

New frosh coach expects tough season

By Kyle Schurman
Staff Reporter

First-year freshman football coach Shane Thorell will lead the Cornhusker team against what could be one of its toughest schedules in recent years.

Nebraska must play two road games this season, which is "unusual," Thorell said. The freshmen will play the Air Force junior varsity on Oct. 9 at Colorado Springs, Colo., and then play at Coffeyville, (Kan.) Junior College on Oct. 29.

"Air Force beat us last year in Lincoln, so it will be very tough out there," Thorell said. "Coffeyville is almost always in the top 10 in the junior college rankings. They were in the top five for a while last year, and I know that they'll have lots of speed this year."

Thorell said he thinks that this year's recruiting class is talented enough to meet the challenge.

"We've got a lot of size and speed, he said.

Thorell said it is tough to tell who will be the best players out of this year's recruits because college football is so much different than high school football.

He said that Mickey Joseph and Keithen McCant are "very capable quarterbacks. Mickey may have gotten

more press, but Keithen is also very talented."

Thorell said Leodis Flowers and George Achola are very talented running backs, while Dan Lohmeier and Chris Garrett are two "really good tight ends."

back from Battle Creek. Uhlir will walk on at Nebraska and possibly switch to defensive back.

The freshmen reported for physicals on Aug. 7 and began two-a-day practices on Aug. 8. The practices continue until school begins on Aug. 24.

The Nebraska freshmen have a 46-4 record over the last 10 years, and are 13-2 on the road over the same period.

The 1987 freshman football schedule: Sept. 7 — St. Thomas J.V.; Sept. 28 — Bethany J.V.; Oct. 9 — at Air Force J.V.; Oct. 29 — at Coffeyville J.C.; Nov. 6 — Waldorf J.C.

Freshman coach dies

Hal Kuck, a Nebraska graduate assistant under freshman coach Shane Thorell, died of an apparent suicide Aug. 10 in Seward.

Kuck, 48, died in his truck of carbon monoxide poisoning.

He resigned from his coaching job this year at Norfolk High School to accept his position at Nebraska. Kuck served as an assistant coach at Norfolk from 1972 to 1976, and

was the coach from 1977 until he resigned on July 13, 1987. Kuck is survived by his wife, Virginia, and sons, Jon and Tim.

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Kuck will be replaced by Barney Cotton, a former offensive lineman who lettered at Nebraska from 1976 to 1978. Cotton earned the Optimist Award in 1978, which is presented annually to Nebraska's best lineman.

Nebraska gave out 20 scholarships to incoming freshmen. Thorell said he expects about 50 freshmen to walk on.

Tom Haase, a quarterback from Aurora, and Tim Johnk, a running back from Schuyler, are the top two walkons, Thorell said.

"We have a bunch of good walkons as well," Thorell said. "A lot of guys who decided to walk on here turned down some good scholarships to other places, and we were happy to get them."

Thorell said about one-third of the players in this summer's Shrine Bowl will attend Nebraska. Thorell said linebacker Tim Herman, Achola and Haase all played very well in the game.

One player who surprised Thorell and others was Troy Uhlir, a running

- George Achola RB
- Brian Boerboom OT/OG
- Brian Brown DT
- Jeff Chaney OT
- Reggie Cooper DE/SS
- Mike Croel WB/DE
- Pat Engelbert OT/DT
- Leodis Flowers RB
- Chris Garrett TE/DE
- Tim Herman LB
- Mickey Joseph QB
- Wayne Keneipp OT
- Daryl Leise DE/LB
- Tahaun Lewis CB
- Dan Lohmeier TE
- Keithen McCant QB
- Joe Sims LB/DT
- William Thomas S
- Nate Turner WB
- Erik Wiegert OT/DT

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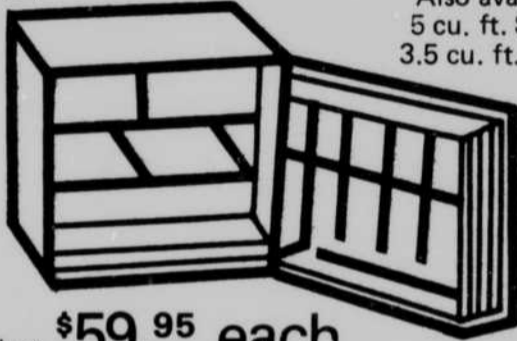
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