



Daily Nebraskan file photo

Colorado coach Bill McCartney will be pointing towards a winning season in 1987. The Buffaloes opened their season with a 10-7 loss to Oregon.

Accidents injure team's starters

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

The 1986 edition of the Colorado Buffaloes accomplished something that no other team from Boulder, Colo., was able to do in 18 years.

Colorado posted its first win against Nebraska since 1967 as the Buffaloes used an aggressive defense to shut down the Husker offense in a 20-10 win.

But Colorado coach Bill McCartney isn't about to compare his team with the Huskers on an everyday basis.

"Nebraska is one of the top three or four programs in the country, and we're not up there yet," McCartney said. "Nebraska is stronger and has more talent than we have. But on any given day, anything can happen. But if

we had to play Nebraska 11 times a year, we wouldn't be ready."

This season Colorado returns 16 starters from last year's 6-6 team. But the Buffaloes couldn't elude injuries as three starters suffered off-season accidents.

Fullback Anthony Weatherspoon is out for the season because of a motorcycle accident he suffered last spring. Weatherspoon suffered cuts and bruises when he dislocated his hip and punctured his abdomen.

Two other Buffaloes were hurt in automobile accidents last spring. Don DeLuzio, who was struck by a hit-and-run driver during a spring-break trip, saw action in Colorado's opening game against Oregon.

Middle guard Curt Koch, who was struck with DeLuzio, had knee surgery but also saw action during

Colorado's 10-7 loss to the Oregon Ducks.

Leading the Buffalo offense will be quarterback Mark Hatcher. Hatcher rushed for 552 yards while running the wishbone last season. He also threw for 493 yards.

Also returning to the Colorado offense is last year's leading rusher, O.C. Oliver. Oliver gained 668 yards in 1986.

Defensively, McCartney said, the Buffaloes will again give opponents fits. All-America candidate Mickey Pruitt returns to the safety position where he made 106 tackles last year. And with the return of DeLuzio and Koch, the defense will be strong, McCartney said.

"If we stay healthy our defense will be one of the good ones," McCartney said. "We have good size, strength,

maturity, depth and speed."

Colorado will end its season Nov. 28 in Boulder against Nebraska. The game originally was slated for Sept. 14 but was moved back for television purposes. McCartney said he was in favor of pushing the game back two weeks.

"I have always wanted to play Nebraska last because they are the team we most want to beat," McCartney said.

Even though the game against Nebraska will bring the Nebraska-Oklahoma year-ending game to a temporary end, McCartney said he was "glad to see it come to an end. I know we can't replace Oklahoma as Nebraska's rivalry, but we certainly want our own rivalry with Nebraska."

Huskers play Purdue

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Tradition will be a key factor when the Nebraska volleyball team travels to West Lafayette, Ind. to compete in the Purdue Invitational this weekend.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said playing on the road has never been a problem for the Cornhuskers because they have established themselves as a strong visiting team.

But Pettit said the Huskers will face a good road test Friday when they take their 7-0 record into a 9 p.m. match against Purdue.

"It should be a good test for us," Pettit said. "Playing on the road allows us to concentrate more than if we were playing at home."

Pettit said the two remaining teams in the four-team tournament should also give the Huskers a strong test. The teams include Pittsburgh and Louisi-



Pettit

ana State.

"Pitt has a good team and so does LSU," he said.

Purdue takes a 3-4 record into the tournament. Three of the Boilermaker losses were to teams ranked in the Top 20 including Brigham Young, Colorado State, and Arizona State.

Purdue coach Carol Dewey said the losses could be beneficial for the Boilermakers.

"We're improving a lot," Dewey said. "Against Colorado State last week, I think we started to realize our potential."

The Boilermakers return six starters from last year's 19-16 team, but Dewey said Purdue needs to work on consistency.

"All of our players have played well but at different points of the year," Dewey said. "We need to play well together as a team. Consistency is our biggest problem."

LSU coach Scott Luster said the Tigers have been consistent throughout their 5-0 start.

"We're reasonably happy considering we lost five starters from last season," Luster said. "We're progressing

pretty well and I think that we will eventually be as good as we were last season."

Last year, the Tigers posted 35-9 record and advanced to the South regional finals before losing to Texas.

Luster said he was looking forward to facing Nebraska.

"They're just as good as they usually are but they have some new people in the lineup," Luster said. "I'm pleased that we're playing them on a neutral court because obviously they're the team to beat."

The Tigers lone returning starter is middle blocker Lisa Smith. Smith was an all-SCC performer last season and is an All-America candidate this season.

Pittsburgh returns five starters from last year's 28-13 team. The Panthers lost to the Huskers in the first round of the NCAA tournament last season.

The Huskers improved their road record to 3-0 Tuesday night when they defeated Kansas 15-2, 15-6, 15-4 in Lawrence, Kan.

Kathi DeBoer led the Husker attack with 16 kills, while Virginia Stahr added 11.

Smith featured in SI

By Kent Endicott
Staff Reporter

Rod Smith made it again. This week's edition of Sports Illustrated features Smith sprawled out over two pages catching a touchdown pass over UCLA defensive back Darryl Henly. For Smith, it marked the second time in three weeks his picture has made it into the pages of the nation's leading sports magazine.



Surprising, considering Smith plays wide receiver at Nebraska, traditionally a running team. But Smith said it didn't just happen — he earned it.

"You have to pay your dues around here before you achieve any kind of success," said the six-foot, 190-pound senior from Thornton, Colo. "It's not something I walked into. I've worked hard."

After redshirting in 1984, Smith found himself playing behind Jason Gamble as a sophomore. Gamble, a high school All-America, is no longer on the team. Smith said he began working harder to get more playing time.

"When Jason Gamble was here and so forth, it was a harder road for me to make it to where I am today," he said. "But after all is said and done, I think it made me a better athlete and a better person by having to work hard like I had to."

Smith spent his summers in Lincoln, working out in the weight room and practicing running pass patterns. It began to pay off.

"I made that one of my things I would never miss. I set my perspectives," he said.

Last year, he walked into the punt returning job after Von Sheppard suffered a broken leg. He ended up leading the nation in punt returns with an 18.9 yard average.

This year, he's off to a quick start. In Nebraska's season opener against Utah State, Smith returned a punt for a touchdown.

Against UCLA last week, he broke open the game in the third quarter by catching a Steve Taylor pass over two defenders and then racing into the endzone to complete the play, which covered 48 yards.

It was a big game, national television, pressure. Smith said that play alone almost made it all worth it.

Nebraska receivers Coach Ron Brown said he sees more big games in Smith's future after this season — in the National Football League.

Brown said Smith, who runs the 40-yard dash in an electronically-timed 4.6 seconds and can bench press 290 pounds, runs goods routes, has great quickness and great hands.

During the summer, Smith graduated with a degree in business administration. He said that although he's now taking graduate classes, his focus is football, and a shot at playing in the NFL.

But for now, Smith said, he's happy just getting his picture in Sports Illustrated.

"It's kind of weird," Smith said. "When I started getting recruited and stuff and had the chance to come to Nebraska, I just kind of said to myself one day it'd be kind of nice to have a picture in there. And low and behold, you open it up ... it's just a neat feeling."

Columbia nears 'patsie' record

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK — This could be the worst season of milestones for the Columbia football team — ones it could do without.

Its 31-game losing streak is already the second longest in major college history, and on Saturday the Lions play Harvard, a team that beat them 34-0 in last season's opener.

Only losses to Harvard, Lafayette, Pennsylvania and Princeton stand between Columbia and the record No. 35, which would surpass Northwestern's mark set from 1979 to 1982.

But coach Larry McElreavy thinks his team has improved "light years" since last season and said confidently this summer, "We will not break the record."

"Don't ask me which game will do it, but I know we'll win before that," he said.