

Aggies' coach doesn't expect win

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

The nickname of Nebraska's football opponent may be the same but the teams will be different.

The 2nd-ranked Cornhuskers defeated the Texas A&M Aggies, 23-14 last Saturday in its season opening game in the Kickoff Classic at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The Aggies were ranked No. 6 in the United Press International poll and 10th in the Associated Press poll.

STATE OPPONENT PREVIEW

The Huskers face the unranked Utah State Aggies Saturday in their 1988 home opener.

Utah State coach Chuck Shelton said his Aggies won't have as much talent as Nebraska or as Texas A&M, but also that they won't be scared to play the Cornhuskers.

"I don't want to sound like I am saying we are going to come in and beat Nebraska, but I do believe our

this season, Shelton said.

"Were still young on defense," Shelton said. "Offensively, we should be better, but we want to work on our running game."

The strength of Utah State's offense this year will be returning senior quarterback Brent Snyder. Snyder, a transfer from Diablo Valley College in Calif., threw for 2,887 yards last season to set a new Utah State record. He threw over 300 yards in four consecutive games last year.

Snyder's top receiver will be senior Kendal Smith. Smith had 67 receptions last season for 1,048 yards and seven touchdowns, while finishing 7th in the nation in receiving and 14th in rushing. Snyder will also be looking to junior flanker Patrick Newman. Newman graduated from Lincoln High School in San Diego, Calif., where he was a teammate of Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor.

"Our quarterback last year took 43 hits and still got up from every one to set a school record," Shelton said. "Snyder has had an excellent fall and I feel he's the best he's ever been. He has a lot of stock and a lot of ability on the field."

Shelton said the Aggies will continue to throw the ball this year but

sophomores and one junior. Shelton said the Aggies won't concentrate on defending Nebraska quarterback Taylor alone.

"Steve Taylor may be the best quarterback in the country, but when you play Nebraska you have to defend the entire offense," Shelton said. "Nebraska is Nebraska. They will have small subtle changes but they aren't going to change. We are going to try to defend against their offense and try to attack their offense."

Shelton said that if Utah State loses to Nebraska it will still help the Aggie football program through recruitment. He said the Aggies' chance to play a nationally ranked opponent and have an opportunity in the national limelight is a good recruiting tactic.

'I don't want to sound like I'm saying we are going to come in and beat Nebraska, but I do believe our kids will come in and play their hearts out.'

—Shelton

kids will come in and play their hearts out," Shelton said. "We will not be intimidated by them."

Shelton said the Aggies are looking to Saturday's season opener to find out where they left off from last fall.

Utah State finished last season with a 5-6 record, by winning five of its final six games after starting the season 0-5.

Although the Aggies have 23 returning lettermen, including 12 starters, Utah State will still be youthful

will also try to establish a running game.

"We want to upgrade our running program, so we have better ball control when we have the ball," Shelton said. "We had 23 touchdowns through the air last season while scoring only two on the ground."

Louie Aguiar, who was ranked 14th in the nation with an average of 42.6 yards per punt last year, returns as the Aggies leading punter.

On defense, Utah State has four returning starters including three

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