

Sports

Scrimmage concludes season of Husker spring practice

Analysis by Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Nebraska will conclude spring football practice with the annual Red-White Scrimmage Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

Here's position-by-position look at the teams:

Quarterback: After missing last week's scrimmage with injuries, the Cornhuskers' top two quarterbacks — Steve Taylor and Clete Blakeman — will return and play for the Red team. Gerry Gdowski, who rushed for 44 yards and passed for 172 and scored three touchdowns in last Saturday's scrimmage, will lead the White team, along with freshmen Jerry Dunlap and Jeff Miller.

Running back: All-Big Eight running back Keith Jones will join senior fullback Micah Heibel in the Red backfield. Tyreese Knox and Sam Schmidt will back them up. At least three I-backs — sophomore Ken Clark, senior Jon Kelley and sophomore Terry Rodgers — should see playing time for the Whites. Fullbacks Bryan Carpenter, a transfer from Coffeyville Junior College; Doug Dalton.

Offensive line: Senior right guard John McCormick, the only returning starter on the offensive line, will anchor the Red offensive line. John Nichols, Andy Keeler, Bob Sledge and Corey Bill Hudson will join McCormick on the Red line. The White line will include sev-

eral up-and-coming linemen, including guards John Nelson and John Roschal.

Tight end: Returning starter Tom Banderas will play for the Red team, as will Todd Millikan, who started several games last season when Banderas was injured. Basketball forward Keith Neubert will play for the White team.

Wide receivers: Split end Rod Smith, the nation's leading punt returner last year, will play for the Reds, and he will be backed up by Morgan Gregory, a starter on last seasons freshman team. Wingbacks Hendley Hawkins and Jamie Worden will also play for the Red team. Dana Brinson, a starter at wingback last year, will lead the White receiving corps.

Defensive line: Broderick Thomas, an All-Big Eight selection at defensive end last year, will anchor the Red defensive line. Jeff Jamrog, Jon Marco and Jeff Mills also will see time as the Red defensive end. Kurt Broer, Harlan Opie and Kenny Walker will be defensive ends for the Whites. Neil Smith, the Nebraska weight lifter of the year; Lawrence Pete; and Lee Jones will form the interior of the Red defensive line. Three middle guards — Mike Murray, Sean Putnam, and Kent Wells — should battle for playing time on the White line. Defensive tackles Willie Griffin, who was a tight end last season, and Tim Rother will play for the White team.

Linebackers: Steve Forch, who missed much of the spring with mono-

nucleosis, will return to lineback for the Reds. Doug Welniak should also see playing time for the Red team. Dante Wiley will lead the White linebacking crew and should be joined by Chris Caliendo and Mark Hagge.

Secondary: Injuries will deplete the secondary. Strong safeties, Brian Washington and Jeff Tomjack will give the Red secondary some experience, while Tim Jackson, if his ankle heals, and Lorenzo Hicks will also play for the Red team. Two players who were quarterbacks last year, McClathorn Clayton and Wendell Wooten, will be in the White secondary. Cornerback Cartier Walker also should get some playing time for the White squad.

Kicking game: John Kroeker will punt for the Red team, and redshirt Chris Drennan will handle place kicking. Besides his linebacker duties, Wiley will punt for the White team. Greg Barrios will placekick for the Whites.

Injuries will keep several players from participating in the scrimmage. Among the injured are cornerbacks Charles Fryar, John Custard and Jon Crippen. Safety Mark Blazek is doubtful for the scrimmage, and center Jake Young is out with a broken leg.

Injuries take their toll; Huskers still ranked No. 3

By Mark Derowitsch
Staff Reporter

Even with it many injuries, the Nebraska softball team is ranked No. 3 in the country. That comes a surprise to Coach Ron Wolforth.

According to Wolforth, several key players for the Huskers are ailing and may not play this weekend against Kansas and Missouri at Ames, Iowa.

Sophomore pitcher Mariys Handley has seen limited action this spring because of several injuries.

"I think that it has taken its toll on us," Wolforth said. "We need a healthy Mariys to make the conference schedule a little easier. Without her, that just makes it harder on us."

Lisa Winchester, who has a sore shoulder, is also questionable.

Wolforth said Margie Ogradowicz is "sick and is impossible for this weekend. That really hurts us since she leads the Big Eight Conference in almost every offensive category."

Amy Love is only at about 75 percent after hurting her ankle.

"We have been devastated with

all of our injuries, but we just have to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps," Wolforth said.

But, despite their injuries, the Huskers are confident going into the games with Missouri and Kansas this weekend.

"Right now, we're playing about as well as we have all year," Wolforth said. "The pitching and hitting are starting to come together. Our hitting has been real good the last few games and that is because of our aggressiveness at the plate."

"Sip" (Lori Sippel) no-hit Utah last weekend, and Donna Deardorff no-hit Iowa State. They have been throwing real well as of late," Wolforth said.

Wolforth said he is not worried about a lapse, which happened the last time Nebraska played in a round-robin weekend. After winning both games on Saturday, the Huskers lost both Sunday games.

"We have to go and be prepared to play all weekend," Wolforth said. "Last weekend, we played well Saturday, but then we expected the other teams to lay down and die against us."

Winning Des Moines meet would blind Huskers' prestige

Nebraska track coach Gary Pepin said he expects a sellout crowd when the Cornhuskers compete in the 78th annual Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, Friday and Saturday.

"It's one of the biggest relay carnival meets in the United States," Pepin said. "Some of the best athletes from in and out of the country will be there."

For the Huskers, it's a chance to compete against top competition "at a point when our athletes are in condition to perform well," Pepin said.

The Drake Relays are especially important for the team's prestige, Pepin said. A victory against such tough competition would build confidence, he said.

Historically, Nebraska is one of the most competitive teams in the country at the relays. The men are the fifth-winningest team at Drake and the women rank second behind

Prairie View A&M College in Texas.

The men last won the meet in 1985 when their 4 x 800-meter relay team set a meet record. Charlie Green set a meet record in the men's invitational 100-meter dash in 1968. The women's team, who last won in 1986, hold records in the 4 x 100-meter relay, 100-meter dash and the javelin.

Although Pepin didn't promise any record-breaking performances this year, he didn't discount the possibility. He said the meet means more in terms of preparation for the individuals.

"It certainly can help someone's confidence to do well at Drake," Pepin said. "It's a chance to have a really great competitive effort."

"I just hope we get pretty good weather and continue to get better for the conference meets coming up."

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