

Husker victory over Colorado was 'no surprise' to Osborne

By Nick Hodge
Staff Reporter

A tough victory against Colorado did not surprise Nebraska coach Tom Osborne.

Osborne said Sunday that Nebraska's 7-0 victory against Colorado Saturday at Memorial Stadium was a hard-fought battle.

"I thought it'd be close and it was," Osborne said.

Osborne said he didn't think there would be an offensive explosion Saturday because of the quality of the two teams' defenses.

Osborne said the kicking game and turnovers are always critical aspects of football games, especially close ones.

Nebraska senior punter John Kroeker outkicked Colorado's Keith English. English entered the game as the Big Eight's punter with a 45.7-yard average, while Kroeker averaged 41.4.

Kroeker averaged 44.4 yards a punt in eight attempts Saturday, while English countered with a 41-yard average on seven punts.

Osborne said because field position played such a crucial role against Colorado, Kroeker's punts were significant when the 35 mph wind gusts were considered.

"John had a great game, particularly with the wind factor," Osborne said.

All three of the game's turnovers came as a result of nine fumbles. The Huskers had two turnovers, while

Colorado had one.

Although it wasn't a turnover, one of Colorado's six fumbles came when Buffalo halfback J. J. Flannigan dropped the ball in the open field en route to an apparent 43-yard touchdown run during the second quarter. He recovered the ball at the Husker 19-yard line, but the Husker defense prevented Colorado from scoring.

Osborne said he wasn't sure what happened on Flannigan's run.

"I don't know why he did it, but I'm glad he did," he said.

One of Nebraska's fumbles came after a 25-yard run by quarterback Steve Taylor at Colorado's 3-yard line with 13:55 remaining in the game.

Osborne said he believes that potential scoring opportunity could have given the Huskers a comfortable lead.

Osborne said the close game kept the fans more involved in the game.

"I really appreciated their enthusiasm and support," he said. "I think it was one of the best crowds as far as being enthusiastic."

Nebraska will face a typical Oklahoma Sooners football game next Saturday at Norman, Okla., Osborne said.

Oklahoma defeated Missouri 16-7 Saturday in Columbia, Mo., to set up the Huskers' show down with the Sooners.

Osborne said Oklahoma has an excellent team.

"It will be a tough game — I think everyone knows that," he said.



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Husker wrestlers round up success at Cowboy open

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's success at Saturday's Cowboy Open, in Laramie, Wyo., was evident in the championship round of the tournament, said Cornhusker wrestling coach Tim Neumann.

Neumann said the Huskers had 10 wrestlers qualify for the championship round, one in every class, and seven were named champions. The most qualifiers any of the 23 other teams had in the finals was three. Nebraska placed all its wrestlers in the top four.

"During the championship round it was like a dual between us and all the western teams," Neumann said. "They had us at one end of the arena and all the other teams at the other end."

Nebraska's champions included senior Terry Cook in the 118-pound competition, sophomore Jason Kelber at 126, senior Mike Hemann at 134, sophomore Layne Billings at 150, senior Jeff Coltvat at 158, sophomore Scott Chenoweth at 177 and senior Joe Molacek at heavyweight. All seven wrestlers improved their record to 5-0 at the tournament except for Molacek, who is 4-0.

Neumann said he was pleased with the performance of freshmen Darren Droegemueller, Corey Olson and senior Cody Olson, who all finished as runners-up. Droegemueller won his first four matches by pins before losing in the finals to Dave Zuniga of Utah State. Olson lost in the finals to two-time national champion Chuck Pipfer.

Olson performed well, Neumann said, even though he was wrestling at a higher weight. Olson wrestled in the 190-pound class because Chris Nelson broke his neck in a car accident.

The Huskers accomplished Neumann's goal of qualifying 10 wrestlers in the final.

Neumann said although the Huskers were impressive in their opening tournament, they have to improve before facing Big Eight competition. The Huskers face Missouri in a dual meet Thursday in Columbia, Mo.

"I was a little concerned because we were technically incorrect in a few places and it needs to be fixed real soon," Neumann said. "We have to improve technically."

Neumann said 167-pound Shane Snyder injured his knee and will miss the dual with Missouri.

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