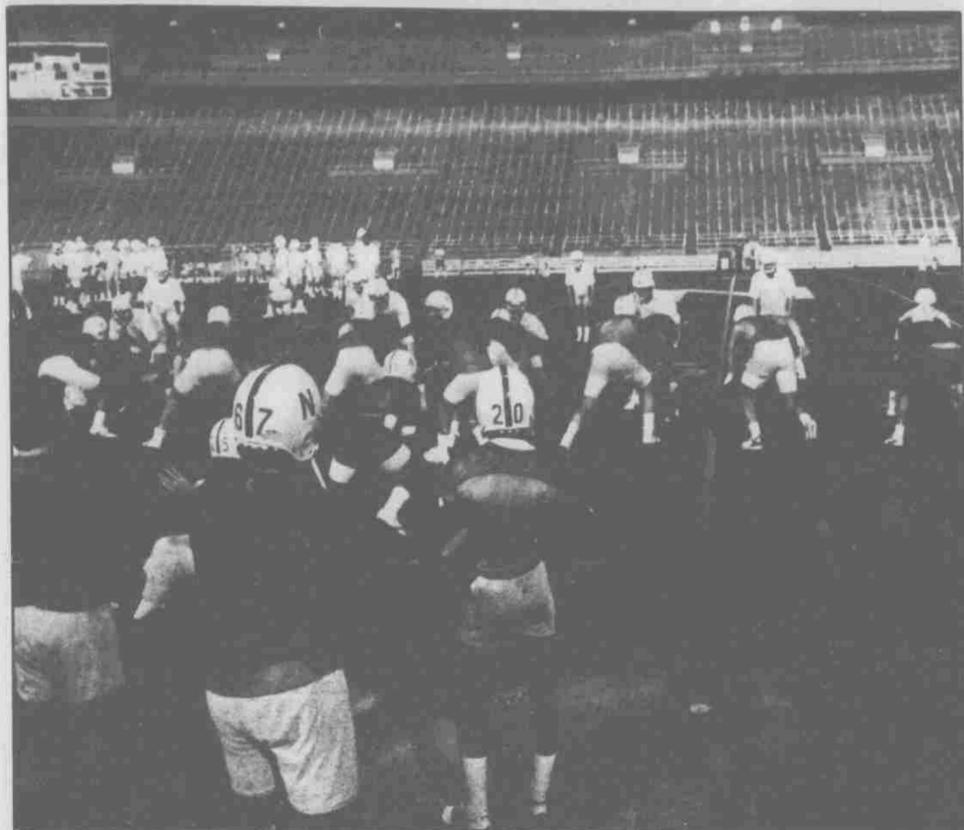


Sports



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Practice makes perfect

Cornhusker football players run through drills Thursday night in preparation for Saturday's game. The evening match between Nebraska and Florida State will be the first night game in Nebraska's history.

Freshmen win season opener

By Jeff Apel and Rich Cooper
Staff Reporters

IOWA FALLS, Iowa — The second-quarter power failure that hit the press box at Cadet Field was representative of the problems the Nebraska freshman football team had during their 17-2 victory over Ellsworth Junior College Thursday night.

Nebraska had problems maintaining a consistent offense, according to Coach Scott Downing.

The Cornhuskers were twice unable to convert fourth-and-short yardage situations deep in Ellsworth territory and were victimized by a first-half fumble by quarterback Gerri Gdowski.

"All in all, the offense still has some gelling," Downing said. "We want them to be a little more consistent."

Downing said part of the problem the Huskers faced was their inability to scout Ellsworth before the game. Although the Husker freshmen defeated the Panthers last year in Memorial Stadium, Downing said the film of that Nebraska-Ellsworth game was lost.

"Smaller colleges sometimes borrow

films from us to take a look at their players," Downing said. "That's what happened and it didn't get returned." Nebraska jumped to a 7-0 lead during its first possession of the game when the Huskers marched 60 yards in only nine plays.

Nebraska fullback Randy Gleason took a short kickoff and returned it to the Husker 40-yard line to start the drive. A pair of runs by fullback David Petz, a 20-yard wingback reverse by Brad Devall and an 18-yard pass from Gdowski to Petz gave Nebraska a first-and-goal situation at the Ellsworth 5-yard line.

The Husker freshmen then needed three plays — including a 2-yard touchdown run by Petz — to take a 6-0 lead early in the game. Gregg Barrios added the extra point for Nebraska.

Nebraska increased its lead to 10-0 early in the second quarter when Barrios kicked a 37-yard field goal with 14:09 left in the half. But the Huskers were unable to convert their second scoring opportunity of the second half.

Following a six-play, 52-yard drive which gave the Huskers a fourth-and-one situation at the Ellsworth 13-yard line, I-back Jim Gilbert was stopped for

no gain, allowing the Panthers to regain possession of the football.

"We felt like our defense played pretty tough," Downing said. "It was good to see them in game-type conditions."

Nebraska increased its lead to 17-0 in the second half when Gilbert scored on a 4-yard run, but Ellsworth managed to avoid a season-opening shutout when Nebraska punter Tom Janky elected to run out of the end zone following a bad snap from center.

Ellsworth coach Loyd Sisco said his squad was unprepared because of the short period of time the Panthers knew about the game against Nebraska. Ellsworth originally was scheduled to play the Iowa State junior varsity Sunday, but when Sisco learned the Cyclones had dropped their reserve program, he scheduled for the game against the Huskers.

"We had to change our offensive blocking schemes," Sisco said. "This is a young team, but it was a big advantage playing in front of the home crowd."

Nebraska will face Pittsburgh State, Monday, Sept. 29, at Memorial Stadium.

NCAA delays sanctions

By John Carlson
Staff Reporter

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale announced Thursday that the NCAA approved a stay of sanctions on the suspension of 60 Cornhusker players.

'The decision helps a lot. We now just have to go out and play good football.'
—Osborne

The players, suspended Wednesday from Saturday's football game against Florida State, will wait until Tuesday to see when their eligibility will be restored. Nebraska officials will meet with the NCAA Appeals Board Committee during Tuesday's meeting.

"We will play with the full roster of players," Massengale said. "We're looking forward to an exciting game."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he is amazed by all the attention the team has received on the matter.

"The decision helps a lot," Osborne said. "We now just have to go out and play football."

Osborne said the players learned of the stay decision at practice Thursday.

"We talked over the objectives for the ball game and then broke into

groups," Osborne said. "I then told the players (about the stay)."

Nebraska was faced with several options for the game against Florida State, including forfeiting the game, or suspending all or a portion of the athletes charged. Osborne said he's glad a forfeit is no longer in the picture for Saturday.

"We're all a little emotional about this whole thing," he said. "We wanted to play the game either way. This is our best option right now and we're pleased with that."

The Huskers must now turn their attention completely on the Seminoles, who are ranked No. 11 in the nation. Florida State defeated Toledo 24-0 last Saturday.

Florida State is led by sophomore quarterback Chip Ferguson, who com-

'We're all a little emotional about the whole thing. We wanted to play the game either way.'
—Osborne

pleted more than 50 percent of his passes in last Saturday's game. Tailback Sammie Smith, who has seen only limited action in practice and in last week's game, gained 60 yards on 12 carries against Toledo.

First Memorial Stadium night game shouldn't affect Huskers' performance

By Jim Ballard
Senior Reporter

History will be made Saturday night. It will be the first time in Nebraska history the Cornhuskers will play an official night game in Memorial Stadium.

The stadium has donned lights before, but those games had always started while the sun still was shining. This is the real thing.

Due to ABC's nationally televised coverage of the Nebraska-Florida State game, the network moved the starting time of the contest to 7:30.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said this should add a little something extra to the game.

"We've had lights in here, but never one (a game), that has been lighted from start to finish, so that will be a little bit of an interesting concept to this ballgame," Osborne said.

The other times the portable lights were installed were for games against Kansas in 1983 and Oklahoma in 1984.

Sports Information Director Tom Simons said the same company that installed the lights in the past, the Musco Lighting Company of Iowa, will do so for this game. He also said that one or two banks will be put up on the left side of the stadium, with more lights above the press-box.

Simons said he didn't expect night games to become a regular occurrence after Saturday mainly because of cost.

"The novelty is exciting to the fans right now, but if we did it on a regular basis it could cause a hardship on the fans coming in from out of state," Simons said.

Since the game is at night and is also on TV that should be good news for Husker fans.

In night games the Huskers are 15-5-2, and 9-3-1 in regular season night games. While playing on TV, Nebraska has a winning mark of 53-33, 19-10 at home.

The bad news is that on opening-season night games, Nebraska has managed only one win, a victory over Penn State in the 1983 Kick-Off Classic. They also have lost two and tied one when opening the season at night.

Osborne said that because Florida State has played a number of night games it might give them a slight advantage, but it may not matter.

"Most of our players have played at night before, and we will try to have night practice, so I think it's still going to be a matter of how well you play," Osborne said. "I don't think if you play in daylight or night it will make any difference to our players."

Columnist tracks NU's best wins, losses of all time

Ah, Nebraska football. So much for the Cornhuskers' snow-white, "we don't ever cheat here" image. Welcome to reality.

Chuck Green



I'm sure we'll all endure more of that kind of conversation in the next few weeks than we want in our lifetimes.

I'll let the rest of the Nebraska press corps cry, whine, pout and tell the Nebraska fans what they want to hear by saying the Huskers aren't in the same class as other schools who cheat

on a wider scale. I don't like to tell Nebraska fans what they want to hear, because half the time, it's not the whole story. But it won't be easy.

Despite what has happened in the past couple of days, the start of Nebraska's football season still makes my heart pound a little faster. I, like many Nebraskans, have grown up following the Huskers each fall with almost religious loyalty. Since I went to my first game in 1972 at the tender age of 6, Husker football has been a non-stop source of fascination for me. Since 1972, I have missed only two home games — the Oklahoma State game in 1980, because I was at the World Series in Kansas City, and last year's Oregon game. I missed that one because I was covering a gymnastics meet in Minneapolis for the Daily Nebraskan. I've also been to about 40 away games

and six bowl games, so I guess you could say I've been raised on Nebraska football.

Six years ago, Randy York, then a sports columnist of the Lincoln Journal-Star, compiled a list of what he thought were Nebraska's 10 best wins and worst losses of the 1970s. Being the sentimental guy I am and having a long background of Nebraska football memories, I thought I'd give it a try.

My list, however, is of personal memories I have of attending these games. For example, most Nebraska football fans would agree that Nebraska's 35-31 win over Oklahoma in 1971 was the best Husker win ever. But I didn't see that game, so it doesn't count. With that in mind, keep your nasty letters out of my office. OK?

So, for what it's worth — and that probably isn't too much — here are the

things I remember the most about the Nebraska football games I have seen in my life.

The 10 best wins:

1. Nebraska 17, Oklahoma 14, 1978 — Emotionally, this is still my favorite. Nebraska hadn't beaten the Sooners since 1971 and once again, Oklahoma fielded a cocky, seemingly unbeatable team who just happened to be undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the country. In one of the hardest-hitting games ever at Memorial Stadium — Nebraska caused six Sooner fumbles — the Huskers rolled to victory behind a 113-yard rushing effort by I-back Rick Berns. Nebraska iced the game by recovering a fourth-quarter fumble at the three-yard line and the goal posts were assured of a ride down O Street on the shoulders of thousands of delirious Nebraska fans.

2. Nebraska 21, North Carolina 17, 1977 Liberty Bowl — Nebraska scored twice in the fourth quarter on two Randy Garcia touchdown passes to overcome a 17-7 deficit. Garcia replaced Husker starter Tom Sorely and completed three passes for 56 yards and was named the Nebraska Offensive Player of the game.

3. Nebraska 31, Alabama 24, 1977 — Alabama had Jeff Rutledge at quarterback and Ozzie Newsome while Nebraska had been defeated by lowly Washington State one week earlier. So what happened? Nebraska led 10-7 after the first quarter following a fake field goal attempt that set up a touchdown. The Tide came back with a touchdown early in the second quarter, but moments later, Rick Berns put Nebraska back on top, 17-14.

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