwestern 14; Mississippi 20, Memphis State (by 3) 14; Mississippi State 24, Arkansas State 17; North Carolina State (by 9) 34, East Carolina 20; Southern Mississippi 21, Louisiana Tech 14; Vanderbilt 28, Tennessee-Chattanooga 14; Virginia Tech 21, Richmond 7; Wake Forest 31, William & Mary 14.

Midwest — Bowling Green 38, Ball State 17; Cincinnati 35, Austin Peay 14; Eastern Michigan 20, Youngstown State 13; Kansas State 30, Wichita State 14.

Southwest — Baylor (by 8) 37, Wyoming 13, Texas Tech (by 10) 28, New Mexico 14; Houston (by 3½) 35, Tulsa 14.

Far West — Arizona 31, Toledo 14; Colorado (by 5½) 27, Colorado State 14; Long Beach State (by 11) 35, Utah State 21; Fullerton State 21, Montana 14; Nevada-Las Vegas 28, Tennessee Tech 14; Oregon State 27, Idaho 21; Pacific 24, Sacramento State 14; San Jose State (by 10) 31, New Mexico State 14; Utah 24, Boise State 14; Washington State (by 7) 28, California 24.

DN predicts routine NU win

Well, sports fans, last week was a tough way to start the season as I went a dismal four of nine.

The big games I missed were Florida State's win over Tulane — the upset special never came to be — Kansas' shocking victory over Hawaii, California's rout of San Jose State, Oregon's dramatic victory over Washington State and Cincinnati's victory over Virginia Tech.

Before I get into any reasons or excuses for my poor showing last week, I'll start on this week's predictions, which carry a 100 percent guarantee of being more accurate.



Jeff Apel

Oklahoma State 28, Washington 24 at Seattle, Wash.

Rick Fenney and the rest of the Washington offense may feel like they are in a galaxy far, far away once the tough Cowboy defense, whose linemen are often described as Darth Vader look-alikes, get through with them.

Brigham Young 31, UCLA 17 at Provo, Utah.

Tradition will make this one closer than it really should be, since both of these teams are known as football powers.

However, Robbie Bosco's arm will be too much for a Bruin secondary that has proven vulnerable in the past.

SMU 49, Texas El-Paso 10 at Dallas, Texas.

If this game was based on honesty, Texas El-Paso would win easily. But it will take more than a recent probation and the dismissal of an assistant coach for the Mustangs to lose to the El Paso Miners who have shoveled themselves to the bottom of the college football heap.

Colorado 16, Colorado State 14 at Fort Collins, Colo.

Anyone who can stand the agony of watching this "contest" will never be caught thinking they are seeing the great Oklahoma wishbones of the 1970s when Colorado unveils its new wishbone attack, but the Buffalo offense should be good

enough to withstand a tough test from the Golden Rams defense, which will be sky high for this in-state rivalry.

Fullerton 28, Montana 10 at Missoula, Mont.

Fullerton is still steamed from being denied a bowl bid last season after posting an impressive 11-1 record and should vent those frustrations on a lowly Grizzly squad, which posted a dismal 2-8-1 record last season.

Nebraska 31, Florida State 14 at Lincoln.

The Cornhuskers will pick up their first win of the 1985 campaign by picking up a victory that will sound tougher than it is. The Seminoles have a combination of inexperience and injuries that will allow them to do anything but pull off another upset like they somehow managed to do four years ago against the Huskers.

Bowling Green 30, Ball State 16 at Bowling Green, Ohio.

Bowling Green will repeat its season opening performance of 1984 by again defeating the Cardinals, only this year it will be by a little closer score than last year's 38-13 contest.

Florida 31, Miami 17 at Coral Gables, Fla.

It will take more than hurricane Elena and a stiff penalty for numerous NCAA violations for Florida to lose this one.

Former Oklahoma State coach Jimmy Johnson will not only wish he had Bernie Kosar back for his junior year with the Hurricanes, but he will also wish he would have never taken the job as the successor to Howard Schnellenberger since he will start to feel the heat when he can't deliver another national championship to Miami.

Illinois 25, Southern California 14 at Champaign, Ill.

The highly explosive Illinois offense will warm up for its showdown with Nebraska by trouncing a Southern Cal team that never has really found a tailback to replace Marcus Allen.

Maryland 30, Penn State 18 at College Park, Md.

When Joe Paterno said, "We're not a very good football team" after spring practice, he convinced me that Maryland will avenge last year's season opening loss to the Nittany Lions by picking up their first win of the 1985 campaign here.