

Fullback's season may be over

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday fullback Sam Schmidt might miss the rest of the season because of an injury.

Osborne said an injury to Schmidt's left ankle will sideline him for at least five weeks.

"One of our main concerns right now is at fullback," he said. "Sam Schmidt will apparently miss the majority of the season, maybe the whole season. He had a fracture in his ankle and he had to have it pinned on Sunday. That's a blow to us because he was probably our best blocking fullback."

Schmidt, a junior from Wood River, injured his ankle during the 1st quarter in Nebraska's 41-28 loss to UCLA on Sept. 10 in Pasadena, Calif.

In Nebraska's first three games, Schmidt gained 38 yards on nine carries, including one touchdown.

Nebraska athletic trainer George Sullivan said Schmidt's injury was serious enough that it needed a pin to heal properly.

"The doctors thought the fracture was bad and opted to put a metal implant in it," Sullivan said. "They put it in a solid cast for three weeks and then he'll need a walking cast, so he'll miss quite a bit of time."

Because of the injury to Schmidt, Osborne said, Tyreese Knox will alternate between fullback and I-back. Knox, a 5-foot-10, 215-pound senior from Daly City, Calif., is listed as 3rd-team fullback behind junior Bryan Carpenter and freshman Lance Lewis.

"We've played Knox (at fullback) three quarters of the time the past two weeks," Osborne said. "Tyreese is also playing I-back — he's prepared to go both places. But we are pretty thin, and we'll probably take a freshman fullback and start working with him today, too."

Osborne said Jerry Kleidosty will

be moved to varsity fullback in order to strengthen depth at that position. Kleidosty has rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries in the Nebraska junior varsity team's first two games.

"We just want to take a look at him," Osborne said. "Lance Lewis is also a good player, and I hope he's ready to play."

Although Osborne is concerned with the fullback situation, he said Nebraska's I-backs are doing a good job even though not one I-back has rushed for 100 yards this season.

Ken Clark, the Huskers' 1st-team I-back, has rushed for 216 yards on 44 attempts and two touchdowns. Backup Terry Rodgers, a sophomore from National City, Calif., has gained 203 yards on 41 tries for an average of 5 yards per carry.

"Against Texas A&M, because of their style of defense, we ended up throwing quite a bit more," Osborne said. "When we're in the spread, the I-back is not in the game. Against Utah State, the 1st team only played a half."

"They'll be some games where an I-back gains over 100 yards, I hope."

NOTES:

• Osborne said he thinks the Huskers will respond well to the loss to UCLA.

"We're not the type of team that goes into the tank every time we lose," he said.

• The Huskers won't try anything drastically different against the Sun Devils on Saturday, Osborne said. He said Nebraska will try to stick to its basic offense. Kickoff for the game is scheduled for 6 p.m. and will be nationally televised by ESPN (Cablevision channel 23).

"If you ask our fans, they think all I know how to do is run," Osborne said of the Huskers offense. "I've kind of become the Woody Hayes of the Big Eight."

Hayes coached at Ohio State from 1951 to 1978 and was known for his predictable, run-oriented offense.



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne speaks to reporters Tuesday at his weekly press luncheon at South Stadium. Osborne announced that junior fullback Sam Schmidt will be sidelined five to eight weeks because of a fractured ankle.

Cornhuskers help freshman adjust

By Kyle Schurman
Staff Reporter

High school and college football are not really different to Nebraska freshman Paul Van Housen — except six more players are on the field now than there were when he played in high school.

Van Housen played eight-man football at Polk-Hordville High School. He said the adjustment to the 11-man college football game has not been as difficult as one might expect.

As a high school senior, Van Housen averaged more than 170 yards rushing per game on the 80-yard, eight-man football field. He gained 2,142 yards rushing during his sophomore year for Polk.

Van Housen, a walk on I-back, is continuing to enjoy success running the football and scoring touchdowns at Nebraska. He gained 114 yards on 17 carries and scored two touchdowns during the Nebraska junior varsity's 68-0 win against Bethany (Kan.) Junior College's junior varsity Monday afternoon.

Van Housen and I-back Scott Baldwin tied to lead Nebraska in rushing during Monday's game.

During the Cornhuskers' season-opening win against the St. Thomas (Minn.) junior varsity Sept. 5, Van Housen rushed for 56 yards and two touchdowns on 10 carries. He said he did not expect to have the success he has had as a Husker.

"The first game was pretty good," he said, "but the second (game) I could hardly believe it. The linemen helped a lot. You can't have a good game without the linemen."

Van Housen attributes a lot of his success to other people. He said Polk's success as a team — it posted

a 9-1 record in his senior season and was 11-1 during his junior year — prepared him for the success of the Nebraska program.

"The success we had in high school carries over," Van Housen said. "If you've had a lot of success in high school you might as well go out and have a lot of success in college."

He has not let playing eight-man football in high school hinder him at

Nebraska. Van Housen played in the 1988 Shrine Bowl, which he said helped him adjust faster to the 11-man game.

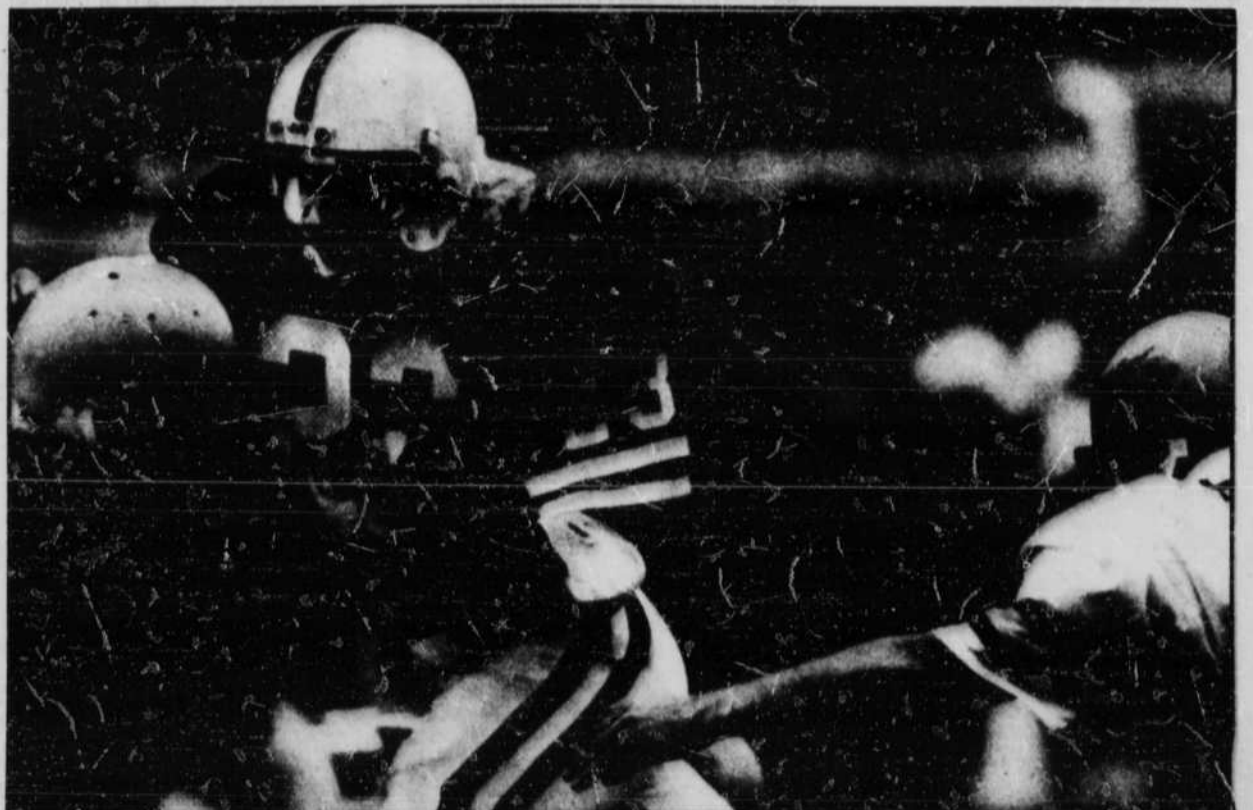
"(The Shrine Bowl) got me ready to go for here," he said. "The plays are almost all the same. I've had to get used to a little wider and bigger field. The college game does have a little bigger players, though," he said.

Van Housen is one of those bigger

players. He stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 200 pounds after adding 12 pounds since he came to Nebraska just 1 1/2 months ago. He said the food at the training table and the Husker weight program have helped him get stronger.

Polk's weight room may not have been quite as extensive as

See VANHOUSEN on 8



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska I-back Paul Van Housen looks for running from during the Cornhusker junior varsity team's 68-0 pounding of Bethany (Kan.) College junior varsity Monday. Van Housen, who played eight-man football at Polk-Hordville High School, gained 114 yards on 17 carries against the Swedes.

has been showing the fairly further... contrast in the world of international gymnastics.

One of the biggest criticisms of U.S. gymnastics programs is that they allow aggressive Soviet-bloc countries to dictate training techniques and develop new routines. Then, once the other countries perfect the moves, U.S. gymnasts try to copy them.



It's new. It's different. And it just might make a difference.

When USCG officials contacted Epley two weeks ago, they were concerned that the U.S. teams would do well this week at the Olympic Games.

the children stronger, he said. "They would have a better chance in 1992."

Epley said Monday that the 12-week study will involve 30 Lincoln children competing at the Junior Olympic level. Fifteen of the gymnasts will use a weight-training program developed by Epley to supplement their regular workouts. The other 15 will not lift.

International judges will evaluate the 1988-89 performance before the weight training starts. At the end of the 12-week study, the judges will compare the again to see if the training program has helped the children stronger.

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