

# Keteyians's book adds to Osborne's colorful career

It was noon Saturday in the South Stadium Lounge, and Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne was ready to meet the press.

Today's topic: Armen Keteyian's "Big Red Confidential: Inside Nebraska Football," the long-awaited "exposé" on the Cornhusker program.

Osborne had taken his usual press-conference place at the table in the corner of the red-carpeted room. The portraits of past Nebraska All-America selections hung on the wall, their faces staring out at the press, emotionlessly, as if they, too, were hanging on T.O.'s every word.

It was show time. The state's press corps was about to hear Osborne's first comments on Keteyian's work. As soon as Osborne sat down, he spoke.

Members of the media were stunned.

Mouths opened wide, blank stares were issued and the room fell quiet enough to hear a pin drop.

The comment was unexpected. "Personally, I'm pleased with the book," he said. "I know that sounds strange . . ."

What? "For years, Nebraskans have felt I was predictable, unimaginative and unemotional," Osborne explained. "And here's this big-time reporter from New York City who says I'm mysterious and a man of conflicting emotions."

"So maybe now, Nebraskans will sit up and take notice that they really have a devious person down here."

When the laughter died down, Osborne went on to say how he really felt about the book.

It was unusual to see Osborne so lighthearted and loose while discussing the book and its author, especially since the publication is a potentially rich source for NCAA investigations, distraction for players and coaches alike, and decreased respect for the Husker program among college foot-

ball fans all around the country. But Osborne wasn't thinking about any of that. If he was, he wasn't showing it.

The book is yet another grueling chapter in Osborne's career, which has been laced not only with Big



Eight championships, winning seasons, bowl games, Kickoff Classics and top-10 rankings, but also with adversity, criticism, finger-pointing and second-guessing.

And, at one point, a desire to pack it up and take his coaching expertise elsewhere.

It was a time some Husker fans don't remember and most would like to forget. It was 1978.

Nebraska had just knocked off No. 1-ranked Oklahoma -- a team Osborne had failed to beat in five previous tries -- and was headed to the Orange Bowl. All the Huskers had to do was beat Missouri, a team four other Big Eight teams had defeated earlier in the season. Final score: Missouri 35, Nebraska 31.

Many were saying it was Missouri 35, Osborne 31.

Even the Orange Bowl was unconvincing of Nebraska's strength. On that cloudy, bitter November evening, after Osborne had tried to tell the media just what went wrong against the Tigers, he received the official invitation from the Orange Bowl committee.

The Huskers were to play Oklahoma in a rematch.

Osborne sat silently, shaking his head and smiling at nothing in particular. Once again, he had gotten the short end of the stick.

After the Orange Bowl rematch,

which Nebraska lost, Osborne began talking to officials from Colorado. It seemed evident to Husker fans that they may lose their leader.

Osborne decided to stay, and fans across the state sighed in relief.

Since then, however, Osborne seemingly has been taken for granted. Winning seasons don't necessarily add up to national championships, or even conference championships, and the losses are the games everyone seems to remember.

But somehow, Osborne keeps going. Through the 1970s, when Oklahoma was seemingly unstoppable; into the 1980s, with a new quarterback named Turner Gill, a wingback named Irving Fryar and tales of a junior college transfer named Mike Rozier. Into the era after the "Scoring Explosion" team of 1983.

Consider what Osborne has had to deal with since the beginning of 1984:

-- The failed two-point conversion in the 1984 Orange Bowl against Miami, which cost Osborne his first national championship.

-- The death of his father one month later.

-- Mike Rozier's disclosure in the fall of 1984 that he had accepted money from alumni while at Nebraska, and that he had signed a contract with an agent before his senior season, making him a professional.

-- Charges by former Southern California lineman Booker Brown that Osborne offered him payments to attend UNL.

-- The suicide of tight end Brian Hiemer on Aug. 13, 1985, right before fall practices were to begin.

-- The disclosure that former Out-

land and Lombardi Award winner Dean Steinkuhler used steroids while at Nebraska.

-- A five-month NCAA investigation that led to the suspension of 60 Huskers before Nebraska's season-opener against Florida State.

-- The October 1986 announcement by the NCAA of a one-year, non-sanction probation for violating the extra benefit rules.

-- The August 1987 investigation by the Philadelphia Inquirer that alleged sports agent Art Wilkenson had an "unusual association" with Nebraska's football players, including alleged sideline passes to Husker home games to associate with the players.

-- Problems with players concerning steroid use, use of street drugs, burglary, assault, breaking windows, slashing tires, taunting opponents on and off the field, and various other things that make most coaches old before their time.

And now the book. Much has been written and said about Keteyian's use of unnamed sources. Osborne addressed the subject Saturday.

"If someone has something worthwhile to say, they'll say it," Osborne said. "But, of course, no one can press sources as to why they said something if no one knows who they are."

True. But people who go on the record with damaging information about Nebraska football could suffer severe consequences. It's never happened, but one can imagine.

To most people, losing a job -- or one's life -- is not worth going on the record to expose an alleged wrong. Think about it.

Then ask yourself why so many

unnamed sources were used in Keteyian's book.

"I don't plan to buy the book," Osborne said. "I didn't buy Boz's (former Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth), I didn't buy Jacki O.'s book, and I don't buy the National Enquirer."

Maybe so. But those who do have enquiring minds will want to read between lines. Even lines of unnamed sources.

Osborne deserves a break, from fans and the media. Unfortunately for him, this book will postpone it for a while.

Green is a senior news-editorial major, is a First Down Magazine co-editor and is a sports senior reporter.

## Freshmen to play, Petko questionable for Saturday game

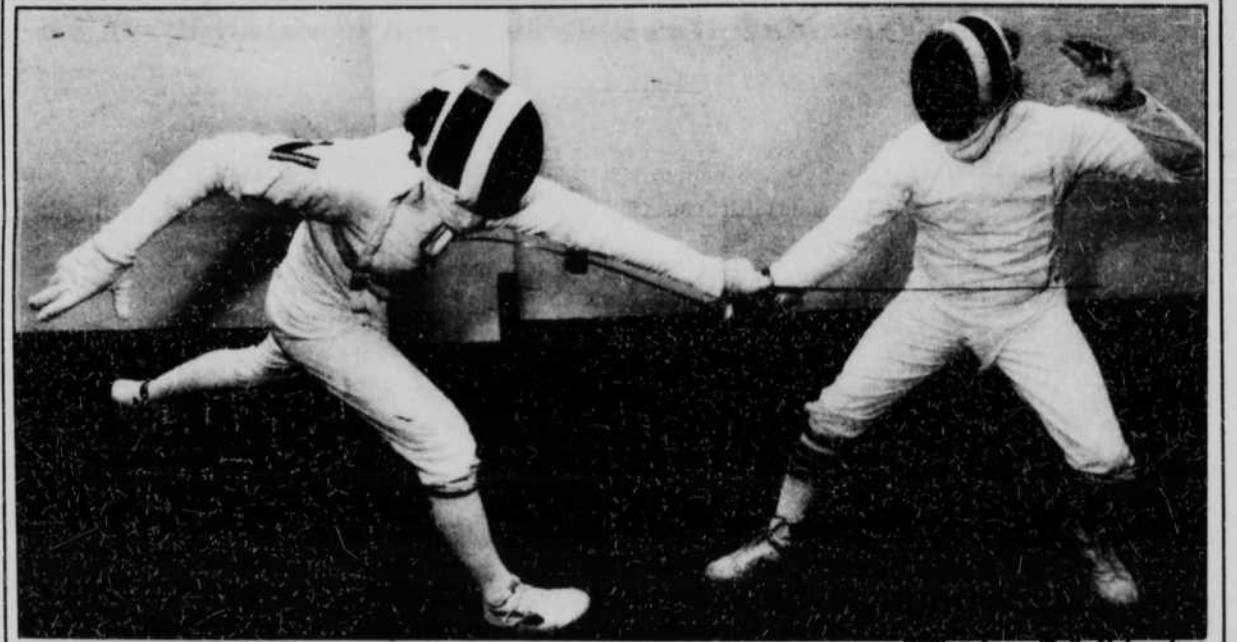
Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Thursday that inside linebacker Mike Petko is questionable for Saturday's game against Northern Illinois.

Petko, a sophomore from Anaheim, Calif., sprained his thumb on the turf during a light practice, according to trainer George Sullivan. Despite Petko's injury, Osborne was pleased with the practice.

Osborne said freshmen Will Shields and John Reece will both see some action Saturday.

Osborne said he doesn't plan on holding any players out of Saturday's game because of disciplinary or academic reasons. He said this doesn't mean that none will be held out.

"There still is tomorrow," Osborne said.



Albert Schmid (left) battles Phillip Myers during the Nebraska fencing team's exhibition on Thursday. A similar exhibition, which is aimed at signing up new team members, will be from 3 to 5 p.m. today in the Nebraska Union lounge.

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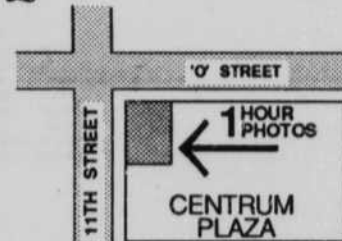
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**CALIENDO** from Page 7

kies' fifth-year coach Jerry Pettibone recognizes talent when he sees it.

Chris and Cary were good at everything they did, their father said, but they "competed like crazy" since birth.

Chris said they were typical siblings.

"We had our squabbles," he said. "It always felt good to be the No. 1 guy. Even if it was Cary beating me out, you always want to be the best. I think everybody feels that way."

High school students used to fear the Caliendo twins, he said.

"They'd say, 'Oh no, double trouble's coming,'" Chris said. "Everybody always warned each other about the Caliendo twins. How crazy we were. How out of control we were."

Now, Chuck said, the two are very close.

"When they see each other they hug, kiss. They're so close it's unbelievable," he said.

Although Chris and Cary are identical, he said, they have different personalities.

"Chris is more fun-loving and easy-going," he said. "Cary's got a tougher mental attitude. He's very intense and has a quick temper. Cary would beat up everybody on the field if they would let him. He loves a good fight."