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## Missouri picks the bone

Tigers to experiment with new flexible offense this weekend

By Chuck Green Senior Editor

After posting a 4-18 record over the last two seasons, Missouri coach Woody Widenhofer had a bone to pick with his

#### Missouri preview

Actualy, he's already picked the bone — the flexbone, to be exact.

This season, Missouri will switch to the flexbone offenses - triple-option offense similar to the wishbone. Missouri's flexbone, which utilizes the passing game more than the wishbone, wil debut its new-found weapons Saturday against Baylor.

Widenhofer, who served as an assistant coach with the National Football League's Pittsburgh Steelers during their Super bowl years in the 1970s, said the new offense will showcase the athletic ability of the Tiger running

"The key to this offense is the halfbacks, because they must run, block and catch the ball to make it all effective," Widenhofer said. "I feel good about our running backs. They're good receivers, which will enable us to switch into different sets to pass without tipping off the defense by substituting.

"Running back and the defensive secondary are the strongest points of our football team.'

Halfback Darrell Wallace will lead the Missouri rushing attack, Widenhofer said. Wallace, a 5-foot-7, 162-pound senior from Fort Campbell, Ky., rushed for 1,120 yards two years ago as a sophomore and added 872 last season. Wallace needs only 303 yards to become Missouri's all-time leading

Backing up Wallace at the left halfback spot will be Tony VanZant, Parade Magazine's High School Player of the

Year in 1985. VanZant redshirted last season because of a knee injury and will be a freshman this season.

Robert Delpino returns to his starting spot in the backfield, at the right halfback spot. Mike Logan and Sean Moore, both freshmen, will challenge Delpino for starting honors.

Widenhofer said Tommy Stowers is the likely candidate for the fullback position. Stowers averaged 4.7 yards per carry during last season as a

The ignition switch of the new flexbone, Widenhofer said, is quarterback Ronnie Cameron. Last season, Cameron passed for 654 yards and six touchdowns and rushed for 365 yards and four touchdowns. During Missouri's

'The key to this offense is the halfbacks, because they must run, block and catch the ball to make it all effective.'

-Widenhofer

spring practice, Cameron broke a rib and missed about half of the spring

Widenhofer said that Cameron "needs to protect himself more if he's going to be effective for us.

If Cameron isn't effective for Missouri, Southern Methodist transfer John Stollenwreck will take over, Widen-

hofer said.

Missouri's offensive line returns only one starter from last season. Jeff Rigman, a 6-2, 277-pound senior, returns to his left guard position. He will be backed up by Rob Dryden, a 6-9, 339pound freshman.

The left tackle spot will likely be manned by Carl Bax, a 6-, 270-pound junior, while the right side will have the benefit of senior Phil Schreiber, a three-year letterman, Widenhofer said.

At right guard, sophomore Pete Scot and Chris Lowe will compete for playing time, while Curtis Wilson and Jeff Gardener will vie for starting honors at

When the Tigers decide to throw the ball out of their new offensive set, the primary receivers will be tight end Tim Burton and split end Craig Lammers.

Missouri will also adopt a different look defensively, changing to a 4-3 alignment. Tiger defensive coordinator Carl Reese said this was done to enhance Missouri's pass rush efforts.

Steve Vandergrift, who started at outside linebacker the last two seasons, has been converted to an end. The other end spot will be filled by either Ben Corl or Bryan Johnson. Darryl Darling and Jeff Cross both return from starting campaigns last season.

The only returning starter in the Tiger's linebacker corps is Darren Mac-Donald. The other two linebacking positions will likely be filled by Jerold Fletcher and Reggie Ballard, Widenhofer said.

Missouri returns all four starters from last year's secondary. Incumbent starters Adrian Jones and Pat Ray will fill the corners while Erik McMillen and Victor Moore will return to their starting spots at strong safety and free safety, respectively.
Senior Tom Whelihan will handle

both the placekicking and punting chores for Missouri. Last year, Whelihan connected on 15 of 19 field goal attempts, including a Big Eight-record 62-yarder against Colorado.

### Huskers downplay Penn State rivalry

By Mark Derowitsch

Senior Reporter

Revenge will not be a factor when No. 7 Nebraska meets Penn State Saturday night in the Husker/Mizunc Invitational.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit and Penn State coach Russ Rose said they are not thinking about last year's game. The Cornhuskers defeated the Nittany Lions 7-15, 15-4, 16-14, 16-18, 15-9 in the NCAA Mideast regional semifinals last

"As far as the coaching staff is concerned, I don't think we look at it that Pettit said. "From our standpoint, we're just happy to be playing a good volleyball team. Certainly there

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has to be some rivalry there in that our players know that they're good and that they've been in the NCAA tournament."

Rose said he agrees

"I don't think that we are safe with any team," Rose said. "And with my top player out with mono, in all reality this is the weakest team I've had to face Nebraska. Rose said that Elizabeth Ramirez, a

sophomore who was named Rookie of the Year in the Atlantic 10 Conference last year, would not see action until mid-October because of her illness.

Rose, a former Nebraska assistant coach, said Ramirez's injury puts Penn State in a bind because the Nittany Lions how have no team leader.

"Volleyball is the ultimate team sport, and team chemistry is just as important an aspect of the game as does not have great chemistry. We have three freshmen in the starting lineup and there is a world of difference between high-school volleyball and college volleyball."

Pettit said he has been pleased with the chemistry the Huskers have shown this season.

"I think we're right where we want to be," Pettit said. "We have come along and we are doing some good

Despite Nebraska's 3-0 record, Pettit said the Penn State match would be the Huskers' toughest of the season. Nebraska will face Minnesota Friday night at 7:30 and Central Michigan Saturday at 1 p.m.

"These are the best teams we have played all year," Pettit said. "We would always rather play stronger teams than weak teams. And two of these teams are ranked in the Top 20, so that's good

Minnesota 20th by the American Volleyball Coaches Association pre-season Pettit said he thinks the Huskers

Penn State was ranked 19th and

can win the tournament.

"I don't think we've ever gone out since I've been here where we didn't feel that we could win the match, Pettit said.

Rose said that Minnesota has the best chance to beat Nebraska.

"I think Nebraska is the team to beat, but I think that they might be physical talent," Rose said. "This team worried about Minnesota," Rose said.

The Gophers have a 7-0 record and won the Florida State Tournament championship without losing a set. 'We had a good Florida trip," Min-

nesota coach Stephanie Schleuder said. "It was a good tuneup for this weekend. Competition-wise, it wasn't extremely tough, but it was a good tournament for

Schleuder said she is glad to have the chance to play the Huskers.

"We're real excited about playing the top teams in the field," Schleuder said. "Nebraska is one of the best teams and they are coming off a banner year. Even though they lost all those great players, Terry always seems to put together a strong team."

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