

Bank examiner quits job to coach NU team

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

In 20 years, Bill Weber wants something more to look back on.

That is why the former Nebraska all-conference defensive end said he quit his four-year job as a bank examiner to come back and voluntarily coach football last year.

What Weber really wants, he said, is to someday coach a NCAA Division I program.

"It just came to the point where I thought, 'In 20 years, did I want to say I had been a bank examiner all my life?'" Weber said. "I think most of us (the freshman football coaches) would like to come up with a Division I coaching job. It's a tough business, but we'll see what happens."

After coaching the Nebraska junior varsity receivers last season, this year Weber moved up as the JV's graduate assistant head coach.

He replaces another volunteer coach, Shane Thorell, who was bumped to the varsity to assist secondary coach George Darlington. The JVs reported Monday and began practicing Tuesday.

"When the opportunity came, I took it," Weber said. "I really believe in athletics at the college level."

"The things I learned as a college athlete are invaluable. They're things that you cannot pick up in a classroom. The demands, both athletically and academically, are very stringent."

Based on his career at Nebraska from 1981 to 1984, Weber, a three-year starter, knew how to balance those demands. He was voted three times to the all-academic Big Eight with a 3.50 GPA, graduating with a degree in finance.

Weber said his experiences on and off the field as a former player, and the exposure of his assistants to the game at the major college level

will help the new, younger players.

Weber will be assisted this season by graduate assistants Bill Kucera, Turner Gill, Steve Stanard and Kevin Miller, and undergraduate assistant Scott Olson.

Kucera, who coached at Schuyler High School, will work with the offensive line; Gill, who quarterbacked Nebraska from 1981 to 1983, will coach the quarterbacks and running backs; Stanard, a former Husker defensive end, will coach the linebackers; Miller, a former Husker defensive lineman, will coach the defensive line; and Olson will coach the defensive backs.

"I think the best thing we have to offer is what it takes to make it at this level," Weber said. "We know what it takes, so we have to lead them in some fashion to that goal."

Weber remembers how he was led 10 years ago when he first reported as a college freshman under then coach Frank Solich, who is

now the Huskers' running backs coach.

"The glaring thing I remember from Coach Solich was his competitiveness," Weber said. "As most people know, you're required to do well on every play for him."

"Most of his teams were successful, but no matter what, they always were tough-hearted. That's how I hope to influence my players. It's not necessarily a player's ability that determines success, but how much he is willing to sacrifice to achieve his goals."

Weber said he also has witnessed several sacrifices by Nebraska coach Tom Osborne.

"You simply can't work with a better coach," Weber said. "He definitely was a strong influence in my decision to try coaching."

"Throughout the years, he has been a tireless worker, totally committed to the team. He always demands the best out of himself and out of the people around him. Those are the types of things I'm working for."



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Calvin Jones, #32, a running back for the South squad, is brought down by North linebacker Peyton Wayne, #37, during the Shrine Bowl game.

North defeats South in Shrine Bowl; six of seven NU recruits participate

By Cindy Wostrel
and Mark Munn
Staff Reporters

Among the 70 participants in Saturday's 32nd-annual Shrine Bowl football game were six of Nebraska's seven 1990 scholarship players.

With recruits Cory Schlesinger, Jon Pedersen, Zach Wiegert and Terry Connealy as members, the North team defeated the South 19-16 in front of about 2,000 Memorial Stadium fans. The South featured recruits Calvin Jones and Rob Zatechka. Absent was Sutton's Jay Spearman, who opted to play in Friday's All-Star basketball game at the Bob Devaney Sports

Center.

It was the North's seventh victory in the last nine years, but the South leads the series 16 to 13 in the classic that began in 1959. Three games have ended in ties.

The South's Matt Wibbels of Central City was named the game's most valuable defensive player by the media. Kevin Stein of Chadron, who completed eight passes for 116 yards for the North team, was named the most valuable offensive player.

The North amassed 307 yards in total offense compared to the South's 179. The North rushed for 159 yards and completed 10 of 20 passes for 148 yards. The South gained 111 yards

rushing and also threw 20 times, completing six for 68 yards. The North registered 18 first downs to the South's 10.

Schlesinger, a two-time state wrestling champ at Columbus High School, outgained the South's Jones, who was considered one of the nation's top prep running backs last year. Schlesinger, playing fullback, rushed for 82 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns.

Jones, of Omaha Central where he established himself as Class A's all-time leading rusher with 3,965 career yards, carried 13 times for 67 yards

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