

# Sports

## Osborne investigating facts in Etienne's arrest

By Steve Sipple  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said he will wait until he gets all the facts before deciding whether to discipline starting linebacker LeRoy Etienne.

Etienne, a junior from New Iberia, La., was arrested early Sunday morning after allegedly breaking a window in a former girlfriend's apartment. Osborne said that Monday Etienne told him he was trying to retrieve his apartment key and some clothes from the apartment at 645 S. 20th.

Osborne, who spoke Tuesday at his weekly press luncheon, said he has talked to the girl involved and an attorney about the incident.

"If the facts LeRoy has given me are substantiated, then LeRoy will continue to play," Osborne said. "He broke the window, he stayed at the scene, he told the officer what he did and he offered to pay for it."

Osborne said the girl did not press charges.

"If (LeRoy) told me something that wasn't true, then he won't play," Osborne said. "That's just the way it's going to be."

But Osborne said Etienne probably won't be punished.

"I normally don't suspend a guy for a broken window, if he's going to pay for it," he said.

Pending Osborne's decision, Etienne will play against Iowa State. Nebraska will face the Cyclones Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

Osborne said the Cyclones lack depth because of a shortage of numbers, but don't necessarily lack talent, despite their 2-6 record.

The Cyclones are serving the first year of a two-year probation imposed by the NCAA for recruiting violations found in former coach Jim Criner's program. The NCAA limited the Cyclones to 57 scholarship players to start the season because of the violations.

"Offensively, they have some good players quality-wise," Osborne said. "(Joe) Henderson is an excellent running back. He catches the ball well and runs well."

"(Brett) Sadek has played very well at quarterback for them. (Derek) Degennaro at times has played well, too. Where they seem to get in trouble maybe is depth."

Henderson, a junior running back from Chicago, rushed for 226 yards in the Cyclones' 42-28 victory over Kansas on Oct. 24. He carried 23 times for 82 yards in Iowa State's 42-10 loss to Colorado last Saturday. He has 838 yards rushing this season.

Sadek, a senior quarterback, has completed 86 of 168 passes for 1,039 yards and five touchdowns. Degennaro, a junior from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has completed 26 of 55 passes for 333 yards in a backup role.

Defensively, Osborne said, the Cyclones have played well in losses to Missouri and Colorado. Missouri defeated the Cyclones 42-17 on Oct. 17 in Ames, Iowa.

"I think their defense against Colorado played very hard early in the ball game," he said. "As games have gone on, many times I think they've gotten worn down a little bit and other people just had more depth than they had. So I think it's misleading to say they don't have any talent."

Osborne said the Huskers must keep playing to their capabilities no matter whom they play.

"I'm primarily concerned with the quality of football we play," he said. "I don't believe at this point we want to take a step backwards."

"We're trying to build through the season, not just to the Oklahoma game, but through the Oklahoma and Colorado games and through the bowl game, and hopefully our best football of the year will be played Jan. 1."

Osborne said he wants the Huskers to improve on their turnover ratio, which now ranks sixth in the Big Eight. Nebraska has lost 15 fumbles to their opponents' six.

## Walden expects to lose; Huskers 'too damn good'

By Tim Hartmann  
Senior Reporter

After Iowa State's 42-10 loss to Colorado Saturday in Boulder, Colo., Cyclone coach Jim Walden said, "All the symptoms and all the stuff that make you want to throw up were there."

Although the Buffaloes are a strong football team, Walden said, Iowa State could have played much better.

"I thought Colorado played well. They executed and did some nice things," Walden said. "They've got a good football team. They did what they had to do to beat us."

"I'm sorry we didn't let them have the satisfaction of beating a little bit better team than (us). We know we're not great, we don't have any reason to be, but we have been better offensively than we were. I'm not trying to take anything away from them, not to discredit their defense, but we didn't play very well."

Walden said the loss was especially disappointing because the 2-6 Cyclones played well in the weeks before the Iowa State-Colorado matchup.

"I was a little disappointed in the fact that we didn't continue to try to get a little better," Walden said. "Our team had played for seven weeks, I thought, about as good as any team I have coached in trying to get better, trying not to have a bad day."

But against Colorado, Walden said, "We were not on the money in anything, and certainly Colorado capitalized on that and just beat us up pretty good."

One area that the Cyclones capitalized on was trick plays. Iowa State was successful on a fake punt and an on-side kick. During the season Iowa State has been successful in six of their seven fake punt attempts and in all three of their on-side kicks.

"We have tried to incorporate the kicking game as a viable part of everything we're doing," Walden said. "We realized that we were going to have some limitations, and we knew that we were in a situation where we could take some chances."

"It's much easier to take chances and play with the kicking game when your expectations are not great."

Walden, who is in his first year at Iowa State, coached at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., for nine years before arriving in Ames, Iowa. His coaching record is 44-52-4.

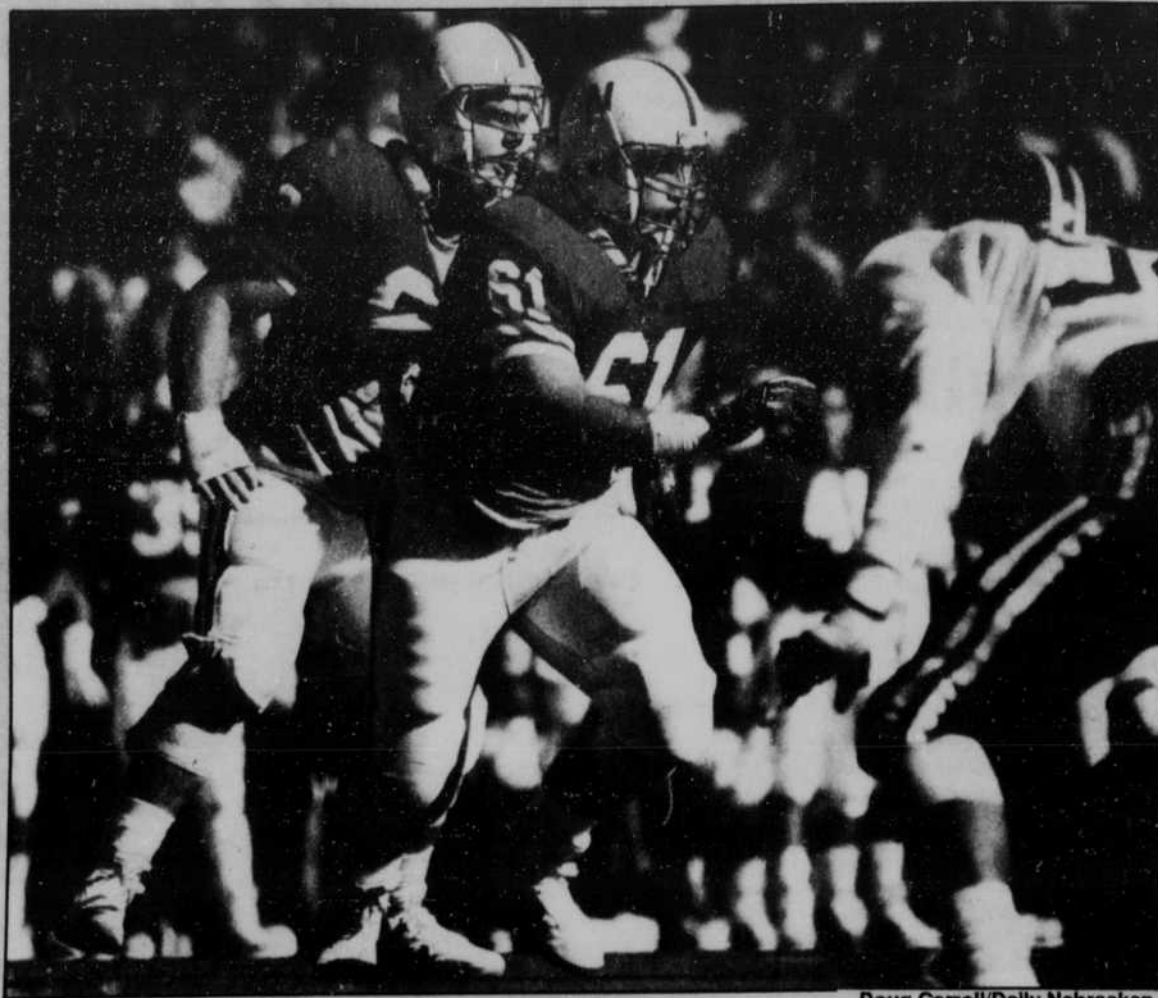
Before becoming the coach at Washington State, Walden served as an assistant coach for the Cougars. He was also an assistant coach at Miami, Fla., and Nebraska. Walden was a defensive assistant for the Cornhuskers from 1969-72, years when Nebraska won two national championships.

Walden will return to Lincoln Saturday when Iowa State faces the 8-0, No. 2-ranked Huskers. He said the Cyclones will be in for a challenge.

"I think they're a heck of a team," Walden said. "I don't think there is much left for Jim Walden to say that's just not the same old boring stuff. They're big, they're strong, they're fast."

"What can I say? Everybody said

See WALDEN on 10



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska center John Nichols trails guard Andy Keeler during the Cornhuskers' 56-3 victory over Kansas State earlier this season.

## Young, Nichols, Anderson Competition pushes centers to work hard for positions

By Mark Derowitsch  
Senior Reporter

The running back position isn't the only highly competitive position on the Nebraska offense.

While fans don't often notice centers, Jake Young, John Nichols and Jeff Anderson are trying to be noticed by coaches so they can gain more playing time.

Nebraska offense line coach Milt Tenopir said the competition runs high for the starting center job.

"The competition is there, but it's necessary to have depth," Tenopir said. "Everybody has their job to do, and they want to be the starter."

Nichols began the season as the starting center, but Young has started in the Cornhuskers' last three games. Young said he can't afford to relax even though he strained his knee and is expected to miss Saturday's game against Iowa State.

"The competition pushes everybody to work harder," Young said. "When I was second string, I worked hard to move up. Now, I work hard to keep my job."

Nichols started against Utah State and UCLA before being replaced by Young. But Nichols, a senior from Littleton, Colo., said he will keep trying to regain his starting job.

"We both work hard because of each other," Nichols said. "When I see him doing a good job, I start working harder. And when he sees me playing well, he works harder. Whoever is first string can't afford to sluff off."

Anderson said although he backs up Young and Nichols, he still plays a big part on the Huskers special teams by snapping for point after attempts, field goals and punts.

"I've played on all our special

teams, but I don't play much otherwise," Anderson said.

Young said he has been satisfied with his progress this season.

"I've been happy with the way things have been going, but I still need to improve," Young said. "I want to get better so I can carry on the tradition of great offensive linemen at Nebraska."

Tenopir said Young has the potential to be a three-year starter for Nebraska.

"Jake has played very well, but he has a few little things he needs to work out in his game," Tenopir said. "He's going to be an outstanding center before he leaves the University of Nebraska."

As a freshman last year, Young played enough to earn a varsity letter. He is the first freshman to letter on the Huskers' interior line.

Young said it meant a lot to letter as a freshman.

"There have been a lot of great players that have come through here and have not lettered as a freshman," Young said. "I hope I can follow some of those players and have a good career at Nebraska."

Young, a sophomore from Midland, Texas, said he was surprised last year.

"One of the guards got hurt, so I played both positions and freshman ball," Young said. "Playing last season has helped me quite a bit because I started to learn the system."

"Playing center is one-half mental and one-half physical. I got an edge because I learned a lot last year."

Nichols also lettered last season as a back-up center to senior Mark Cooper. But he said it didn't give him too much experience.

"Last year, I never played in a crucial situation or when the game was on the line," Nichols said. "The first time I played in a critical situation was this season against

Arizona State. I was scared when I ran out on the field when we needed to score, but I knew I could get the job done."

Tenopir said Nichols plays about 35 percent of the time. He said there isn't much difference between Young and Nichols.

"John is a very valuable player," Tenopir said. "He's a kid with a lot of maturity. Even though he's a reliever, there is no difference between the top two centers. He does an exceptional job."

Nichols said he accepts his role on the team.

"I've been seeing considerable playing time and I'm happy with it," Nichols said. "I play almost as much as Jake."

Anderson, a redshirt sophomore from Norfolk, said even though there is not enough playing time to please everyone, all three centers help each other out.

"Everyone accepts his role, but we each want to play a lot," Anderson said. "If someone is having trouble with certain defenses, we all help out."

Tenopir said Anderson is a valuable player for the Huskers because he handles all the long snaps.

"Jeff's main role is snapping, and he gives us a center who can get the ball back to the holder or kicker in good shape," Tenopir said.

Anderson said he will be ready to press Young for the starting center position next spring.

"I'd really like to fight it out next spring so I can play a lot," Anderson said. "As far as this year, I don't really do much to help, so I'll just wait until next year."

Nichols said the time to press Young is now since he graduates this year.

"Competition is good, so therefore I have to work harder," Nichols said. "I just want to play the best I can and hope things work out for the team."