



Armen Keteyian, author of "Big Red Confidential: Inside Nebraska Football," displayed a variety of emotions at his press conference, including (from left) that of humorist, listener and explainer.

## Keteyian: Osborne's comments unfair

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Many critical comments from Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne about "Big Red Confidential: Inside Nebraska Football," are "unfair and false," the book's author said Thursday.

Speaking to a group of about 30 journalists in a hospitality suite at the Cornhusker Hotel, Armen Keteyian said Osborne's comments display his "over-sensitiveness to criticism, especially from the press."

"To know Tom as well as I know him, I kind of expected him to come out and attack my credibility," Keteyian said. "He couldn't attack my reporting. It's too strong."

"I have treated Coach Osborne with the utmost respect throughout the book. But Osborne has not accorded me the same treatment."

The book takes an inside look at the Cornhusker football program, mentioning alleged incidents such as players receiving payments from boosters, players selling their game passes, steroid and drug use, discipline problems and NCAA cover-ups.

Keteyian said he particularly was upset with Osborne's claim that he and fellow Sports Illustrated reporter Martin Dardis offered former Nebraska quarterback Nate Mason compensation for information on alleged drug use by former Nebraska I-

back and Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier.

At a press conference earlier this month, Osborne said he talked to Mason "three or four" times, and had learned that Mason was offered money at his house during an interview.

"But then Nate says he was offered something over the phone," Keteyian said. "If Osborne is going to stand up at a press conference and say something like that, he'd better get it right."

Keteyian denied offering Mason "or anybody else" payment for information.

Keteyian, 36, said his journalism career, which began when he was 17, should provide credibility.

He won awards as a sportswriter for the San Diego Union, and served as Sports Illustrated's chief investigative reporter from 1982 to 1989, covering stories on gambling, probations and various other athletic scandals. He also worked for NBC, covering the 1988 Summer Olympic Games, and recently has been hired as a sports correspondent for ABC's "World News Tonight."

"In spite of my career, Osborne accuses me of offering money for a story like some supermarket tabloid journalist."

Osborne's comments about the Mason incident "really hurt," Keteyian said.

"He did exactly the thing he ac-

cuses journalists of doing. He used second-hand information," he said.

"I have yet to hear Nate Mason stand up and say I offered him anything, and he won't, because I didn't."

Keteyian returned to Lincoln for the press conference because "there are two sides to every story," and he wanted to tell his side, he said.

"I'm not trying to pick a fight with Tom Osborne or the Nebraska program," Keteyian said. "Ultimately, the only loser will be me in any fight like that."

Keteyian also said he is bothered by the amount of criticism he personally has received for incidents mentioned in his book.

For example, it was former I-back Doug DuBose's mother who allegedly told Keteyian that she sent cash to pay for her son's car -- a Nissan 300ZX -- which was the focal point of the NCAA's 1986 investigation of Nebraska's program.

"But Doug told me she sent a check," Keteyian said. "He doesn't even know the form of payment he says he got."

Omaha businessman Everett Alger allegedly told Keteyian that Rozier had worked for him during the off-season months, but Rozier denied ever working for him when asked by Keteyian.

"Mike Rozier and (former wing-back) Irving Fryar told me they'd only had one drug test during his senior year," Keteyian said. "But

Osborne told me he'd tested both of them frequently that season."

These and other contradictions, Keteyian said, decrease the credibility of his critics.

"I'm just the messenger," he said. "Coach Osborne doesn't like the news, so he's doing everything to kill the messenger."

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-- Keteyian

Keteyian also dismissed criticism for using a number of unnamed sources throughout the book. He said the identity of some of the sources would have to suffer the consequences of disrupting Nebraska's program if they were disclosed.

"Just because someone doesn't go on the record doesn't mean they don't know what they know," he said. The book does quote specific

coaches, administrators, former and present players and others connected with Nebraska's program.

"But, at this point, not any of these people have stood up and shown any shreds of evidence to be untrue," Keteyian said.

Osborne said earlier this month that Keteyian told him he knew Nebraska's program was corrupt, and that he was "out to expose it."

"That's ridiculous," Keteyian said. "You can't walk into the front door of a program like Nebraska's and tell the coach what you're up to, that you're doing a story like that."

Keteyian said he believes Osborne is making an effort to correct problems at Nebraska, but "making an effort doesn't always mean you're winning."

"Osborne preaches about doing it right, and I applaud him for his efforts," he said. "But he's trying to manage an unmanageable situation."

One of Osborne's main problems, Keteyian said, is that he often "detaches himself from the realities of college football."

"I just question the impact that's going to have in years to come," Keteyian said.

Osborne's behavior, Keteyian said, can be compared to a last-ditch attempt to win a football game with a "Hail Mary" pass at the end.

"We all know how often those passes are completed," he said.

## OSU, Rodgers hope for successful weekend Rodgers returns to playing field

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Staff Reporter

Saturday marks an anniversary Nebraska I-back Terry Rodgers would rather forget.

One year ago Saturday, Rodgers played against the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, a game the Cornhuskers won 47-16. Rodgers rushed for 50 yards in the game, and his dream of playing football at Nebraska was being realized.

But two days later, Rodgers tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, and he hasn't played since.

The cause of the injury still puzzles Rodgers.

"It was a freak accident," he said. "It was a non-contact option drill in practice. I made a cut and the knee went out."

Rodgers underwent major reconstructive surgery last October, and since has been involved in a strenuous rehabilitation program. "Rehab is nothing special," Rodgers said.



Rodgers

"Just a lot of lifting. You get your strength back in stages working yourself closer and closer to 100 percent."

"I'm not quite there yet. My speed is pretty good, though, and I am ready to play."

Rodgers, the son of former Husker wing-back and 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers, has practiced since August, but has not played in Nebraska's first three games.

But it wasn't by choice -- not entirely.

"He said he felt he was ready to play last weekend," said Husker running backs coach Frank Solich. "The decision was not to take him because of the limited travel roster."

"We're going to use him this weekend. He'll go in as the third I-back behind (Ken) Clark and (Leodis) Flowers."

Though he is not comfortable with his new position on the depth chart, Rodgers said he knows it could change at any time.

"During the season, anything can happen," he said. "I-backs go down like I went down last year, and people have to move up. (Football) is the type of game where it's always competitive. It's competitive in the off-season. It's competitive during the season."

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## Coach has worries about NU

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Respect isn't something Oregon State coach Dave Kragthorpe loses sleep over, but he may be awake a little later Friday night.

The fifth-year Oregon State coach said he has a lot to accomplish Saturday when his Beavers play No. 3-ranked Nebraska in Memorial Stadium at 1:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast live by the KRNU (90.3 FM) network and will follow a pregame show titled "Turf Talk" that begins at 12:30 p.m.

"The better we play has more of a positive effect on this team," Kragthorpe said. "With such a formidable opponent as Nebraska, we have to play well. If we do, that can be a very positive thing for us."

"It could also be a very negative thing for us if we don't play well," he said.

The Beavers, 2-1, have played "erratic," Kragthorpe said.

"We're certainly not playing as well as I'd like," he said. "We had a good game against Stanford (a 20-16 win) to start the season off, but we've had a slow start other than that."

Oregon State lost to Washington State 41-3 the following week, then defeated Boise State

37-30 last Saturday.

"We're 2-1, which is ahead of what the prognosticators thought, so I guess that's pretty good," Kragthorpe said. "But I don't feel we've played as well as we can. We haven't hit stride yet."

Oregon State's problems come primarily on special teams, Kragthorpe said. The Beavers need to improve on kick coverage and returns, as well as have more consistency on offense, he said.

Oregon State quarterback Nick Schichtley has led the Beavers' offense, completing 37 of 76 passes for 595 yards and five touchdowns. He also has thrown four interceptions.

Fullback Pat Chaffey leads Oregon State's ground game. Chaffey, a 6-foot-2, 214-pound senior, has rushed for 228 yards and two touchdowns on 60 carries.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Oregon State's defense is his primary concern.

"They play a style of defense where they have something going on all the time," he said. "The things they do are predicated on forcing the other team into a bad play."

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