

Sports

Buffaloes anticipate romp with Huskers

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Although Colorado will enter Saturday's game against Nebraska with a 7-3 record, the Buffaloes did not receive a bowl bid.

At least four bowl-bound teams have winning percentages lower than Colorado's. Arizona State, 6-4, is going to the Freedom Bowl, 6-4 Florida is going to the Aloha Bowl, 6-5 West Virginia is going to the Sun Bowl, and 6-5 Tulane is headed to the Independence Bowl.

Colorado coach Bill McCartney said his team is angry about being shunned by the bowls.

But he said he is still happy to be playing 9-1 Nebraska at Folsom Field in Boulder, Colo. The game will be televised by ESPN beginning at 3:08 p.m.

"A lot of the players are disappointed, but I like the idea of playing Nebraska at home on national TV,"

Fiesta Bowl tickets available Dec. 1

Full-time students may purchase Fiesta Bowl tickets Dec. 1-3 at the Athletic Ticket Office, 117 South Stadium. Each qualified student may purchase one ticket. Students can buy a second ticket for a spouse if they show a marriage certificate. Current full-time

IDs are required.

Groups will be limited to six seats. Students wishing to sit together must all be present at the time of purchase.

Tickets cost \$30. Each student's personal check should be made payable to the University of

Nebraska and show a Lincoln address. Cash payments must be for the proper amount.

The student allotment will be divided equally each day and will be sold from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until each day's supply is exhausted.

McCartney said. "It satisfies me."

The Nebraska-Colorado game was originally scheduled for Nov. 14, but was moved to Nov. 28 for television. McCartney, who has designated Nebraska as Colorado's official rival, said he likes ending the season against Nebraska.

"I would prefer to play them last every year," McCartney said. "I realize that Oklahoma has a monopoly on that every year, and rightfully so. But if I had my druthers, I'd play them last

every year."

The Sooners are scheduled to be Nebraska's last opponent through 1994. Schedules for 1995 and beyond haven't been determined yet by the Big Eight.

McCartney said he doesn't think Nebraska's 17-7 loss to Oklahoma on Saturday will take any luster off Colorado's game against the Huskers.

He said he was impressed with the play of Oklahoma and Nebraska.

"Basically that was two great

teams that played, and Oklahoma came up with the big plays," McCartney said.

"Nebraska is capable of making the big play, but it wasn't in the cards."

McCartney said Colorado was able to capitalize on big plays last season as the Buffaloes used a 39-yard reverse by Jeff Campbell, a 57-yard field goal by Dave DeLine and a 52-yard half-back pass from O.C. Oliver to Lance Carl to post a 20-10 victory over Nebraska.

McCartney said the victory, which was Colorado's first over Nebraska in 19 years, was important to the Buffaloes.

"It meant a lot to the people of our state," McCartney said. "We realize that it was just one game, but it provided a great source of energy for our program."

Colorado has won four of its last five games, losing only to Oklahoma 24-6. McCartney said Colorado has improved the last five weeks while playing with a great deal of intensity.

McCartney said Colorado may have to face Nebraska without sophomore quarterback Sal Aunese. Aunese, who has completed 23 of 51 passes for 522 yards while rushing for 612 yards and 6 touchdowns this season, separated his shoulder during the Buffaloes' 41-0 victory over Kansas State last week.

"He's real sore," McCartney said. "His chance of playing Saturday is not real good."

Rodgers remains optimistic after setbacks

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

While most of Nebraska's redshirts are busy impersonating the Colorado Buffaloes, Cornhusker running back Terry Rodgers said he won't be practicing against the Huskers' top defensive unit.

Rodgers suffered a knee injury in fall practice and won't return until spring.

"If my knee's not 100 percent, then there's no reason for me to practice," Rodgers said. "Since it's not healed all the way, I want to let the healing process run its course."

Rodgers said he wasn't sure when he'd return, but said he should be ready for the Huskers' winter conditioning program.

"I'd like to get a little bigger and stronger," Rodgers said. "There are plenty of things to do."

Rodgers said he didn't think he would spend a year as a redshirt because he was challenging for playing time last season as a freshman. Rodgers finished with 135 yards rushing and one touchdown as the Huskers' No. 3 running back last year.

"I went into last year challenging for playing time," Rodgers said. "No one really established himself as the No. 2 I-back last spring so I knew there would be a lot of opportunity to play.

Because of that, I hadn't considered redshirting. But those things happen."

Rodgers said although he hasn't played this season, he expects to be considered for the starting I-back job next year.

"I came in last year as a freshman and worked my way up to No. 2 until I made some mistakes and dropped down," Rodgers said. "I have the ability to start but things have to go right. I'll go into the spring intending to win the No. 1 job since Keith (Jones) will be gone."

Nebraska running backs coach Frank Solich said Rodgers has a chance to earn the starting job.

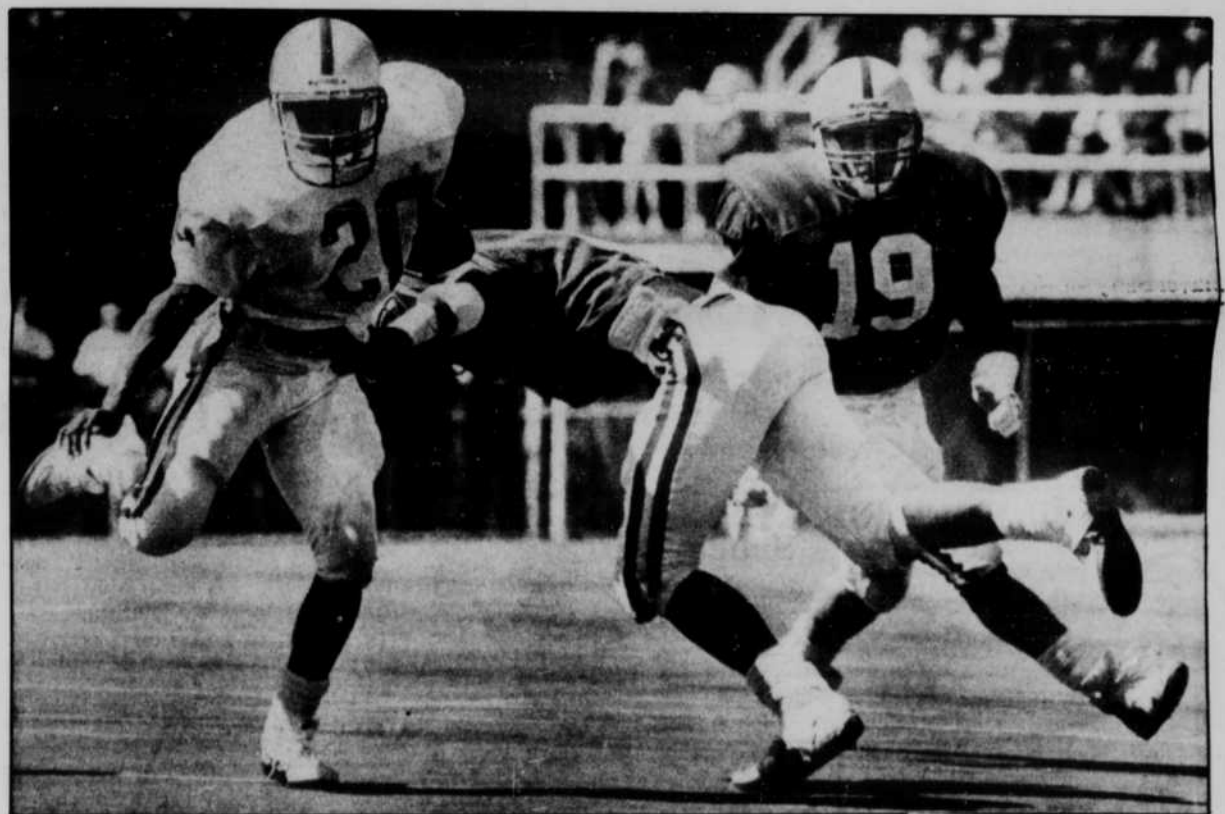
"He'll be starting off in the spring like everyone else," Solich said. "Since the starting job is open, he'll be trying to earn it."

Rodgers, the son of former Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers, said he didn't come to Nebraska to follow his father's footsteps.

"I fully intend to make my own footsteps here," Rodgers said. "I can't live in somebody else's shoes forever."

"I don't think I've made a name for myself just yet. But by the time I leave, hopefully it will be the other way around; that I'll be known as Terry Rodgers, not Johnny Rodgers' son."

Rodgers said even though he hasn't played much yet he isn't disappointed about coming to Nebraska.



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska running back Terry Rodgers (No. 20) performs during the Cornhuskers' spring game.

Coach Osborne should update his recruiting philosophy

There has been a lot of talk about the talent discrepancies in the Big Eight, and unless things are changed sometime in the near future, it appears it could get worse.

The Big Eight, which once proclaimed itself to be the premier conference for college football, has been the brunt of a series of claims that it is a two-team conference dominated by Nebraska and Oklahoma.



Jeff Apel

But the Sooners' 17-7 victory over Nebraska Saturday shows that things are different.

Not only did Oklahoma humiliate the Cornhuskers before Memorial Stadium's largest crowd ever, but they also showed that the Nebraska coaching staff needs to change its recruiting philosophy if it is going to continue to be successful on the national level.

The Huskers, who have prided

themselves on the fact that they are able to sell athletes on their program by emphasizing its superior weight room and winning tradition, need to catch up with the new recruiting tactics that are sweeping through even the country's most conservative coaches.

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne, when asked what he thought were the differences between him and Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer, responded by saying that Switzer enjoys more social activities while he prefers to do more things by himself.

Osborne's philosophy is fine, except that it ignores the latest trend among college coaches — that is, the trend for them to stoop to the athletes' level.

Switzer has done this time and time again by doing such simple tasks as handing Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney a sack of tacos during a prediction show. He also has been known to appear on television with professional wrestler Steve "Dr. Death" Williams and allow college-age women to appear as special guests on his weekly TV show.

While all of these feats may seem meaningless, think of the impact they

have on the athletes. A college coach who sells his program on national championships earned through hard work and fun, is bound to be more successful than one who is known as a strict disciplinarian who never walks away from the straight and narrow.

Proof of this can be found in the Oklahoma-Nebraska series, in which Switzer's Sooners have compiled a 12-3 record against Osborne-coached Husker teams. Oklahoma also has won three national championships compared to none for Nebraska during the last 14 seasons, and Switzer has compiled a 148-25-4 record compared to Osborne's 146-33-2 mark.

Further evidence of this can be found in the two school's recruiting lists, which appear to be about as similar as night and day.

Oklahoma, which prides itself on recruiting small, slick athletes who tend to get lost behind an enormous offensive line, traditionally raids Texas and the rest of the country in pursuit of the nation's top prep players.

If a player isn't immediately sold on the Sooner program, Switzer or one of his assistants makes a recruiting visit and reminds the athletes that fur

coats and gold earrings really are all right in Norman.

All of these tactics, in addition to the fact that Switzer regularly makes public appearances that may seem a little bit out of the norm, help the Sooners to regularly compile a list of recruits that reads more like a blue-chip list.

Nebraska, meanwhile, immediately places itself at an instant disadvantage by not participating in any of these sometimes outrageous activities. Although the Huskers do manage to sign some high school All-America's each year, it's obvious that the Sooners are at the top of the peak in the Big Eight.

Before the talent problems become worse, Osborne and the conference's six other coaches should all consider changing their recruiting philosophies in order to close the talent gap.

Granted, Kansas State coach Stan Parrish and whoever coaches the Kansas football program now that Bob Valesente has been fired, will have trouble winning regardless of what they say or do.

But Colorado coach Bill McCartney, Iowa State's Jim Walden, Oklahoma State's Pat Jones, and

Missouri's Woody Widenhofer all should realize the potential impact of such a move.

It's nice to see that some of the Big Eight conference's basketball teams already have turned to such measures in an effort to compete with the big-name schools of the East Coast.

Kansas coach Larry Brown has built a program supposedly locked in a Midwest disadvantage into a national powerhouse by holding an annual "Late Night With Larry" and camping out with students waiting to buy season tickets.

Even Missouri coach Norm Stewart, who for years has been tagged as a strict disciplinarian who doesn't know the meaning of the word fun, has gotten into the act. Stewart, whose Tigers also are mentioned prominently in every pre-season poll, played the role of Dracula in a production that also starred Missouri forward Derrick Chevious.

All of these things, no matter how big or small they may seem, have an impact on athletes. And it's an impact college coaches throughout the country should enjoy.