

Junior Varsity players switch position because of injury situation, coach says

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska junior varsity fullback Brian Dunlavy battles for running room.

A problem that has plagued the Cornhusker varsity football team throughout the season has filtered down to the junior varsity team during the last couple weeks.

The problem is injuries. With a game against Iowa Central Junior College today at 1 p.m. in Memorial Stadium, Coach Shane Thorell said the problem isn't helping him and his coaching staff for game preparation.

The game will be broadcast by KRNU (90.3 FM). University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their IDs will be admitted free.

"We've got a lot of people banged up," he said. "We've had to move a few people around."

Quarterback Joel Cornwell heads the list of Huskers who won't play today. Cornwell suffered two concussions during practice last week, Thorell said, and has practiced only in a non-contact capacity this week.

As a result, Marvin Callies will start at quarterback. Callies, a 5-foot-10, 197-pound freshman from East Bernard, Texas, has split playing time at quarterback and I-back this season.

I-back Bob Cook also is doubtful with a knee injury. Shane McClanahan will be Nebraska's starter at that position. Split end Todd Hurt also is out with a stress-fractured fibula.

Thorell said Hurt probably is lost for the season.

Defensively, Thorell said, the only serious injury is to tackle Dan Johnson, who has ligament damage to his knee.

Despite the injuries, Thorell said, the players are anxious to play Iowa Central after a two-week layoff. Since it is the first time a Husker team has faced Iowa Central, Thorell said, it's hard to know what to expect.

Iowa Central runs a multiple offense, Thorell said, consisting of a three-back power "T" formation, which employs a lot of play-action passes.

"They have a big fullback named Chuck Fitzgerald, who is 6-0, 215,"

Thorell said. "He runs hard, so I'm sure he'll get a lot of carries against us."

Thorell said that type of offense isn't hard to prepare for, "but they're a lot like Waldorf Junior College in that they sprint to the line of scrimmage after their huddle."

"They don't give us a lot of time to get set on each play," Thorell said.

The Huskers, 1-1-1, played their last game Oct. 6 against the Air Force Junior Varsity, which defeated Nebraska 38-34. Thorell said he doesn't

think there will be a letdown among the players now that they've completed the "highlight of their season."

"We don't play many games, so the chance of lack of concentration is always there," he said. "We've tried to change things around a little the last couple of weeks to cope with the intensity level."

The Husker junior varsity scrimmaged last Thursday to keep the players' intensity levels high, Thorell said.

in brief SPORTS

Rugby team confident of tournament win

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln men's rugby team will travel to Kansas City, Mo., this weekend to compete in the Heart of America Tournament.

Jim Wiggs, team president, said he is looking forward to the 32-team tournament because he feels the Cornhuskers are on a roll.

The team beat No. 12-ranked Kansas last Saturday, 38-8. The victory raised its record to 6-0.

Wiggs said momentum will be important this weekend because the tournament will include Canadian teams, No. 1-ranked Air

Force and several other schools who compete as varsity teams.

The Huskers will compete in the lower bracket of the two-division competition.

Wiggs said he isn't letting the tough field scare Nebraska.

"We're pretty confident," Wiggs said. "We think we can take the whole thing."

Wiggs credited his team's victory against the Jayhawks to a pre-match plan in which the Huskers stated that they wanted to come out with their "guns blazing."

"We just shot them down,"

Wiggs said. "I'm really proud of the way we played as a team. Everything is clicking."

The Nebraska attack was led by team captain Mark Palmer, who tallied 14 of the Huskers' 38 points. Palmer converted three tries and a kick.

Tries are worth four points in rugby, while kicks are worth two.

Bob Densmore added eight points for Nebraska on one try and two kicks, while Paul Riddle, Mike Welch, Paul Omasits and Brian Chaffin each had one try.

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