

Citrus Bowl awaits the Sooners

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. — An old acquaintance celebrated its 60th birthday last week, and Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer continued the celebration following the Sooners' 7-3 loss to Nebraska Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Mickey Mouse, the official mascot of the Florida Citrus Bowl, turned 60 last Thursday. The mascot greeted Switzer as Citrus Bowl officials extended their bid to Oklahoma following the game.

"Mickey Mouse!" Switzer screamed. "I've got only one question. Is that a male or female Mickey Mouse?"

Switzer said Oklahoma accepted its loss and its subsequent Florida Citrus Bowl bid with pride because the Sooners finished their regular season with a 9-2 record overall and a 6-1 mark in the Big Eight. He said Oklahoma is looking forward to representing the conference against

Clemson Jan. 2 in Orlando, Fla.

Accepting the Citrus Bowl bid meant the Sooner's streak of three consecutive Big Eight championships had to come to an end. The Big Eight champion receives an automatic berth to the Orange Bowl.

"It looks like you (Citrus Bowl officials) are in the wrong room here," Switzer said. "But on behalf of the Oklahoma Sooners, we accept. Miami's not going to be there, are they?"

Switzer said the loss to Nebraska was "tragic" because Oklahoma quarterback Charles Thompson broke his right leg on the Sooners' final offensive play. He said Jamelle Holieway, a senior who was replaced by Thompson earlier this season, will start against Clemson.

Holieway said he is looking forward to the challenge.

"That game is in January, isn't it?" Holieway asked. "I'll be ready."

Holieway said the only disappointment about the game was that he did not get a chance to rally Oklahoma. He said he wanted to enter the game when the Sooners started their final possession with 1:45 remaining, but offensive coordinator Jim Donnan objected.

"It was very disappointing, man. I wanted to play," Holieway said. "But that's his prerogative."

Oklahoma offensive guard Terron Manning said the Sooners have confidence in Holieway. Holieway led Oklahoma to a national championship in 1985 and two-straight Big Eight championships before suffering a knee injury against Oklahoma State last season.

"I'm pretty sure Jamelle can do the job," Manning said. "He's always done it for us."

Oklahoma running back Anthony Stafford said the Sooners will welcome Holieway's return.

"It's going to be great," he said.

"Jamelle's a great talent."

Switzer said he didn't put Holieway in because he didn't want him exposed to Nebraska's aggressive defense. He said the Husker defense, which surrendered only three points when R.D. Lashar kicked a 29-yard field goal late in the third quarter, stopped Oklahoma because it has good players who played hard.

Switzer said Oklahoma also played good defense. He said if someone told him before the game that Oklahoma was going to hold Nebraska to seven points, he would have predicted a Sooner win.

"But if you told me we was only going to score three, I would have thought we was going to get the hell beat out of us," Switzer said.

Switzer said he was not surprised that Nebraska held Oklahoma to three points.

"Nebraska sometimes can do that," he said. "They played us pretty good."



Dirksen

National meet beckons NU

By Steve Sipple
Senior Editor

Nebraska's cross-country teams are at the top of their games going into today's National Collegiate Athletic Association championships.

At least Cornhusker coach Jay Dirksen thinks so.

The Husker men's and women's teams, coming off strong performances at the NCAA District Five championships Nov. 12, will compete today at the NCAA national meet at Granger, Iowa.

The women's 5,000-meter race will begin at 11 a.m. and the men's 10,000-meter race will follow at noon. Both races will be run at Jester Park, about 20 miles northwest of Des Moines, Iowa.

Both Nebraska teams qualified for the national meet by winning their first-ever district titles in a meet that was also held at Jester Park.

The men's team will compete against 21 other teams for the national title. There will be 16 women's teams at the meet.

Today's meet will mark the second time during the last three years that both Nebraska teams have qualified for the NCAA meet. It will be the third consecutive appearance for the Husker men.

Last season, Nebraska failed to qualify its women's team, but Husker senior Sammie Resh qualified individually, finishing 29th in the NCAA meet.

The Husker men finished 13th last year at the NCAA's, which was the highest ever for a Nebraska team. The Husker women's top finish is 11th.

Dirksen said both Nebraska teams are capable of improving their top finishes at this year's meet. He said he was encouraged by the Husker men's defeat of Iowa State at the district meet.

The Cyclones, who finished 2nd at districts, are considered by many to be one of the favorites to win the national title, Dirksen said.

So do the Huskers have national-title hopes by virtue of their defeat of the Cyclones?

"I wouldn't try that," Dirksen said. "A top-10 finish at nationals would be very satisfying. We're capable of that. But we don't have the depth you need to finish way up the national meet."

The Nebraska women, Dirksen said, will vie for a finish between 6th and 10th place.

Dirksen said Resh and Yvonne van der Kolk have been Nebraska's front-runners all season. Resh finished 3rd at districts and van der Kolk was 4th.

But Dirksen said the strength of his women's team has been its depth. He said there was just a 36-second difference between the time of the Huskers' 1st-place finishers and their 5th-place finisher at the district meet. At the Big Eight championships Oct. 29 in Stillwater, Okla., there was a 33-second difference between Nebraska's No. 1 and No. 5 finishers.

Nebraska's women won the Big Eight meet. The Husker men finished 3rd.

Nebraska's men's team has been led by Joe Kirby and Jacques van Rensburg. Kirby finished 2nd at the district meet and van Rensburg was 3rd.

Win makes coach proud

Osborne praises NU's defensive performance

By Nick Hodge
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's defensive performance against Oklahoma's wishbone offense was one of the best he'd ever seen, Cornhusker football coach Tom Osborne said Sunday.

The Husker defense held the Sooners to 98 yards rushing in Nebraska's 7-3 victory Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Norman, Okla.

"I'm very, very pleased," Osborne said. "The defense played probably the best defensive game against Oklahoma."

By beating Oklahoma, Nebraska won the Big Eight championship and a trip to the Orange Bowl in Miami to play the Miami Hurricanes on Jan. 2.

Osborne said the team's main goal this year was to win the conference

title.

"The players really pointed to the Big Eight championship," Osborne said. "We still have a chance for the national championship — it's a little thin, but we have a chance."

The Nebraska defense gave up just 137 yards of total offense, including 39 passing yards en route to shutting down the Sooner offense.

Oklahoma's field goal was set up by a Nebraska fumble that the Sooners recovered at the Husker 30-yard line. Six plays later, Oklahoma place kicker R.D. Lashar kicked a 29-yard field goal to make the score 7-3 with 1:50 remaining in the third quarter.

Osborne said he was proud of the Nebraska defense.

"I don't remember ever seeing an Oklahoma team play when they had so many negative yards, especially

the fullbacks — they usually get a few yards," he said.

Last year, Sooner fullback Rotnei Anderson ran for 119 yards on 24 carries in Oklahoma's 17-7 win against Nebraska in Lincoln. Saturday, Anderson gained only 23 yards on seven attempts.

Osborne said Nebraska's defensive charge was led by defensive tackles Willie Griffin and Kent Wells and middle guard Lawrence Pete. They combined for 17 tackles — all unassisted.

"I'm really proud of those three front guys — Pete, Griffin and Wells — they really played well," Osborne said.

Pete, a 6-foot-1, 270-pound senior from Wichita, Kan., led the Huskers with eight tackles, including one for a five-yard loss.

Griffin, a 6-foot-3, 305-pound senior from Monrovia, Calif., had five tackles, including a one-yard sack of Oklahoma quarterback Charles Thompson.

Wells, a 6-foot-5, 285-pound junior from Lincoln, had four tackles, including a 7-yard sack of Thompson.

Osborne said defensive penetration was the most significant aspect of Nebraska's dominance.

"The main thing was that we controlled the line of scrimmage," Osborne said.

The Huskers' victory over Oklahoma was a win by the entire team — players and coaches together, Osborne said.

"It was truly a team effort. I know the defense will get most of the credit, but it was the whole team," he said.

NU gymnasts impress coach at invitational

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen compared himself to Cornhusker football coach Tom Osborne Saturday night after the Huskers won the Big Eight Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center for the 9th time in 11 years.

"There are two very happy coaches tonight," Allen said. "Tom Osborne's the other one."

Nebraska defeated 2nd-place Arizona State, a first time participant in the meet, 272.25 points to 262.30. Southern Illinois was 3rd with 256.65 followed by Iowa State with 248.50 and Air Force with 242.35. Oklahoma did not field a full team and was not included in the team competition.

Osborne's Huskers defeated Oklahoma 7-3 Saturday in Norman, Okla. Allen was impressed by his team's performance during their first meet of the season. The Huskers are the defending national champions.

"I was pretty impressed by the way the team did," Allen said. "It was a pretty damn respectable job."

"This is in no way a national championship score but it's a start."

Nebraska swept the first four places in the all-around competition.

Junior Mark Warburton won the competition with a two-day total of 107.20. Junior Patrick Kirksey was 2nd with 107.20. Bob Stelter, another junior, finished 3rd with a 107.75 total. Senior captain Mike Epperson finished in 4th place with a total of 103.90.



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Sanders goes wild — again

Oklahoma State tailback Barry Sanders, shown here against Nebraska, rushed for 293 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Cowboys Saturday to a 49-28 comeback win against Iowa State in Ames, Iowa. Sanders extended his NCAA single-season touchdown record to 35 and moved to within 47 yards of breaking the NCAA one-season rushing record.