

Sports

Missouri coach says team's play close to perfect

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Missouri football coach Woody Widenhofer said he hopes the Tigers' offense plays this Saturday against Nebraska the way it did in the first half of a 24-20 loss to Oklahoma State.

Widenhofer said that "overall for Missouri it was almost a perfect half offensively" during the Tigers' game against Oklahoma State last Saturday at Faurot Field.

Widenhofer said the Tigers will try to continue that perfection when they face Nebraska at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Faurot Field.

"We came out in the second half and missed some scoring opportunities," Widenhofer said. "We missed a chip-shot field goal which really would have been a big field goal for us. We also missed a scoring opportunity in the end zone."

Part of Missouri's offensive success, Widenhofer said, is due to an improvement in the passing game.

"The first two or three ball games we were having so much success running the ball, we won the first two games," Widenhofer said. "We just didn't want to get into that situation (of passing)."

Widenhofer said the passing attack has improved because Missouri is getting used to its flexbone offense that was installed this spring.

"We're just learning a lot about our players in this offensive scheme," he said. "We just put it in in the spring, and we didn't really throw the ball that much in the spring. We just learned how to run the triple and double option."

Widenhofer said another reason for the improvement in the passing game has been quarterback John Stollenwerck. Stollenwerck, a sophomore, was one of three players who came to Missouri this season after Southern Methodist dropped its football program.

Stollenwerck completed 14 of 23 passes for 189 yards and rushed five times for 30 yards against Oklahoma State.

"He's really come into his own as a passer. He's got great touch and a quick release," Widenhofer said. "He just really came on as a field general. He's a bright kid, and I think right now he really understands his limitations on the option. He doesn't dance around out there; he just takes it up the field when he has the chance to."

Missouri compiled a 3-8 record last year, but this season the Tigers are off to a 4-3 start. All their losses have come to ranked teams.

Widenhofer said the improvement is due to a strong coaching staff, improved recruiting and the switch to the flexbone.

"We've done a great job of recruiting the last couple of years," he said. "Our talent is better, we have better overall team speed, we can run a little better, which is important because if you can't run you can't play."

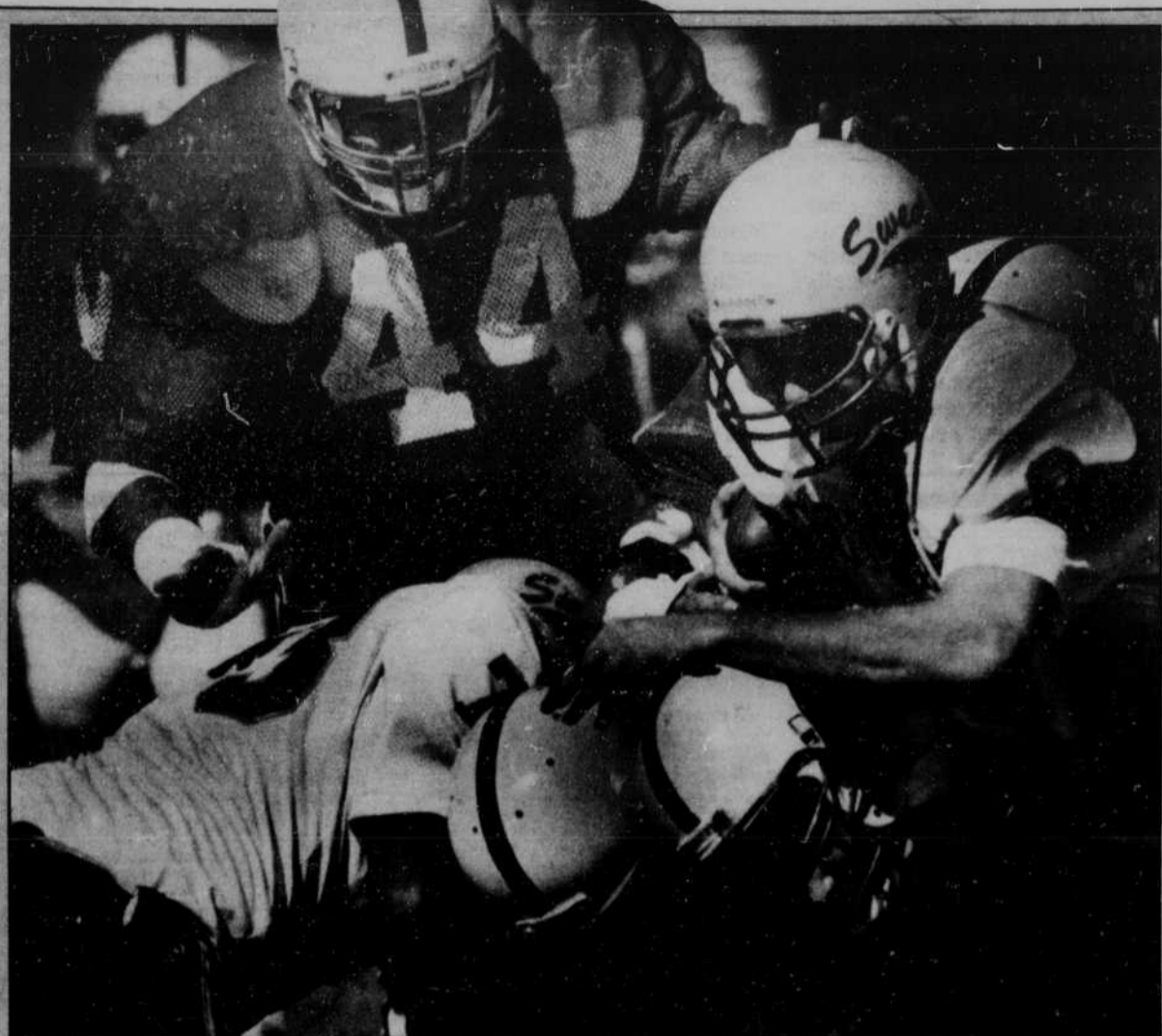
"I think we have a philosophy here on offense which we hadn't had the first two years. The first year we threw the ball an awful lot. The second year we kind of scrambled around trying to run a trap option."

On defense Carl Reese, who coached at Missouri from 1977-82, returned as the Tigers' defensive coordinator after coaching in the now-defunct United States Football League.

"He might have been our best recruit," Widenhofer said.

Widenhofer said the Tigers are looking forward to playing Nebraska.

"I think they're very, very well coached. I think they're an excellent football team, and you can't ask for a better opportunity than to go out and play the first- or second-best team in the country," Widenhofer said. "We hope it's a big game for Nebraska because if they come in thinking it's not a big game, then they may be in for a big surprise."



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Linebacker Andy Zacharias attempts to tackle a Bethany (Kan.) ball carrier during Nebraska's 55-0 victory over the Swedes earlier this year.

Cornhusker freshman football team to flock with Red Ravens Thursday

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

When the Nebraska freshman football team faces Coffeyville (Kan.) Junior College tonight, Red Raven coach Dick Foster said his chief concern won't be on the playing field.

Instead, Foster said his main concern and the key to the Cornhuskers' junior varsity success will be standing on the sidelines.

Nebraska's junior varsity has a lot of great players, Foster said, and they are coached better than the Red Ravens. They have seven to nine coaches, while most Kansas junior colleges have no more than four, Foster said.

"They're so much more sophisticated offensively and defensively," Foster said.

Actually, Nebraska coach Shane Thorell said, the Huskers will take six coaches to Coffeyville for their 7 p.m. game against the 6-1 Red Ravens. Nebraska, 2-1, will try to avoid becoming the first Husker freshman team to lose two games in a season since the 1957 team finished 0-2.

Thorell said the victory string won't be his primary concern.

"Well, that's on my mind," Thorell said. "But the main thing I'm concerned with is going down and winning at Coffeyville. I have a lot of confidence in the players that they'll go down there and do a good job."

Thorell said he will start quarterback Tom Haase in place of Keithen McCant, who started in the Huskers' first three games. Haase, from Aurora, has completed three of seven passes for 70 yards and has rushed for 48 yards in a backup role.

"Keithen's had a sore arm and Tom's been playing really well," Thorell said. "He'll do a great job for us."

Nebraska will also be without backup split end Dan Pleasant, fullback Randy Williams and tight end Dan Lohmeier, Thorell said. He said Pleasant suffered a shoulder injury in Sunday's practice and is "doubtful" for tonight.

Lohmeier, who tore the anterior

cruciate ligament in his knee earlier this season, and Williams, who broke his foot in the Air Force game, are both out for the season.

The Husker freshmen have also been without varsity defensive end Mike Croel, cornerback Tahaun Lewis and strong safety Reggie Cooper, as well as redshirts Mickey Joseph and Leodis Flowers.

Thorell said he doesn't feel shortchanged despite the missing players.

"It would be great to have those players," Thorell said. "But we feel the players we have are real good and we're confident they can do the job."

I-back George Achola and fullback Tim Johnk will join Haase in the Nebraska offensive backfield. Achola leads the Huskers in total offense with 278 yards — all rushing. He has averaged 6 yards per carry and has scored three touchdowns. Johnk, a walk-on from Schuyler, has carried 13 times for 62 yards.

Thorell said Tim Bishop, a 6-foot-2, 190-pound walk-on from Springfield, will start at tight end in place of Lohmeier.

Foster said Coffeyville has to change its strategy against the Huskers because they have an abundance of offensive weapons. He said the Red Ravens can normally key on one position against the junior college teams they face.

"They're good," Foster said. "I'm very impressed. In this league you can, but against them anybody can hurt you. You can't focus on one weapon because they got a lot of others that will shoot you down."

Nebraska has averaged 391 yards and 45 points a game. Defensively, the Huskers have limited opponents to 185 yards and 7 points a game.

Thorell said Foster will also bring some firepower into tonight's game. The Red Ravens' wishbone offense rolled up 536 yards in a 49-14 victory last week over Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College and has averaged 401.1 yards and 43.3 points a game this season.

"They present a big challenge,"

Thorell said. "They got so much team speed — probably more than any team we have played. The running backs and quarterbacks have excellent team speed."

Thorell said the Red Ravens, who are ranked eighth among the nation's junior colleges, have accumulated some impressive numbers. Quarterback Steve Mallory, a scholarship player at Kansas State before former Wildcat coach Jim Dickey was fired midway through the 1985 season, has completed 39 of 82 passes for 528 yards and nine touchdowns.

Foster said Mallory has spent most of the season handing off to a talented group of running backs. Mike Loman, who was a Proposition 48 casualty at Florida University last season, leads the Red Ravens with 498 yards on 68 carries and 14 touchdowns. Fullback Eric Jenkins has rushed 83 times for 400 yards and second-string quarterback Mike Mason has 377 yards on 47 carries.

Foster said Mason and running backs Saran Stacy and Dabby Dawson will see extensive action in backup roles. Stacy rambled for 137 yards on 10 carries against Hutchinson.

Thorell said the Red Ravens' wishbone presents another difficult challenge for Nebraska's defense. Air Force's wishbone attack compiled 291 yards against Nebraska.

"We've been preparing for the wishbone for a long time," he said. "I think the guys feel comfortable with what they are going to see."

Thorell said the Husker defenders will have to show discipline and not ignore any of Coffeyville's offensive weapons.

"If you have one guy that doesn't pick up his responsibility, you're going to be in trouble," Thorell said.

Thorell and Foster said their teams are excited about tonight's clash.

"I think the attitude is really good," Thorell said. "We beat the redshirts last week and the players are really excited. Hopefully we'll carry that excitement to Coffeyville."

Oklahoma match to decide Big 8 volleyball champs

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Although one game doesn't make a season, Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said the 1987 Big Eight championship will be decided Saturday night.

"Our players know that if they want to successfully defend the conference championship, then they have to beat Oklahoma," Pettit said.

The Sooners, 17-6, will get their second chance at defeating Nebraska Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum. The first time the two teams met, Nebraska defeated Oklahoma 15-6, 15-4, 15-12 in Norman, Okla.

Pettit said if the Sooners lose to Nebraska, they will be unable to win the conference title because of their two conference losses.

"If we win the match, Oklahoma would be eliminated from the picture," Pettit said. "I would say that this will be a crucial match for both teams."

Oklahoma coach Miles Pabst said the Cornhuskers will win the Big Eight title even if they lose to the Sooners.

"If we beat Nebraska 3-0, we will have still lost more sets than they have," Pabst said. "There is a possibility of us winning the conference, but I don't think Nebraska's going to lose their last three games."

Pabst said the match will be crucial for Oklahoma because an at-large regional bid could be at stake.

"The match will have more of an impact if we upset Nebraska. It would help us from the regional standpoint," Pabst said. "It could help us get an at-large bid."

Pettit said the Huskers, 21-1 overall and 7-0 in the Big Eight, will have to play better than they did at Norman.

"I think Oklahoma is a good team," Pettit said. "I don't think we played all that good the last time, but we certainly will be ready this time. We are difficult to beat in the Coliseum."

Sophomore Karri Mulry leads the Sooners with a hitting percentage of .321. Senior Terrell Carter is second on the team with a .301 hitting percentage.

Before the Huskers' game against Oklahoma, Nebraska will face Colorado Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum. The Buffaloes will take a 4-14 record into the match, including a 0-7 mark in the Big Eight.

Pettit said Colorado shouldn't give Nebraska any problems.

"Colorado is a young team that has some talent," Pettit said. "They run a very sophisticated offense, but it is probably too sophisticated for the experience they have."

Although the Huskers defeated Colorado 15-4, 15-5, 15-11 earlier this season in Boulder, Colo., Pettit said he wasn't satisfied with the way his team played.

Tina Murray leads the Buffaloes with 167 kills. She has a hitting percentage of .110.

The Huskers are coming off an 8-15, 15-11, 15-1, 15-5 win against Iowa State Tuesday night at Ames, Iowa.

Pettit said he was satisfied with Nebraska's victory over the Cyclones.

"I think Iowa State played real well in the first set," Pettit said. "From the middle of the second game on, we started to become aggressive. Val Novak, Virginia Stahr and Carla Baker were very successful attacking during the match."

Pettit also said the Huskers were able to play a lot of people.

"Jarilyn Obermiller came off the bench and played well," Pettit said. "The match against Iowa State and the matches this weekend will give us an opportunity to play a lot of the bench and should give us some more depth."

Novak and Stahr each recorded 12 kills to lead Nebraska.