

Sports



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Jerry Mlinar looks to pass while Micah Heibel (48) and Jeff Anderson (66) provide protection from Kent Wells (75).

Husker scrimmage Saturday

Injuries might change look of annual red-white game

Analysis by Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's spring football season ends Saturday with the annual red-white intrasquad scrimmage in Memorial Stadium.

This year's game, however, may look much different than it has in past years, mainly due to the injury problem which plagued the Cornhuskers throughout the past weeks.

I-backs Ken Clark, Doug DuBose and Keith Jones will miss Saturday's scrimmage because of knee injuries. John Kelley and Jeff Wheeler, who both practiced Wednesday, will be held out for precautionary reasons.

Quarterbacks. Sophomore Steve Taylor will play for the red team. McCathorn Clayton, Nebraska's starter last season, will head the white team, backed by Clete Blakeman and Wendell Wooten. The whites appear to have the advantage in depth, but Mike Preston, who backed Taylor on the freshman team last fall, and Jerry Mlinar should use this game to prove what they can do.

Running backs. Not much is left here. Dave Clare will play for the Reds, while Ray Nelson will handle the I-back chores for the Whites. The fullback position has not been affected heavily by injuries. Ken Kaelin and converted I-back Tyreese Knox will throw the lead blocks for Clare, with Micah Heibel and Sam Schmidt handling that job for the White team. It may be a goal for both teams to finish the game with no more injuries to the running backs.

Receivers. Receivers on both teams will be doing their best to make their signal-callers look good. The Red team will have the services of Jason Gamble and Robb Schnitzler at split end. Gamble started for Nebraska as a freshman

two seasons ago before he suffered a knee injury that caused him to red-shirt last fall. Tony Avant, Tim McCoy and Gary Washington will also challenge at split end for the Reds. On the White team, Hendley Hawkins and Rod Smith will play at split end, as will Chip Bahe and Lorenzo Hicks. At wingback, the Red team will again have the edge, claiming first-teamers Dana Brinson and Von Sheppard, last year's starter. Pernell Gatson, returning after a hardship season last fall, will start for the Whites, with Nelson and Jamie Worden playing backup. Nebraska's intense quarterback battle will be made clear Saturday with the help of the receivers.

Offensive line. Both offensive lines have size, speed, strength and talent. For the Red team, Mark Cooper and Jeff Sellentin will be at the "center" of the coaches' attention, as they try to replace graduated all-Big Eight center Bill Lewis. John Nichols also will vie for those honors on the White team. Kevin Lightner, John McCormick, Stan Parker and Tom Welter will round out the Red front line, with Tom Banderas and Todd Millikan handling the tight end duties. The White offensive line will have more depth than the Red line, with two players sharing the second-team spot on the depth chart in every position. Players who should be prominent for the White team include Mark Diaz, Ron Galois, Mike Oeffler, Brad Johnson and Andy Keeler.

Defensive ends. The ends for the Red team include Broderick Thomas and Brad Tyrer on the left side and Tony Holloway and Jeff Jamrog on the right. Each player shares the top depth chart spot at his respective position and should receive close scrutiny from the coaches. The White team's ends will include Randall Jobman, Bump

Novacek and Steve Stanard.

Defensive interior line. The offensive linemen will have their work cut out for them, with both teams having players who are part of Nebraska's strongest, fastest defensive line ever. Lee Jones, Danny Noonan and Chris Spachman will get the starting nods for the Red team, with Danny Groskurth and Lawrence Pete providing help from the sidelines. The White interior includes Kurt Skradis and Kent Wells at left tackle, Dave Bryan and Sean Putnam at middle guard and Tim Heyes and Tim Rother at right tackle. The White team has the definite advantage in depth, but the Reds have an edge in the starting three.

Linebackers. The Red team will start Steve Forch on the weakside and either LeRoy Eienne or Kevin Parsons on the strongside. The White team will have Blake Henning and Brad Ferguson on the weakside while Steve DeShazer, Brian Miller and Doug Welniak will close the gaps on the strongside.

Secondary. Again, the White team will have the upper hand depth-wise. The Red team will start John Custard at one cornerback, while Charles Fryar and Cleo Miller will help at the other spot. The White team corners will be Tom Nelson and either Kurt McCallum or Marvin Sanders. The monster position will be filled by either Chris Carr or Brian Washington for the Red team, while Gary Schneider or Jeff Tomjack will start for the Whites. The safety for the Reds will be Bryan Siebler, while Pittsburgh transfer Dante Wiley will play for the White team.

Kicking. John Kroeker will punt for the Red team, and Dale Klein will place kick. The White team will have the punting abilities of Craig Schnitzler and place kicking will be done by Chris Drennan.

Fly ball tarnishes Creighton victory

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

Creighton's 5-4 victory over Nebraska Thursday at Buck Beltzer Field left Cornhusker coach John Sanders fuming. Sanders was left searching for answers as to why his squad dropped its fourth game in seven days.

He said it was a combination of the defensive breakdowns and a lack of discipline at the plate.

"I'm sure we will have some people ask themselves what happened," Sanders said following the contest. "I'm sure we will be able to answer that question."

Sanders said he refused to comment on an infield fly rule call in the bottom of the eighth inning, killing a potential Husker rally.

With one out and the bases loaded in the inning, Nebraska shortstop Bruce Wobken lofted a short fly ball into left field.

Wobken was called out by home-plate umpire Dallas Parks because of the rule. But as Creighton's shortstop Elvis Dominguez and left fielder Gary Selvera were pursuing the baseball, it

dropped into shallow left field, allowing Mark Kister to score from third base for Nebraska's final run.

John Franklin was thrown out trying to advance to third from second for the final out.

Sanders protested the call to parks and umpires John Sousa and Joe Stanek. Sr. Sanders said that he declined to point at that call as the reason for the Cornhuskers loss.

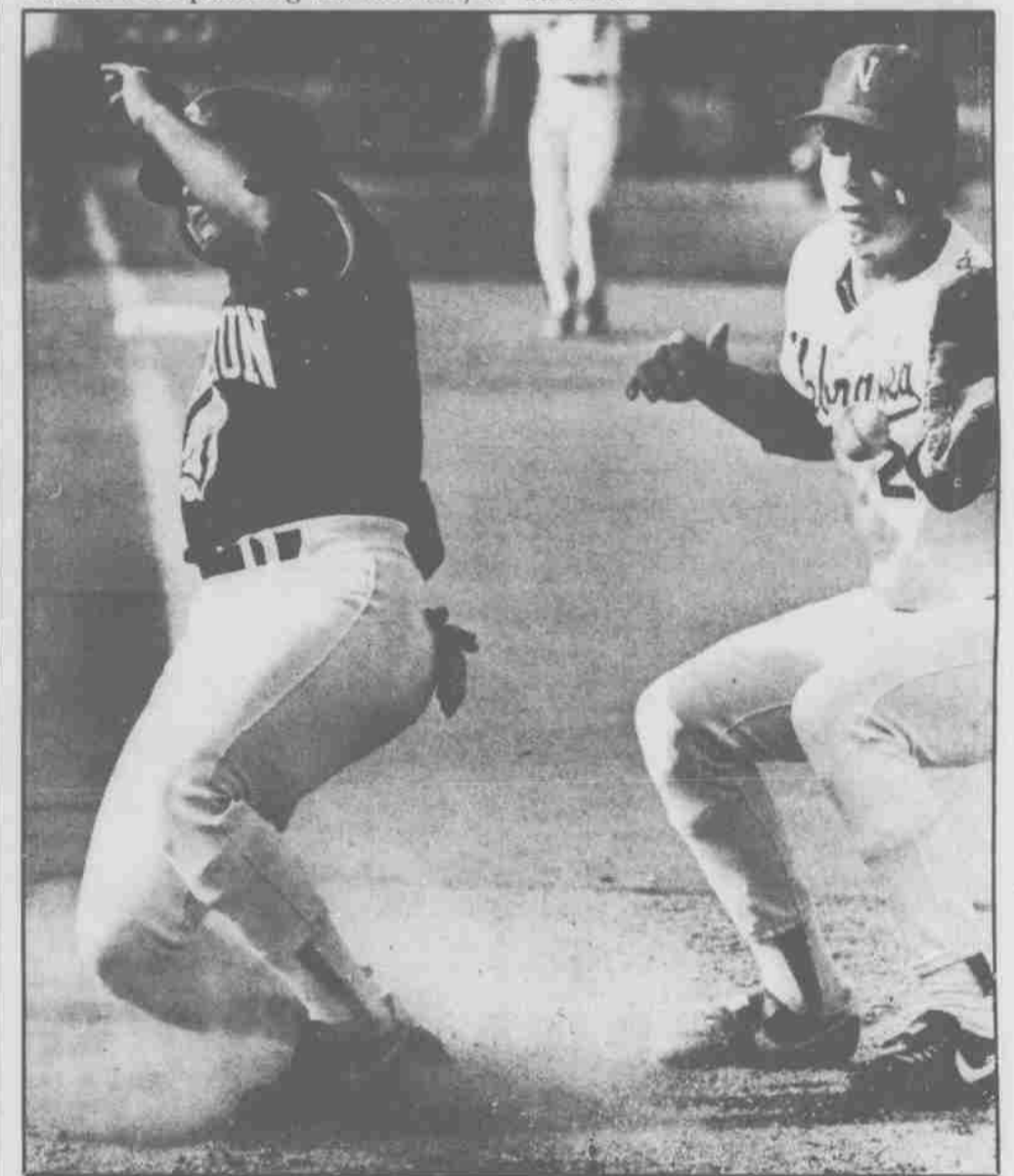
"I will not use anything as an excuse," he said.

Creighton jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but the Huskers responded with two runs in their half of the inning to take a 2-1 lead.

The lead then changed hands three times over the course of the next six innings until the eighth inning Creighton reliever Jeff Kopyta retired in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Hendry said he couldn't comment on the eighth inning call because of the angle he saw the play.

"He (Parks) did call it (infield fly rule) right away," he said. "That's baseball."



Dan Dulaney/Daily Nebraskan

Creighton Blue Jay Eddie Ortega (11) slides past Cornhusker relief pitcher Kip Gross (24) for the go-ahead run during Nebraska's game with Creighton Thursday at Buck Beltzer Field. The Blue Jays won the game 5-4.

Huskers, Titans clash

By Todd Aron
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's baseball team travels to Oklahoma City, Okla. for one game tonight and one Saturday against Oral Roberts. Both games start at 7 p.m. and are scheduled for nine innings.

Going into Thursday's action, the Titans had compiled a 35-11 record and were riding a five-game winning streak.

The strength of Oral Roberts is its power hitting and its two talented left-handed pitchers. With little speed on the base paths, Oral Roberts coach Larry Cochell employs Earl Weaver's strategy of playing for the big inning and the three-run homer.

The catalysts behind the offensive strategy are Pete Schmidt, Adam Casillas and Craig Colbert. Schmidt, the designated hitter, leads the team in hitting with a .411 average and in RBIs with 58. He also is second on the team in homers with 11. Third baseman Colbert has hit a team-leading 12 home runs, is second with 57 RBIs and is hitting .367. Left-fielder Casillas boasts a .387 average, second only to Schmidt's .411.

Oral Roberts' leading base stealer is center fielder Steve Hecht. Hecht has 14 stolen bases in 20 attempts. During April he hit more than .400, raising his average from a sub-.200 mark to .303.

Oral Roberts line-up also includes two pre-season All-Americans in right fielder Bob Zepic and first baseman Mike Schambough. Schambough is hitting .358 with four home runs and 47 RBIs. Zepic is in the midst of a slump and is hitting .284 with eight homers with 38 RBIs.

The team's two left-handers are the probable starters against Nebraska in the two-game series. Greg Oram will be on the mound tonight; he is 9-2 with a 3.99 ERA. For Saturday's contest Tim McCoy will start for the Titans. McCoy picked up his 10th win of the season against two losses Tuesday night against Wichita State. McCoy's earned run average is 3.63.

Right-hander Garry Clark is the top relief pitcher. He has a 1-1 record with two saves and a 2.33 ERA.

After the Oral Roberts series, Nebraska travels to Minneapolis for two games with the Minnesota Gophers on Monday.

No. 1 tennis team singles player says Nebraska could win Big 8

By Kristi Reetz
Staff Reporter

Nebraska could win the Big Eight tournament, said the No. 1 singles player on the Nebraska men's tennis team. The tournament will be Thursday and Friday in Oklahoma City.

Craig Johnson, a senior, will probably play his last competitive tennis match.

"Since we've done pretty well this

year, the team is going with a lot of confidence," Johnson said. The Huskers are tied with Kansas as the second seed going into the tournament, behind Oklahoma State.

Johnson said the Huskers could have their best year.

"The highest we've finished (in the Big Eight) is third, so we have a good chance to better that," he said.

Johnson is also a member of the No. 1 doubles team, with freshman Robert

Sjoholm.

Johnson couldn't participate in the last three Big Eight matches because of an ankle injury.

"I tore some ligaments in my ankle a couple of weeks ago during a match, so I haven't played for about a week and a half," Johnson said. "Because of that, the Big Eight tournament will be sort of an experiment for me, but since I'm a senior I really want to play."

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