

Osborne: First scrimmage satisfactory



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Terry Rodgers eludes a Cornhusker defender. Rodgers finished with 77 yards on nine carries.

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Not good, not bad, just satisfactory.

That's how Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne described the Cornhuskers' first scrimmage of spring drills Saturday. He said he was disappointed with the output by the top two offensive teams, but the defensive units were "pretty aggressive."

The top two offensive units scored four times, three times on field goals. Chris Drennan connected on field goals of 27 and 45 yards, and Gregg Barrios booted a 38-yarder.

The lone touchdown of the day came on a 1-yard run by I-back Tyreese Knox. Knox, who led all rushers with 87 yards on 11 carries, then added a two-point conversion.

Osborne said the main reason for the low offensive output was that quarterback Steve Taylor and freshman I-back Leodis Flowers did not

play because of injuries. Also absent from the top offensive units were wingback Dana Brinson, I-back Ken Clark, tight end Chris O'Gara and fullback Randy Williams, who were all held out because of academic or disciplinary problems.

In addition, cornerback Charles Fryar, inside linebacker Leroy Etienne, middle guard Mike Murray, outside linebacker Broderick Thomas, and tackles Ray Valladao and Kent Wells are not practicing on defense because of similar reasons or injuries.

Taylor has been slowed by a thigh injury, which he suffered during winter conditioning, and Flowers was held out of practice because of a shoulder injury. The others were kept from participating because of academic or disciplinary problems.

"We didn't throw the ball as well as we could," Osborne said, "and that had a lot to do with the fact that Steve wasn't in there."

Gerry Gdowski and Mickey Jo-

seph, Nebraska's top two quarterbacks this spring during Taylor's absence, "both did some good and bad things," Osborne said. He said Jerry Dunlap, Tom Hasse, Keithen McCant and Mike Preston all performed well.

Gdowski rushed four times for 67 yards and completed one pass for 28 yards, but threw two interceptions. Joseph rushed for 40 yards on 12 carries and completed a 5-yard pass.

Joseph said he and Gdowski need to retain the leadership they displayed in high school to be successful at Nebraska.

"Steve's not always going to be there," Joseph said. "Some games, Steve might be hurt, and we really have to be able to take over that leadership role."

"Gerry and I were leaders in high school, and I know we can be here, too."

Joseph, a redshirt freshman from Murrero, La., was rated as the top

See JOSEPH on 7

History favors Kansas in Monday's NCAA title game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The last time two teams from the same conference met for the national championship in college basketball, the underdog won and matched the mark for most losses by a champion.

On Monday night, Kansas and Oklahoma of the Big Eight meet for the title with the Jayhawks an eight-point underdog and enough losses to set the record for most by an NCAA champion.

When Villanova beat fellow Big East member Georgetown in 1985, the Wildcats were 10-point underdogs and the only unranked team in the Final Four, which is the same type

of scenario Kansas faces this year.

"You have to be lucky, get some breaks, win a game or two you're not supposed to win," said Kansas coach Larry Brown, whose squad dropped a 70-68 decision to Nebraska earlier this season.

Brown, who coached the 1980 UCLA team that reached the championship game as a heavy underdog but then lost, said he hopes for a different result this year.

Kansas, 26-11, and Oklahoma, 35-3, will meet for the third time this season Monday at 8 p.m. Oklahoma won the first two meetings, 73-65 and 95-87, and while the Jayhawks have

changed a lot this season because of injuries and academic problems, the Sooners and their vaunted pressure defense have remained constant.

"I don't know if you can compare their press to any other," Kansas guard Kevin Pritchard said. "They have the greatest press in the world, and they showed that against a great ball-handling team like Arizona."

Oklahoma beat the second-ranked Wildcats 86-78 in the semifinals, while forcing Arizona, which had committed 12 turnovers per game, into nine turnovers in the first half and 15 in the game.

"The pace at which we play is hard

for some teams to adjust to," Oklahoma forward Dave Sieger said.

Pritchard, who had five assists and seven rebounds in Kansas' 66-59 semifinal victory against Duke, has seen the press twice this season, and it is tougher on him than most point guards because he began playing that position midway through the season.

But Pritchard has been successful. When he moved to the point from his shooting-guard position, the Jayhawks were 12-7 and the next opponent was Oklahoma. Pritchard played 33 minutes, and although the Jayhawks lost, the game was a turning point.

Kansas has gone 14-4 since then, and one of those losses was to Kansas State in the Big Eight Tournament, a game Pritchard missed because of a knee injury.

"I didn't realize Pritchard had such an impact on that team, but the game they played without Pritchard they just weren't the same," Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs said.

Tubbs said he doesn't care what other people think about the game. He knows what his team will do.

"I don't care who's the favorite, it doesn't matter when the ball is rolling down the floor and the players never think about that," Tubbs said.



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