

# Kansas State coach down, but not out

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

Last Monday, Kansas State's athletic department was marketing videos of its football team's come-from-behind win last week that broke a 30-game winless and 16-game losing streak.

Saturday, the team was throttled 58-7 by Nebraska.

"We got whipped every way you can get whipped," first-year coach Bill Snyder said after the game.

Snyder had an explanation as to why the Cornhuskers moved the ball without problems, including 440 yards of total offense in the first half alone.

"The reason Nebraska moved the football as well as they did -- and at will -- was number one, Nebraska's a great offensive football team with great talent, and number two, because we

made an awful lot of mistakes," Snyder said.

Snyder said that while it would take a "couple of hours" to explain all the problems Kansas State's defense had, it would be important for his team to examine the game films anyway.

"I told our football team just a few minutes ago as much as you'd like to say, 'Get this one behind you right now. Forget about it, it's over. It's a bad dream. It's a nightmare, you still have to go back and find out why,' Snyder said. "Why does it happen?"

"We've got to understand what we could have done to prevent some of the things that did happen. We made the kind of mistakes that will not only get you beat by Nebraska, but by any football team in the United States."

The one thing Snyder said the Wildcats had on their side was a positive attitude.

"We're not a good enough team to beat Nebraska, but we didn't believe that," he said.

"I don't think our players for a moment doubted that we could come up here and win this football game, and to me, that's a real compliment to these kids."

Snyder said the team's reaction to the loss could lead the team in only two directions. He said he thought the team would regroup and go on.

"If this is a football team that truly believes all the things we've been talking about -- about not giving up, about learning how to play hard, about not making mistakes -- then the true test is right here," Snyder said.

Kansas State offensive lineman Chad Faulkner said having inexperienced people, including freshmen, on the field because of injuries also hurt the Wildcats.

"Not to make excuses, but we had some people that had never played against a team of Nebraska's caliber before," Faulkner said. "They kind of came into the game wide-eyed

like 'What's going to happen if he hits me,' and this and that."

Erik Harper, a three-year letterman for Kansas State, was hardly wide-eyed, but said he didn't want to take anything away from the Huskers' performance.

"You have to give them a lot of credit. They came out and they played ball today," he said.

Michael Smith, one of the heroes of Kansas State's 20-17 victory over North Texas, sat in the corner answering questions quietly with a face that showed no emotion at all.

Smith, who was chosen as the Big Eight's offensive Player of the Week after he caught four passes on the game-winning drive for the Wildcats, said he was disappointed not only with his own performance, but with the game in general.

"We came in here believing we could win," Smith said. "Now we have to take this loss and see if we can learn from it."

# Promotion makes NU basketball program go to the dogs

The Nebraska men's basketball program is going to the dogs.

Cornhusker coach Danny Nee, apparently realizing the world of college basketball is dog-eat-dog, has launched a campaign utilizing the animalistic, canine instincts of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.



Nee's plan includes having the floor-level bleacher area designated as "Dead Dog Alley," with hopes that the idea will boost season ticket sales, which have been on the decline.

But, Nee wants the courtside area to be anything but lifeless.

The purpose is to get students to bark, bite, scratch, snarl, howl and growl at "strays" that wander into the Bob Devaney Sports Center -- now the home of the Nebraska Pit Bulls.

Nee wants opposing teams to come into the sports center terrified.

Ticket applications for 13 games continue to be sold this week on a first-come, first-served basis, with T-shirts bearing the "Dead Dog Alley" logo given to those who apply.

So all you animals out there, buy now. Don't be left out. Don't worry, you will be admitted into games without a leash.

Students who do apply are automatically A.K.A. registered members of the pack, regardless of pedigree -- provided they have been vaccinated for rabies.

As a precautionary measure to protect the opposition's players, a system has been set up similar to the one used to combat last spring's measles outbreak.

Lists of students who have applied for tickets and are not known to be adequately vaccinated will be posted on billboards near all campus fire hydrants.

Free shots will be given by the UNL animal sciences department.

Nee said he hopes the student section will create a deafening, unwelcome experience, giving the Huskers a distinct home-court advantage and psychological lift.

Nee should be commended for coming up with his own gimmick and personally promoting the support for his team. Most coaches also want better backing, but leave the promotional stuff -- in other words the dirty work -- to someone else.

Nee and his assistants have made

personal visits throughout the campus, increasing student awareness of the spirit behind "Dead Dog Alley."

And Nee can promote with confidence.

Nebraska has talent this year and should be good. Following last year's disappointing season, it also should be hungry.

But, while "Dead Dog Alley" may provide a great home environment, it's useless if the team continues to be dead meat on the road.

It's obvious that more confidence, tenacity and consistency for away games should be at or near the top of Nebraska's agenda this season.

And a rough, tough crowd could rub off and make the team feel rough, tough and equally invincible on the road as at home. That could be all it takes.

"Dead Dog Alley" looks like a great opportunity to vent the frustrations of everyday life.

It's an excuse to get out. Get crazy. Get rowdy. Get wild. Get a T-shirt.

Maybe even get some media and/or national exposure because of the group's oddity. So, make Mom proud. Don't pass up a chance to maybe be on television or be on the front page of the newspaper.

"Dead Dog Alley" will inspire the Huskers, plus give students a feeling they have a role on the team.

And as for future gimmicks, why not make it a realistic role instead of psychological?

Let a non-student athlete, chosen randomly every week, month or whatever, suit up for the Huskers during home games.

Set up a sixth-man situation similar to the once-traditional and nationally acclaimed 12th-man concept which created a sense of mystique at Texas A&M football games.

See ENTHUSIASM on B

# Nebraska junior varsity quarterback proves his worth in Air Force match

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Jeff Lindquist added a new page to an old controversy during the Nebraska junior varsity's football game against Air Force.

Lindquist said he thrust himself into Nebraska's tight quarterback picture by leading three late drives during the Cornhuskers' 38-34 loss to Air Force Friday at Falcon Stadium in Colorado Springs, Colo. The drives helped Lindquist compile 112 yards of offense, and also helped Nebraska reduce a 17-point deficit.

Lindquist said he hopes his performance convinces Nebraska coaches that he is deserving of more playing time. The freshman from Seward spent the first two games of the season stuck behind fellow quarterbacks Joel Cornwell and Marvin Callies.

"I hope I move up," Lindquist said. "I thought I played really well -- I showed that I could be a bright spot."

Nebraska junior varsity coach Shane Thorell said Lindquist showed that he could be a bright spot in certain situations. He said Lindquist proved he is the Huskers' best passing quarterback.

Thorell said he likely will spend the rest of the season alternating Cornwell and Callies as Nebraska's starting quarterback, and insert Lindquist in passing situations. He said Lindquist proved he could handle a high-pressure, passing situation against Air Force.

"He was calm and collected," Thorell said. "He was cool."

Thorell said he wasn't surprised by Lindquist's performance. He said he inserted Lindquist because Cornwell suffered a mild concussion in the game's first half and Callies

went down with a leg injury.

"It was Jeff's turn to go in," Thorell said. "It was a situation where we were in a hurry-up offense and Jeff is a very capable quarterback."

Lindquist said he put all the pressures of a lack of experience behind him when he entered the game in the third quarter. That strategy paid off, as he completed all seven of his pass attempts while leading a Nebraska rally that fell short when the Huskers failed to convert their second on-side kick of the game.

Lindquist admitted the loss was disappointing. He said the setback was a result of mental breakdowns in the third quarter, in which Air Force outscored Nebraska 14-0.

"We played pretty good, except for the third quarter," Lindquist said. "We had a good fourth quarter, but it was pretty disappointing to almost come back."

Lindquist and Thorell said Nebraska's rally was fueled by a hurry-up offense which confused the Air Force defense. They said the hurry-up offense, which preserves time by not using a huddle, left the Husker receivers wide open.

"The hurry-up offense did hurt Air Force," Thorell said. "They didn't have time to make defensive changes, so some of our receivers were open."

Lindquist spotted the free receiver, as he drilled a 51-yard touchdown pass to wingback Brian Moore that cut Air Force's advantage to four points with 10 seconds left. That play was set up when Nebraska linebacker Matt Penland recovered an on-side kick at the Air Force 49.

But that was as close as the Huskers could get, as their ensuing on-side kick was recovered by the Falcons' Dan Johnson.

Thorell said time proved to be Nebraska's biggest enemy.

"If we would have had another five minutes," he said, "I think we could have won it."

Nebraska had taken a 7-0 lead with 10:55 remaining in the first quarter when Cornwell scored on a 1-yard run. The Huskers increased their lead when Callies scored on a 9-yard run, but Air Force used an 18-yard touchdown catch from wide receiver Clarence Hopkins, a touchdown by quarterback Rob Perez and a scoring jaunt by lineman Chris Cozzi to take a 24-14 lead early in the third quarter.

Cozzi's touchdown was set up when the Falcons used a trick play that was developed by Nebraska. The play -- which is termed the "fumbleruski" -- requires the lineman to pick up an intentional fumble and ramble toward the end zone.

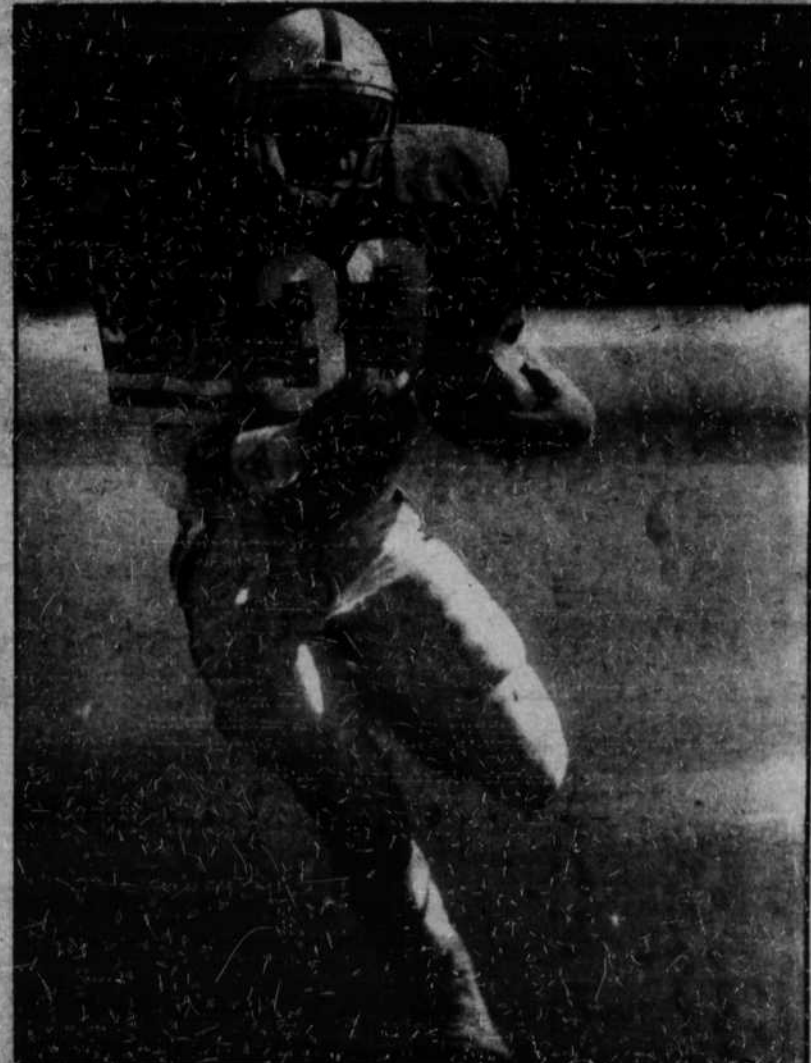
The play was used by the Huskers in the 1984 Orange Bowl, when offensive lineman Dean Steinkuhler picked up the loose ball and scored. It also was employed in 1979, when offensive lineman Randy Schleusener ran it against Oklahoma and gained 15 yards.

Thorell said the fumbleruski set off a tough set of series for the Nebraska defense. The play occurred with 2:33 remaining in the first half, and Air Force scored on a pair of drives in the third quarter.

Thorell said his team's defensive problems were the result of breakdowns. He said Air Force burned Nebraska by having its backfield run post patterns which gained big chunks of yardage.

"That hurt us," Thorell said.

Thorell said Nebraska tried to recover from its third-quarter woes and touchdowns by Hopkins and quarterback Derrick Banks, but ran



David Housler/Dolly Nebraskan

Nebraska running back Bob Wilkerson gallops in the open field.

out of time. The Huskers used a pair of touchdown runs by fullback Brian Dunlavy and Lindquist's pass to Moore to pull within four.

Thorell also said the loss was disappointing. The setback dropped Nebraska to 1-1-1, while Air Force improved to 2-1-1.

"It was disappointing in that we were a good enough team to win," Thorell said, "but we gave up too

many big plays defensively."

Nebraska's next game is Oct. 20, when the Huskers face Iowa Central junior college of Fort Dodge, Iowa, at Memorial Stadium.

Thorell and Lindquist said they aren't worried about any type of let-down against the Tritons.

"That game is a long ways off," Lindquist said, "so we should be ready."