



Nebraska outside linebacker Mait Svehla stretches in an attempt to corral Oregon State quarterback Nick Schichtle.

William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

NU fans expect more than just a win

The Nebraska football team will have one less worry going into Saturday's Big Eight opener with Kansas State -- if it's even worried in the first place.



Nebraska will march on to the field worry-free, knowing it does not have to feel threatened at being the wimpy team that loses first to the Wildcats, who entered this season not having won a game since 1986.

The Wildcats no longer are going to be referred to as the team with the nation's longest losing streak -- at least for awhile.

The dark cloud that's been stationary over Manhattan, Kan., for nearly three years has moved out, and forecasters predict it could be headed toward nearby Lawrence.

Nebraska coaches and players can breathe a heavy sigh of relief -- the pressure is off.

And, thanks has to go to the not-so Mean Green Eagles of North Texas State, 20-17 losers to the monsters of Manhattan.

The Wildcats will come into Lincoln with a one-game winning streak, their longest in 30 games.

Forget that the Cats' victory was over a Division I-AA school, a win's a win no matter at whose expense.

The fact is they won. Winning. That's something of which Nebraska fans could learn to be proud.

Instead, it's not only winning -- but by how much.

For example, take last weekend's non-conference win over Oregon State by a mere 35-7 score.

Nebraska only beat this team by a spread of 28 points. Come on. How embarrassing.

The Cornhuskers should have had

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that might put a slight dent in his huge ego. Brinson knew he was wrong and ate his words.

And his new teammates, who at one time appeared ready to cram the statements down his throat if he didn't readily swallow them, have accepted him. Brinson is now an important part of San Diego's offense, and it hasn't come at James' expense.

Brinson was so impressive during the preseason that John Madden made him an early candidate for his "All-Madden" team. That honor was bestowed on the former Husker when Madden, after spending almost a minute flipping through his notes trying to find out who the running back who was shredding the Dallas defense was, realized it wasn't a running back at all -- it was a receiver.

35 points by halftime. Thank goodness the Huskers weren't playing Duke, who upset seventh-ranked Clemson, this weekend.

While the point this Saturday should be that the Huskers won, talk will be about how bad Colorado and Oklahoma are going to thump the Huskers.

Followers of Nebraska football -- including myself -- expect a blowout every weekend when the opponent is predetermined as lousy.

Magically, Nebraska fans know these kinds of things about other teams, even without looking at game films or knowing any of the players or who coaches the pathetic team.

And, when the Huskers fail to live up to those expectations, then they are lousy too.

Nebraska fans expect the team to score at least 50 points -- again 35 by halftime -- to prevent being termed lousy.

The defense has to hold the opposing quarterback to what is equivalent to one yard per pass. This weekend the Huskers failed to hold the Beavers to 41 yards passing. That's not good. That's lousy.

In addition, the defense only can give up a field goal. A shutout is preferred, but fans have cut some slack in that area.

Nebraska gave up a touchdown to the Beavers. Lousy.

In reference to the field goal, it has to be against the third-team defense and a minimum of 60 yards against the wind, hit the cross bar and barely bounce over. Otherwise, the defense's performance would be deemed -- you guessed it -- lousy.

A lot of this could be attributed to fans at Memorial Stadium not liking to sit through four quarters of football.

The guidelines the players have to follow every Saturday are just too numerous. Even I have problems keeping them straight, and they change from year to year, team to team.

Fans need to form a committee and put together a handbook so every year the players are aware of the

Madden proceeded to rave about Brinson's acceleration and big-play ability, and loved the fact that he returned punts at Nebraska. He also loved the fact that Brinson was making a name for himself even though he was a 10th-round draft choice, and would have loved the story about cockiness and subsequent cheap shots if he would have known about it.

Madden also would have loved how Brinson played his entire senior season with a neck injury that hampered his blocking, and how he vowed to make the NFL no matter what the cost. And most of all, if he could have foreseen it, he would have loved the impact Brinson already has had this season.

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standards they are expected to meet on game days. That way disconcerting performances like the one Saturday may be avoided.

Then fans can go drink their beer earlier, and everyone will be happy.

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MIDAS

in brief

NU players miss defects Kansas State
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Five players sit out football practice
Five players will sit out practice...
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