

## Absence of serious injuries pleases Cornhusker coach

By Mike Kluck  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he was pleased Monday with the Cornhuskers' first practice after their 23-14 win against Texas A&M in the Kickoff Classic.

"The remarkable thing is, I can remember very few Mondays where we've had so few players missing because of injury," Osborne said. "For the two-a-days and a real physical hard ballgame, I thought we came out of it in remarkably good shape. The attitude was good. We had a pretty good practice for a Monday."

However, Texas A&M didn't fare as well after its participation in the game. The Associated Press reported Monday the Aggies had eight players on injured reserve who were questionable for Texas A&M's game with LSU on Saturday.

The injured players for Texas A&M include its starting backfield and receivers.

Senior outside linebacker John Marco was held out of practice Monday with a cracked thumb, but plans to practice today, Osborne said. Middle guard Mike Murray, who had a sore knee after Saturday's game, practiced Monday.

Osborne said junior center Jake Young is much better after suffering a knee injury last week in practice. Young was jogging at Monday's practice after having been on crutches last Wednesday, Osborne said.

Osborne said the Huskers chose I-back George Achola and senior linebacker Brian Miller as two guys who have done a good job on the scouting team. This is the first year Nebraska has ever recognized somebody from the scout team, he said.

"The scout team in general has done pretty well," Osborne said. "They're really important, because if you don't get a good picture the value of practice really diminishes by 40 or 50 percent."

## Nebraska/Oklahoma--Big Eight Dominance

### Big Eight Champions During Past 25 Years

OKLAHOMA	1962	Oklahoma State	1976*
NEBRASKA	1963	Colorado	
NEBRASKA	1964	OKLAHOMA	
NEBRASKA	1965	OKLAHOMA	1977
NEBRASKA	1966	NEBRASKA	1978*
OKLAHOMA	1967	OKLAHOMA	
OKLAHOMA	1968,	OKLAHOMA	1979
Kansas		OKLAHOMA	1980
NEBRASKA	1969,	NEBRASKA	1981
Missouri		NEBRASKA	1982
NEBRASKA	1970	NEBRASKA	1983
NEBRASKA	1971	NEBRASKA	1984*
NEBRASKA	1972	OKLAHOMA	
OKLAHOMA	1973	OKLAHOMA	1985
OKLAHOMA	1974	OKLAHOMA	1986
NEBRASKA	1975	OKLAHOMA	1987
OKLAHOMA			

\* Tied for league championship

## Nebraska coach to pin hopes on talented recruiting class

By Tim Hartmann  
Staff Reporter

A dissatisfying finish last season has caused Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann to change his plans for this season.

Neumann was intent on most of his recruits redshirting this season. But because the Cornhuskers finished 39th at the 1988 NCAA meet he decided not to redshirt any of them.

"We're not going to redshirt anyone right away," he said. "That's different than what I've ever done, probably because of the disappointing year we had last

year. I'm going to put my 10 best wrestlers on the mat, whoever (they) may be. If we have a freshman wrestling, then so be it."

Neumann thought before last season started that his Huskers would finish in the top 10. Though he was disappointed with last season, he said he was anything but disappointed with his recruiting class.

Nebraska's nine recruits were ranked No.2 in that nation by Amateur Wrestling News. Arizona State was ranked 1st, followed by three other Big Eight Conference schools: Iowa State (3rd), Oklahoma

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## Famous 'Big Two and the Little Six' joke probably won't be applicable this year

Every football season, the hackneyed joke begins early, usually around Aug. 1.

It starts in the Southwest Conference area, ventures up through the Big Ten states and trickles out to the West Coast and Southeastern Conference region.

The joke is in regard to the top-to-bottom talent of the football teams in the Big Eight, the conference known around the country as the "Big Two and the Little Six."

But this year, the cliché may be silenced, and early.

Nothing will change at the pinnacle of the conference. Nebraska and Oklahoma will still play for the Big Eight crown on a bitter day in November—a game which will likely decide the inside track to the national championship. But a few other teams in the conference might be in line for bowl berths and top 20 spots.

Here's how the Big Eight should stack up this season.

1. Nebraska. Yeah, I know. Every season, everybody around here says the Cornhuskers will win it all and by the end of every year, there's more depression in Nebraska than there is in Chicago midway through any given baseball season. But Husker fans have good reason to be optimistic this year.

The biggest reason is that Oklahoma, which has beaten Nebraska the last four years, returns only four starters on defense—a defense that made the Husker offense look foolish a year ago.

Only one of Oklahoma's starting defensive backs return, which is good news for Nebraska's receiving corps. Richard Bell, Dana Brinson, Morgan Gregory and sophomore Nate Turner return as the major Husker deep threats, and quarterback Steve Taylor is probably the second-best all-around signal caller in America, next to Tulane's Terrence Jones.

Now all Coach Tom Osborne has to do is use his receivers now and then, and not just on third-and-10.

When the passing lanes are closed down, Nebraska's ground game should be in fine form with I-backs Tyrese Knox, Ken Clark, Terry Rodgers and Leodis Flowers handling most of the responsibility. Fullbacks Sam Schmidt and Bryan Carpenter should provide tough running inside and invaluable lead blocks.

The offensive line is once again solid, but is fairly young and untested.

Defensively, the Huskers return five starters, but must beef up the interior line. Middle guards Lawrence Pete and Mike Murray will anchor the inside, with Paul Brun-

gardt, Ray Valladao and Kent Wells as the leading candidates to fill the vacant tackle spots.

Perhaps the strongest quarter of Nebraska's defensive unit is the outside linebacker roster—another plus for the Huskers when the battle with the Sooners rolls around. The outside corners of the line are the areas Oklahoma has exploited to the limit the last four seasons, but it won't be as vulnerable this time around, barring injuries.

Broderick Thomas and Jeff Mills will handle the starting honors with Jon Marco and sophomore Mike Croel providing reliable backup.

Leroy Etienne and Pat Tyrance will start the season as the top inside linebackers, with Randall Jobman, Chris Caliendo and Kenny Walker vying for playing time as well.

The secondary is led by three-year starter Charles Fryar, who returns to his right cornerback spot. Tahaun Lewis and Cartier Walker will attempt to unseat him during the early part of the fall. The other corner will be split by Lorenzo Hicks, Jon Crippen and John Custard.

Chuck Green



At strong safety, newcomer Reggie Cooper is the top man. Tim Jackson will start at the free safety position.

Nebraska's kicking game is strong with placekicker Chris Drennan and punter John Kroeger returning.

Nebraska's schedule isn't much easier than last year's, with non-conference games against three national powers—UCLA and Arizona State, in addition to last Saturday's game against Texas A&M in the Kickoff Classic—in addition to shoot-outs with Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Colorado, and a couple improved teams to boot. Plus, the extension of the season by three weeks due to the Kickoff Classic could make for a fatigued group by Jan. 1.

But if Nebraska's coaches can overcome these obstacles and keep their key players out of jail, this could finally be the season. You know... the season.

2. Oklahoma. The Sooners have nine starters returning from last year's team, but the Oklahoma defensive unit returns only four of those starters, which could spell trouble for the Sooners by the end of the season.

But don't shed any tears for Coach Barry Switzer. His offense, which has five regulars back, will be just as awesome as it has for the last 15 years. Quarterback Jamelle Holieway is apparently recovered from a knee injury suffered late last season and will likely be the top signal caller. If he is unable to perform, sophomore Charles Thompson will handle the burden.

The Sooners' offensive backfield returns Anthony Stafford and must fill the fullback and other halfback position. But somehow, Oklahoma always does.

The offensive line should once again be awesome and the receivers will be more than adequate for the rare occasions on which Oklahoma decides to throw the ball.

Defensively, the Sooners are strong at inside linebacker and in the line's interior. Switzer, however, is faced with the unenviable task of replacing backfield stars Ricky Dixon and David Vickers.

Oklahoma's schedule this season includes North Carolina, Arizona, Southern California and an improved Texas team, as well as the Big Eight slate. The inexperienced players on the Sooners' roster may grow up real fast this September. If they don't, the "Fire Barry Switzer" editorials will again be circulating through Norman.

Three losses will do that in some places.

3. Oklahoma State. The Cowboys return seven starters on offense and five on defense. The only real challenge on their schedule, outside of the conference, is a home date with Texas A&M. The annual showdown with Oklahoma is in Stillwater.

These are all the makings of a good season and maybe—gasp!—a New Year's Day bowl invitation. That is, if Oklahoma State only loses to Nebraska and Oklahoma.

The most visible player in the Cowboy's arsenal is wide receiver Hart Lee Dykes, who is the preseason All-America selection of most college football magazines. Mike Gundy, the Big Eight's leading passer in 1987, will also return. Last year, Gundy became only the second quarterback in conference history to pass for more than 2,000 yards as a sophomore.

Oklahoma State's offensive line returns all but one starter from last season and fullback Garrett Limbrick is also back for his final campaign.

Barry Sanders appears to be the heir to the I-back spot, where All-America selection Thurman Thomas reigned since his freshman season.

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Q102 Welcomes

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