

NU-MU game an eye-opener

Growing up in Lincoln as a Cornhusker football fan, three memories stick out in my mind more than any others.

The first is that Nebraska will play Oklahoma at the end of every season for the Big Eight Conference championship and an Orange Bowl berth. The second, of course, is that more times than not, the Sooners will beat Nebraska for the postseason prizes.



Chuck Green

But it's the third memory that has always made my heart race a little faster: The Huskers' rivalry with Missouri.

Next to Oklahoma, the Tigers have been a bigger thorn in the sides of Nebraska football fans and coaches more than any other team the Huskers have faced since the Bob Devaney era.

It's flaming rivalry has been fanned with accusations of cheap shots, name-calling by various coaches and players in the media and upsets by Missouri galore. It's been better than any soap opera on network television.

It's Midwest football at its best, the kind Ivy League fans dream of.

The past few years — since 1984, when Missouri coach Warren Powers resigned — have been pretty much free of serious controversy. But before then... whoa!

1973 — Nebraska, under the leadership of Tom Osborne for the first season, was 4-0 and ranked No. 2 in the nation. The Tigers beat the Huskers 13-12 in Columbia, Mo., and ecstatic Missouri students and fans charged the field, trampling Nebraska's players and coaches.

1974 — Osborne's record against the Tigers falls to 0-2 after a 21-10 Missouri win at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. Unranked Wisconsin had handed the Tigers a 59-20 defeat the week before the Nebraska shootout.

1975 — The Huskers use the now-famous "Bumerooski" fake punt play to blow open the game in the second quarter. Nebraska went on to beat Missouri 30-7 on national TV, and were undefeated until the Oklahoma game at the season's end.

1976 — For the second year in a row, the Nebraska-Missouri game is remembered for one play. But this time, it wasn't in the Huskers' favor. Missouri's Pete Wood's threw a 98-yard touchdown pass to Joe Stewart and Missouri goes on to win the game 34-24.

1978 — One week after Osborne's first win against Oklahoma, Missouri upset the 2nd-ranked Huskers 35-31 in Lincoln. Powers, a former Nebraska assistant coach under Devaney, is 2-0 against his former team — his Washington State team defeated the Huskers one year earlier in one of Osborne's most inexcusable losses of his career.

1979 — The real trouble starts. Nebraska I-back Jarvis Redwine is injured on a cheap shot by a Tiger defensive lineman. As Redwine blocked for an extra point after a touch-

See GREEN on 18

Performance doesn't earn 2nd start

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

One great game won't earn Nebraska cornerback Bruce Pickens a starting position this weekend.

Pickens, a 5-foot-11, 185-pound junior from Kansas City, Mo., said his performance in the Cornhuskers' 48-3 victory against Kansas State doesn't mean he will start when the Huskers face Missouri Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

Pickens played starting position for the first time for the Huskers last weekend. He replaced senior Lorenzo Hicks, who missed the game because of a hand injury.

"I learned a lot Saturday, but Lorenzo still has the confidence and still is the most relaxed (at the position)," Pickens said. "I'm still learning."

Hicks said he's not surprised at how well Pickens has done already. Pickens transferred to Nebraska from Coffeyville (Kan.) Community Col-

lege and has practiced just this fall with the Huskers.

Hicks said he isn't as confident as Pickens is about retaining his position.

"He could be playing my position pretty soon," Hicks said. "He has all the natural talent in the world. He just needs to develop it."

Pickens said his starting job in last Saturday's game helped him to feel better about himself.

"The start made me feel like I was really a part of the team," Pickens said.

He said a third-quarter interception especially helped boost his confidence. Pickens said he saw the ball coming and knew from catching balls in practice that he would catch it. He did and returned it 18 yards to set up Nebraska's final touchdown — a 26-yard run by senior I-back Tyreese Knox.

Although Pickens' return was only 18 yards, he said he felt like he ran a mile.

"After I intercepted the ball, I felt like I was out there for quite a while," Pickens said. "When I came back to the bench some of the guys told me I ran for 150 yards."

Pickens' interception return con-

cerned Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride, though. At Monday's Extra Point Club luncheon at Dillard's, McBride said he thought the Husker offense might want to convert Pickens to running back.

Pickens promised he wouldn't make the switch, although he is used to change. He played for Westport High School in Kansas City — a school that broke a 48-game losing streak during his sophomore year. Now Pickens plays for Nebraska — a team that hasn't suffered a losing season during Tom Osborne's 16 years as coach.

Hicks said the coaching Pickens' received in high school didn't help him make the transition to college football. He said Westport played a

type of football that amounted to "street ball".

"Pickens' development may have been hindered by poor coaching in high school," Hicks said. "He didn't have the coaching in high school. Now that's he's here, he's adopting well. He was really fast. He's probably the fastest defensive back we've got. He was easy to remember (in high school)."

Pickens started one year for Coffeyville coach Dick Foster. Foster said Pickens' high school background was the reason he started for just one season. He became a second-team All-Conference selection last year for the Red Ravens and recorded five

See PICKENS on 16

Pickens at Nebraska

Total tackles	12		1--7	Quarterback sacks
Unassisted	8		1	Passes broken up
assisted	4		1	Interceptions
Tackles for loss	2 for 8 yards			

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Coach says beware of the Tigers

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Despite Missouri's 2-4-1 record, Nebraska can't afford to let up on the Tigers, Nebraska graduate assistant Tony Davis said.

Davis, a former Cornhusker full-back now in his second year of coaching at Nebraska, scouted Missouri's game against Oklahoma State last Saturday in Stillwater, Okla. The Cowboys defeated Missouri 49-21.

"Missouri, right now, regardless of their record, is a very dangerous football team," Davis said. "They are very large and strong, and very dominating. The thing that I was more concerned about was the size and the strength of their up front people."

Davis said the Huskers should expect to play hard every minute against Missouri. He said the Tigers have the type of team that concerns most coaches.

Davis said the Tigers' offensive line is strong and could give Nebraska some difficulties.

He said the Huskers, 7-1 overall and 3-0 in the Big Eight, must also worry about the Tigers' offense.

The Tigers are averaging 246.1

yards of rushing each game this season and have scored 146 total points — an average of nearly 21 per game. Missouri also is averaging 121.6 yards passing each game.



"They played Oklahoma State very tough," Davis said. "At one point of the game, they got into a certain offensive set and were dominating Oklahoma State."

Davis declined to say what offensive formation the Tigers used effectively against Oklahoma State.

The Tigers are led by freshman quarterback Corey Welch, a 6-foot-2, 192-pound native of Kansas City, Kan., redshirted in 1987 after he threw for 1,997 yards during his senior year at Wyandotte High School.

Welch has rushed 55 times for 241 yards this season and four touchdowns. He's completed 11 of 19 passes for 295 yards and one touchdown. He's tossed one interception in

five games.

Davis said Welch is a good athlete with a lot of ability.

"He shows some inexperience but he's very talented," he said.

Welch will start for the Tigers in place of John Stollenwerck, who sprained his right ankle in Saturday's game against Oklahoma State. Stollenwerck has thrown for 368 yards on 31 completions.

Stollenwerck, a transfer from Southern Methodist, rushed for 44 yards and one touchdown this season before his injury.

Davis said Missouri has a good fullback in Tommie Stowers. Stowers, a 6-3, 216-pound junior from Kansas City, Mo., has rushed for 417 yards on 89 carries this year. He's also caught two passes for 13 yards.

Last year, Stowers rushed for 707 yards on 151 carries and one touchdown. He also had five receptions for 80 yards.

When Missouri throws, its primary target is Tim Bruton, a 6-4 tight end from Houston. He's hauled in 17 receptions for 264 yards and one touchdown.

Bruton, a sophomore, had 13 re-

ceptions last season for 174 yards and three touchdowns. He was listed as the nation's top collegiate tight end by The Sporting News this summer.

Ronnie Cameron, a senior split end from East St. Louis, Ill., is another Tiger threat. He has caught nine passes for 101 yards this season.

Cameron started at quarterback the first four games last season before losing his starting job to Stollenwerck.

Davis said the Tigers' defense is just as strong as their offense. The Tigers limited Utah State to 13 yards of rushing and Houston to 75 yards rushing.

Middle linebacker Darren MacDonald leads the Tiger defense with 63 total tackles this season. He's made 22 unassisted tackles and he's recorded four tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Outside linebacker A.J. Miller is second with 58 total tackles. Miller also has three quarterback sacks for 16 yards in losses, and he's broken up five passes.

Defensive end Lee Johnson has recorded 39 tackles, including a team-leading five quarterback sacks.

Leinen says work is key to success

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

A new pitch prompted by a life-long dream will await batters who face Nebraska pitcher Pat Leinen during the spring baseball season.

Leinen said he is using Nebraska's fall exhibition baseball season to develop a forkball and maintain the same type of devoted work ethic that helped him earn a 10-4 record last season. He said he needs to develop a forkball to go along with the fastball, curveball and straight change he already throws, and he said a devoted work ethic is the key to continued success.

Leinen, who was drafted in the ninth round of last June's major-league draft by the New York Mets, said a fourth pitch will make him a more attractive professional prospect. He said it also will help him fulfill his boyhood dream of playing major-league baseball.

"Ever since I was little, I've wanted to play in the major leagues," Leinen said. "It has always been a dream of mine."



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska pitcher Pat Leinen appears to be missing a leg as he delivers a pitch during a recent practice at Buck Beltzer Field. Actually, Leinen has two legs and will probably be the Cornhuskers' No. 1 pitcher when they begin their season this spring.

See LEINEN on 16