

Sports

MU coach is realistic but undaunted

By Jim Ballard
Senior Reporter

The Missouri Tigers are having trouble winning lately and Coach Woody Widenhofer knows it.

"The bottom line is winning, and we haven't. We have a very young team, and we've run into a lot of injury problems," Widenhofer said.

Besides having a banged-up offensive line, Widenhofer, who is in his second year as the Tigers' coach, has had problems at one of the more vital positions.

"We've lost our top two quarterbacks. As a matter of fact our fourth-stringer is the starter," he said.

The regular starting quarterback, Ronnie Cameron, gave way to Omaha Burke graduate Jeff Henningsen last week. Cameron is suffering from a sprained right foot. He was doubtful for this week, but Widenhofer said he definitely won't see any action.

"It doesn't look like he's going to play. Jeff started last week, so we're going to stay with him," Widenhofer said.

On defense, because of inexperience, the Tigers are giving up an average of 27 points a game, losing to Indiana, Texas, Syracuse and last Saturday Colorado. Their only win of the season was an opening game victory over Utah State.

"On defense, we're just too young of a football team," he said. "We start five



Missouri linebackers Steve Vandegrift, 32, and Terry Walker stop Husker I-back Doug DuBose for no gain in last year's 28-20 Nebraska win. Vandegrift and Walker will try to do the same to Nebraska's offense Saturday.

Courtesy of Missouri Sports Information

sophomores and two freshmen, so we're very inconsistent."

Widenhofer praised the Nebraska team that will be lining up across from his team in Memorial Stadium.

"They are a very special team, one of

the best in the country," he said. "I think they're a lot better than last year."

One year ago, Nebraska squeaked out a 28-20 victory over a winless Missouri team in Columbia. In that game,

the Huskers needed a NCAA record-setting performance from kicker Dale Klein. Even though Nebraska managed only one touchdown, Klein was seven for seven in field goals.

Widenhofer said the main reason the

Huskers have been successful this season is their sophomore quarterback.

"I think Steve Taylor gives them something they've been looking for since Turner Gill," he said. "Also, (Keith) Jones has come in and played well."

"Defensively, I think with (Danny) Noonan and some of the people they have up front, they're better because they seem to have better speed on defense," Widenhofer said.

Widenhofer thinks with a healthy offensive line, Missouri would match up well with Nebraska.

"If we were really healthy and we had John Clay at four different positions we would be able to match-up," he said.

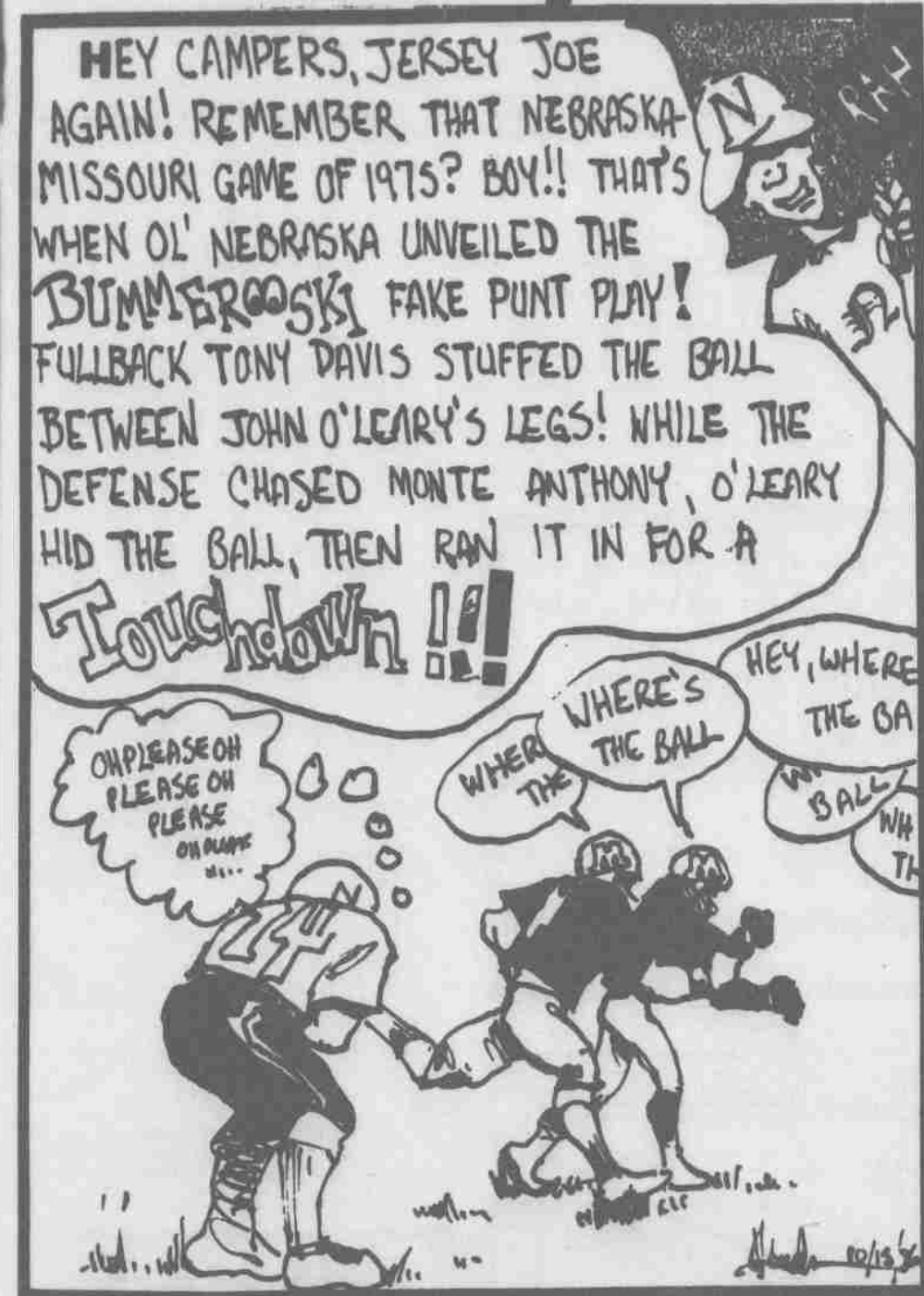
"With a healthy offensive line, we'd be able to play anybody in the country."

Clay is the Tigers' offensive tackle on the right side and is a top contender for the Outland and Lombardi awards that go to the top linemen in the country. He broke his hand, however, and has been playing the last two weeks with the injury.

Nebraska has won seven straight over Missouri. Nebraska's last loss was a 35-31 heartbreaker in 1978. However, four of those seven wins have been by eight points or less. Widenhofer feels his team gains an extra incentive when it plays Nebraska.

"I think everybody does; it's a real privilege to play a team of that caliber," Widenhofer said. "But our players aren't intimidated about playing a team like Nebraska."

Jersey Joe's weird sports



Men, women will compete

NU cross-country teams expect a run for their money Sunday

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's cross country teams are preparing for the Big Eight Championships in two weeks, by facing the toughest competition of the season Sunday. The women's team will compete in the Cal Poly-San Luis-Obispo Invitational, while the men's team will run at the Razorback Invitational at Fayetteville, Ark.

'The Razorbacks have a great team and they will be running on their home course. . .'
—Dirksen

Nebraska coach Jay Dirksen said both teams will have their hands full. The No. 3-ranked women's team will have to worry about last year's NCAA Division II champions Cal-Poly San Luis-Obispo.

"Cal-Poly is kind of like us. They have a lot of depth, and there is not much time between their first and seventh runner. They will definitely give us a good race," Dirksen said.

Last week Cal-Poly ran at the Stanford Invitational third, but the two teams it finished behind (Stanford and BYU) were ranked higher than Cal-Poly, Dirksen said.

Dirksen said Cal-Poly will not be the only school the Huskers will have to worry about. No. 20-ranked Cal-Irvine will also give the Huskers a run for their money along with UCLA and Houston. Both teams have been ranked in the top 20 at one time in the season, Dirksen said.

The reason this meet is so important to Nebraska, Dirksen said, is that if the Huskers need to be selected for an at-large berth for the NCAA Championships they will be picked by how they did against Top 20 teams.

Another reason why the meet is important, Dirksen said, is that it will be a very fast-paced competition, which the Huskers need to get used to for the NCAA Championships. The course is much different than what NU has run on because it will be on dirt or asphalt, which will make the course fast, he said.

Dirksen said Jill Noel will not run because of a pulled muscle in her left foot. Dirksen said he is not worried about Noel not running this weekend because the team has enough depth that they can do

without her.

The men's team will have the opportunity to race against the No. 1 team in the nation, the Arkansas Razorbacks. They also will be able to see what some of the Big Eight teams have because Oklahoma State and Oklahoma will be running.

The Huskers are ranked No. 14 in the country. Dirksen said he doesn't think Nebraska can beat the Razorbacks but thinks the Huskers can finish in the top three if they run a good race.

"The Razorbacks have a great team and they will be running on their home course, so that will make them even tougher to beat," Dirksen said. "It should be a very fast race because they have some excellent runners."

Dirksen said the men's team is having a great season because of his No. 3 through No. 5 runners: Brian Clark, Kraig Vanderbeek and Harald Graham. He said this meet will give them the experience necessary to do well in the Big Eight Championships Nov. 1 at Manhattan, Kan.

Jean Verster, Nebraska's top runner, will match up well with Arkansas' Joe Falcon, their No. 1 runner, Dirksen said. Last year at the NCAA's, Verster finished fifth while Falcon finished seventh.

Crew team to compete in Boston

By Jim Ballard
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's crew team travels to Boston this weekend to compete in the largest one-day rowing race in the world.

"This is considered the biggest race in the U.S. and the largest one-day race in the world," crew coach Steve Knapp said.

The "Head of the Charles Regatta" race will take place on the Charles River.

Knapp said several teams competing are the best in the country. Included in the field are the Canadian, British and American National teams, all the Ivy

League schools, Army, Navy and several other schools from the East Coast.

"Every year they take the top 15 teams from the year before and then send out entries for the other teams," Knapp said. "They look at past performances and how teams did against other teams."

The Nebraska squad will send the men's lightweight eight-man team. They also entered a heavyweight-four and a women's four team, but they were not accepted.

The team already has competed in two meets this year — the Head of Des Moines and the Head of the Rock in Rockhurst, Ill.

"At Des Moines, we didn't do well at all because we weren't prepared," Knapp said. "At the Rock, we did better because we had a couple of weeks to train and get ready."

Because crew is a club sport, the members pay for trips like these from their own pockets or through fund raisers. They also get \$1,000 a year from the Campus Recreation Office. For this trip to Boston, Knapp said, it is costing members \$135 each for their rooms and vans, plus whatever they want for spending money.

Their next meet for the team is Oct. 26 when it will sponsor the University of Nebraska Fall Regatta. Knapp said 11 entries have been received so far.

NU to play K-State, Northern Colorado

Nebraska's women's tennis team will be host to Kansas State and Northern Colorado today and Saturday at 1 p.m. at the East Campus courts, weather permitting. The Bob Devaney Sports Center is the alternate site for the meet in case of rain.

Nebraska finished fourth in the Big Eight last season.

The Cornhuskers are 0-1 in fall competition this season.

Last Thursday through Saturday was the 1986 Nebraska Women's Tennis Invitational. Cari Groce and Doneta Holmen were the Huskers' No. 1 doubles teams in the invite. Groce, a returning All-American and Holmen, a freshman, won their first two matches by defeating Clare Baldwin and Michele Vandenhoefer of Wichita State, 6-3, 6-3, and Kathleen Heckman and Karen Myers of Colorado, 6-7, 6-3, 6-5.