

# NU's Hughes prepared for starting role

By Scott Stream  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska wingback Tyrone Hughes will be seeing a lot of action Saturday when the Cornhuskers face Iowa State.

Hughes, a freshman, and sophomore Mark Dowse will be sharing the starting duties against the Cyclones. Dowse will be the actual starter, but he and Hughes will alternate every play.

"It really doesn't matter who starts, because we are in and out," Hughes said. "It's just the principle of the thing."

Hughes is getting a chance for

extensive playing time because Richard Bell and Nate Turner are injured. Bell will not play Saturday because of a hamstring injury he suffered against Oklahoma State, while Turner has missed the last three games with a pulled leg muscle.

"It's like I'm moving up through the process of elimination," Hughes said. "I'm sorry that they got hurt because that's not the way I wanted it to be. But now that I have a chance, I can prove myself."

Hughes said Nebraska won't change its offense too much to compensate for the loss of Bell and Turner.

"Most of the offense will be the

same," he said.

Besides playing wingback, Hughes will return kickoffs and punts against the Cyclones. He began returning punts against Missouri and started returning kicks against Oklahoma State, he said.

Hughes, who is coming off of a redshirt season this year, said that sitting out helped him a lot because he practiced with the second team so he could learn Nebraska's plays.

"I'm glad that I did redshirt, because if I would have played last year, I would have sat on the bench every game, the whole game, no matter what the score was," Hughes said.

"I still have these three years left

here, so I think it will pay off."

Hughes said he is happy with Nebraska's passing game so far this season. The Huskers' game against Oklahoma State last Saturday was their best passing game of the season, he said.

Nebraska, behind a 170-yard passing performance by quarterback Gerry Gdowski, who completed 10 of 24 passes, defeated the Cowboys 48-23 in Stillwater, Okla.

"Last week, we threw more than we have all year," Hughes said. "I would like (the team) to pass more, being a receiver, but it's Nebraska. Our game is power running and that's it."

Hughes said he expects Iowa State to blitz in an effort to try to shut down Nebraska's running game.

"I think they are going to be pretty tough," he said. "It's going to be a good game. They will try to stop our running game, but we should be able to counter it."

Hughes said he doesn't think the Huskers have played a complete game this season. But, he said, the team has improved each week.

"So far, we have been inconsistent throughout our games," Hughes said. "We still have a chance to get better each week."

"I feel we can move up to No. 2 and No. 1."

# Columnist speculates on top rankings for CU and NU

Colorado No. 1 and Nebraska No.

2.

How does that look?  
Kind of fun, I'd say.

It also looks like one of those teams -- Colorado -- is out of place... walking on foreign ground, not softly but carrying a mighty big stick.



Darran  
Fowler

Actually, both are out of place.

But wouldn't it be sweet if on Monday, No. 3 Colorado and No. 4 Nebraska, could jump a couple spots in the polls?

Just think of it. The Buffaloes and Cornhuskers in a Big Eight show-

down to see who's boss in Boulder on Nov. 4.

Envision it. The "Game of the Century III."

Oops, wait a minute. It's Colorado, not Oklahoma. Make that the "Game of the Century I-A."

Now, let's see. What needs to happen to make this a reality?

What can't happen is Nebraska losing to Iowa State and Colorado, likewise with Oklahoma.

Let's hope the Huskers won't suffer such an embarrassment, and Colorado will forget that it's not supposed to beat Oklahoma.

But, boy wouldn't CBS, which will televise the NU-CU game, be semi-peeved if one did lose? Ouch.

Two teams, No. 1 Notre Dame and No. 2 Miami, also need to lose Saturday.

The latest lines have Notre Dame a 10-point favorite against 7th-ranked Pittsburgh, which is 5-0-1.

With Miami, the spread is even

against in-state rival Florida State, which is ranked ninth with a 5-2 record.

Notre Dame and Pitt will play in South Bend, Ind., home of "Touchdown Jesus." The Hurricanes will collide with Bobby Bowden's Seminoles in Tallahassee, Fla.

Four teams have been close to beating Notre Dame this season. But it's common knowledge that close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades, not football.

Michigan, Michigan State, Stanford and most recently USC each gave Notre Dame a gut check this season.

But, the Fighting Irish have the tenacity and character inherent in good teams, in championship teams for that matter. Notre Dame knows how and what it takes to win. It knows how to fight.

After Saturday's challenge from Pitt and its quarterback Alex Van Pelt, smaller obstacles stand in the

way of the Fighting Irish until the Nov. 25 showdown at Miami, both teams' regular season finale.

Fourteenth-ranked Penn State could challenge the Irish on Nov. 18, but it's unlikely.

Van Pelt could prove just as troublesome as USC redshirt freshman quarterback Todd Marinovich did last Saturday, minus a couple interceptions.

Granted, Pitt probably doesn't have a defense as strong as USC's, but maybe the Panthers will cheat.

Miami, with the exception of the Michigan State game, has coasted like Nebraska this season. Non-powers Wisconsin, California, Missouri, Cincinnati and San Jose State have been equally unsuccessful against the 'Canes.

Florida State could be a problem. Sure, the Seminoles don't have near the horses of the past two seasons, but Bowden usually has a few tricks up his sleeve.

But, tricks may not even be needed. This is a rivalry. This is for blood.

It's as if Nebraska were to travel a couple hours down I-80 to play the University of Nebraska at Omaha or cross town against Nebraska Wesleyan in a vicious slugfest with the Plainsmen.

Well... maybe not. Poor example.

But, Miami-Florida State is a big game locally -- and nationally.

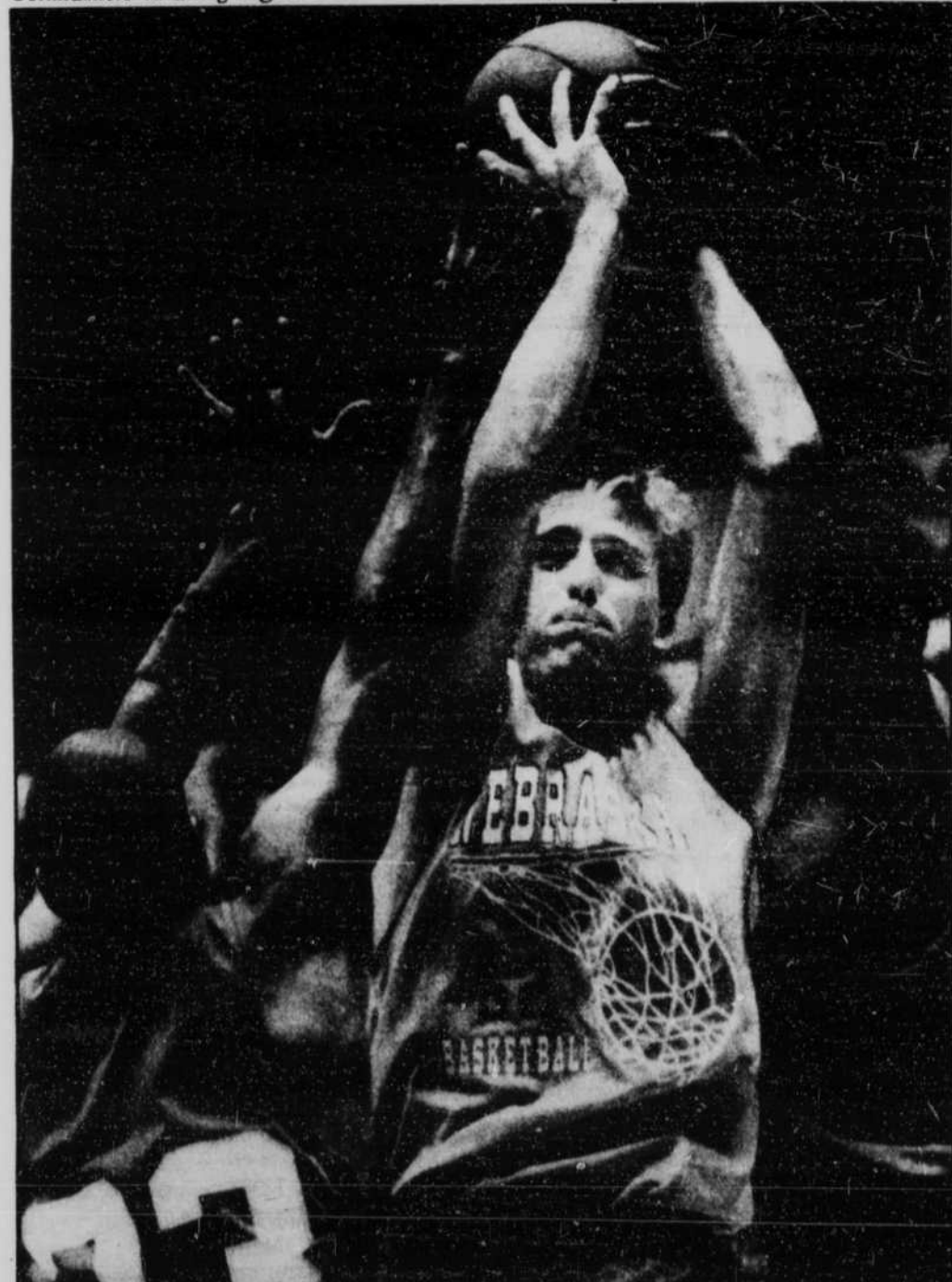
Anything can happen.

Florida State could beat Miami, and Pittsburgh... well, let's give them a slight chance against Notre Dame just to make Saturday interesting.

No. 1 Colorado versus No. 2 Nebraska?

Now that would be fun.

Fowler is a junior news-editorial major and is a daily Nebraskan senior reporter.



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Eric Piatkowski puts up a shot while Ray Richardson (back) and Clifford Scales defend.

# Coach Nee says basketball team out to prove predictions wrong

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska coach Danny Nee is out to prove a lot of people wrong.

Nee said he would like to prove preseason basketball predictions wrong because they have not been kind to the Cornhuskers this year.

The Sporting News thought the lowest of this year's squad, placing it last in the Big Eight.

The Big Eight Basketball Yearbook, Street and Smith's College Basketball Preview and Dick Vitale's Basketball pick Nebraska to finish seventh in the Big Eight.

And Inside Sports predicts that Nebraska will be sixth, beating out lowly Colorado and NCAA probation-ridden Kansas for the cellar.

Nee said the team can't pay attention to the negative comments.

"I don't worry about them," he said. "That's one of our goals, we want to do much better."

"Magazines are for the fans. If you believe that (the predictions), you're not going to win. We'd like to prove them wrong."

The Sporting News added to its prediction when it listed Nee among five coaches for whom the "honeymoon's over."

Joining Nee on the list were Stan Albeck of Bradley, Murray Arnold of Western Kentucky, Jim Brandenburg of San Diego State and Jim O'Brien of Boston College.

"After generating rave reviews several years ago when they were hired," the article said, "the second guessing has intensified for these five coaches who seem to be falling from grace."

Nee said he has read the comments, which were written by Sporting News basketball editor Mike Douchant.

"I have no reaction," Nee said. "I don't think (Douchant) knows what he's talking about. The last time I talked to my bosses they thought I was doing a good job. I feel I'm doing a good job."

"Stuff like that really motivates me. I guess I'll have to prove them wrong."

Nee thinks he has a team that can silence the doubters.

This year's squad returns seven players who accounted for 69.6 percent of the scoring and 68.8 percent of the rebounding from last year's team, which finished 17-16 overall and 4-10 in the Big Eight.

Nebraska adds three freshman recruits, junior-college transfer Keith Moody and activates three sophomores who did not play last year to assist returning starters Rich King and Clifford Scales.

The Huskers also return forward Beau Reid, who averaged nearly 12 points per game last year. Reid will begin the season on the sidelines, as he is out indefinitely with a knee injury he suffered last summer.

Whether Reid will play this season is debatable, Nee said.

"He's progressing," Nee said. "He's out running around but I have no idea when he'll return. It's way too early to tell."

Nee said the old and the new will have to blend together if the Huskers hope to win this year.

"The new players have to come ready to play," he said. "The veterans have to give us that leadership in close games and on the road."

"We'll have to play to our potential every night. If the vets aren't playing to their potential, we're in trouble."

Both experienced and inexperienced players are battling for positions, Nee said.

The Nebraska team will have more competition among itself when the first red-white scrimmage of the year is staged tonight at Grand Island High School. The scrimmage begins at 7 p.m.

Nee said the game is important because he will take his pitch for fan support on the road. The Huskers also will be gaining experience with the team's three scrimmages within the state, he said.

While his pride was dented by the Sporting News, Nee said practice has been injury-free so far, with one exception.

"The only injury is Coach Nee -- he got hit in the finger with the ball yesterday," Nee laughed. "It had to be splinted up and iced."

"That's the only major injury."