

Sports

Husker opener compares 'men and boys'

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Split end Kendal Smith issued a warning, but Nebraska defensive backs coach George Darlington said the Cornhusker's secondary will be ready when they open their season against Utah State Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

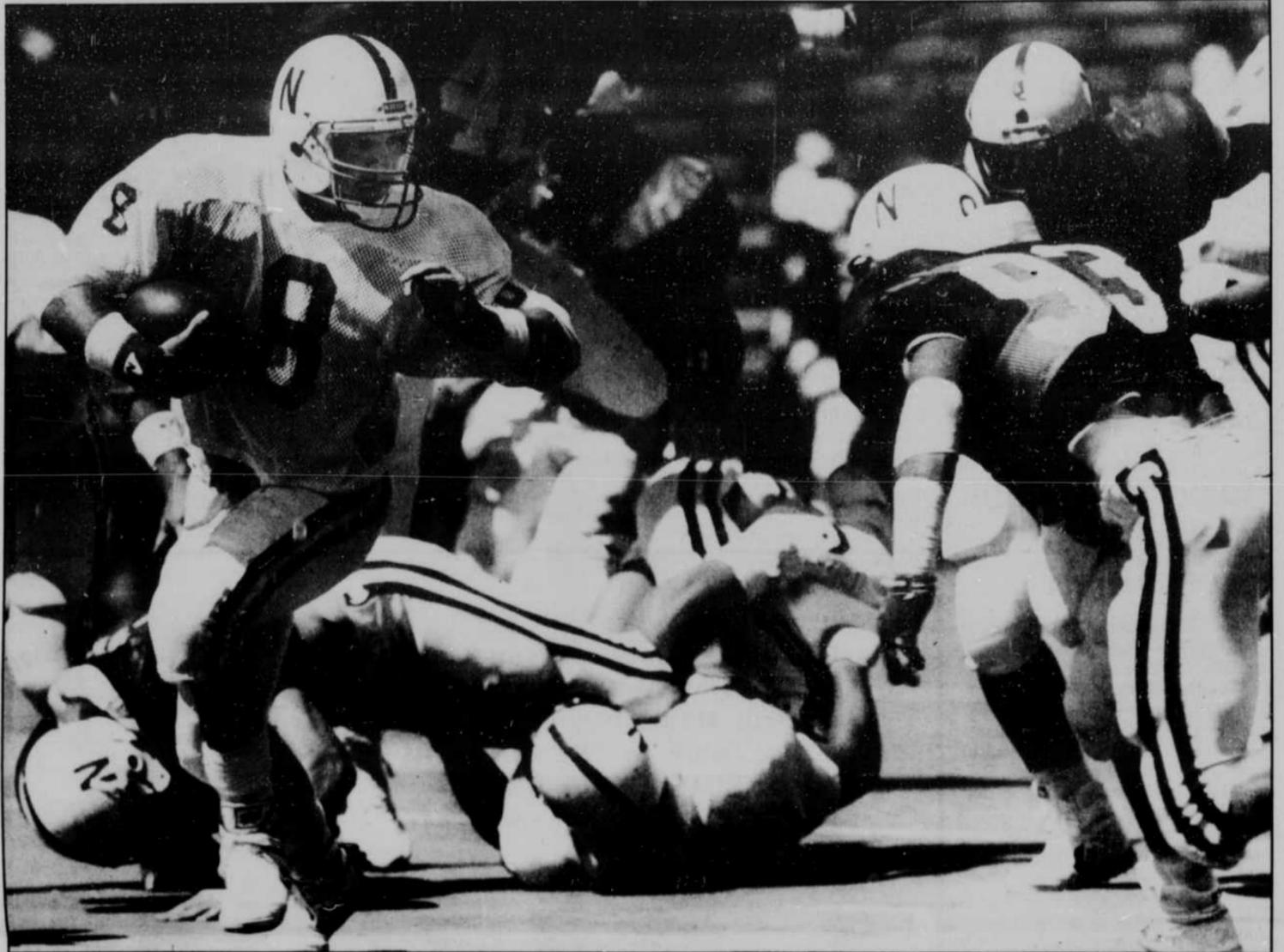
Smith said Utah State plans to overcome its underdog role by using a passing attack that calls for the Aggies to throw up to 75 times against Nebraska. He said that will give Utah State an advantage because the Huskers aren't used to seeing such an offense.

"Their defensive backs are used to playing the run. That's to our advantage," Smith said. "Their conference is a running conference. They don't see too many teams that throw like we do."

Utah State coach Chuck Shelton agreed.

"Our offense is built around the pass — period," Shelton said. "That's an advantage because it's the only way to offset physical differences in people."

"Comparing Utah State to Nebraska is like comparing men against boys, but by being a passing team week in



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska quarterback Mike Preston (No. 8) eludes a rush by defensive end Jon Marco during the Cornhuskers' scrimmage last Saturday. Nebraska opens its season Saturday against Utah State.

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—Shelton

and week out, we can hopefully offset those differences."

Darlington said the Huskers will try to control Utah State's passing attack by mixing up their defenses and making frequent substitutions. He said Nebraska's reserve players will play a key role in the game's outcome.

"If you don't substitute, you will have some linemen dragging their tongues by the third quarter," Darlington said. "That's also true in the case of the secondary."

Darlington said the entire Nebraska defense will have to play well if the Huskers are to win. He said a break-

down at any defensive position could prove costly.

"We can't allow their offense to establish a rhythm or we could be in trouble," he said. "Defense is team-oriented, so we have to play as a complete team."

Shelton said he is confident that the Aggies' defense will be able to control the Nebraska offense. He said Utah State needs to shut down Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor and I-back

Keith Jones.

"Those two players are as good as anybody in the country," Shelton said.

Shelton and Smith said the game against Nebraska will be special because it will give the Aggies a chance to prove they are capable of playing against one of the top teams in the country.

Smith said Utah State is often criticized because its victories last season came against Pacific, New Mexico State

and Nevada-Las Vegas.

"We get a chance to play a team that everybody has heard of," Smith said. "Everybody knows about Nebraska and Oklahoma."

Smith said he is also looking forward to the game because the Aggies will unveil a new offense. He said the offense will be more difficult to defend because it involved more formations and receivers.

Shelton agreed.

"Offense has never really been our strong point, but we feel we will be much better off (this year)," he said.

Smith said he spent the time before the Utah State-Nebraska game reminding each of the Aggies that their record is 0-0. He said the fact that Utah State hasn't suffered a defeat will work in the Aggies' favor.

"It was tough last season, so we want to avoid a repeat," Smith said. "Our goal is to have a successful season."

Thomas to run steps for police scuffle

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska defensive end Broderick Thomas faces a possible fine of \$500 and/or six months in jail after being charged with resisting arrest Wednesday, but his only football-related punishment was to run Memorial Stadium steps.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Thursday that Thomas had to run stadium steps four consecutive days for his alleged Aug. 24 scuffle with four Lincoln police officers.

"We laid out the guidelines before the season started and certain things result in on-the-field discipline and certain result in suspension," Osborne said. "He's been charged so far with a misdemeanor offense. One factor is that Broderick hasn't been in trouble before. And since he hasn't been in trouble before, and because it is a misdemeanor and because we've punished him on the field, we feel that whatever the court hands out will be the remainder of the punishment."

Osborne dealt with a similar situation last summer when former Corn-

husker Danny Noonan was charged with one count each of assault, destroying the property of others, disturbing the peace and hindering arrest following an altercation at Chesterfield, Bottonsley and Potts, a downtown bar.

Noonan was fined \$400 after the charge of assault was dropped by Chesterfield's.

Osborne said that Thomas' scuffle with the police was similar to Noonan's.

"Danny's deal was not good and he was at fault," Osborne said. "But he had never been in trouble before and it

was a misdemeanor, so I feel that I need to treat people about the same."

Thomas was arrested Aug. 24 after he was approached by police about a moving violation for which he allegedly had not paid the fine. Thomas told the officers that he paid the fine and showed them receipts. But the police said they still had to take him in, Osborne said.

Thomas allegedly refused to go with the officers and then had to be restrained with leg restraints and handcuffs.

Osborne said no other disciplinary steps would be taken by him unless other charges were brought against Thomas.

"If they change the charges and all of a sudden it's a felonious thing or an assault, then that would change," Osborne said. "But on the basis of the evidence I have now and what I know about the thing, we put it all behind us. We punished him here on the field and he's taken his shots in the paper and whatever he gets in court is the last bit."

Four Husker games set for TV; more are possible

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Four Nebraska football games will definitely be televised this season and Assistant Athletic Director Dorr Bryant said more games may also be shown.

The games that are set to be televised are the Sept. 12 UCLA game in Lincoln (by ESPN), the Sept. 25 game at Arizona State (ABC), the Nov. 21 Oklahoma game in Lincoln

(CBS) and the Nov. 28 Colorado game in Boulder, Colo. (either CBS or ESPN).

The starting times of the UCLA and Oklahoma games have been changed to benefit television. Instead of the usual 1:30 p.m. start, the UCLA game will start at 4 p.m., and the Oklahoma game will begin at 2:30 p.m.

In addition, the Colorado game was originally scheduled to be played Nov. 14, but was moved for television purposes.

Bryant said the decision to televise other Cornhusker games will be made later in the season. He said the decision usually depends on the win-loss records of the teams involved and the importance of other college games being played that day.

"The networks have until 11 days before the game is played to make their decision," Bryant said.

Bryant said the Big Eight Conference dropped a package it had last season with the Raycom Sports

Network.

Every televised game will pay "roughly \$600,000" to be divided by both teams, Bryant said. The amount Nebraska gets depends on whether the game is a conference or non-conference game.

"If they pay \$600,000 then we get \$300,000," Bryant said. "It's divided into ninths if we play a non-conference game. We get two-ninths and the rest of the conference schools get one-ninth. If we play a conference school, it's divided into tenths. Each school gets two-tenths

and the rest of the conference schools get one-tenth."

Big Eight teams and other schools across the country are now in the fourth year of negotiating the rights to football telecasts with networks under contract with organizations other than the NCAA. In 1984, the Supreme court ruled 7-2 that the NCAA violated anti-trust laws by preventing individual schools from having negotiating rights.

The ruling came on a suit against the NCAA by the University of Oklahoma and the University of Georgia.