

Minnesota coach finds few positive moments

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Minnesota football coach John Gutekunst said it was hard to be positive after watching his team lose to Nebraska 56-0 Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

The Golden Gophers fell to 1-2 this season, with this being their most lopsided loss since being squashed by the Cornhuskers 48-0 last season.

Gutekunst said his team was beaten on both sides of the ball.

"We got our butts kicked by a good football team," he said. "Defensively, we never gave ourselves a chance to win the football game. Offensively, we dropped the football early and then didn't do anything to get ourselves back into the game, to put any pressure on them."

"The game was over in a hurry."

Minnesota had fallen behind early in both of

their first two games, but managed to fight back and beat Iowa State 20-16, and lose in the final seconds against Utah, 35-29.

Saturday, however, was a different story. "Our first two games, we scrapped and overcame some deficits," Gutekunst said. "We were able to win one and gave one away."

"It was our job to be good and give Nebraska a good game, but when every handoff goes for eight to 10 yards, there's just no way you can do that."

Nebraska racked up 564 total yards, including 433 rushing yards behind the play of Nebraska's offensive line. Most of those rushing yards were to the outside, where the Gophers defensive ends were ineffective at turning play back inside.

Gutekunst was critical of the play of his defensive ends.

"I thought Nebraska's tackles really kicked them," Gutekunst said. "They didn't do a very

good job on the perimeter at all. They just handled us there."

Minnesota starting quarterback Marquel Fleetwood credited Nebraska's defense, but said the Gophers poor offensive execution was more of a factor.

"I don't think they stopped our offense," Fleetwood said. "We had some mental breakdowns in certain situations. We didn't execute as well as we should have."

"We just didn't get the breaks today." Coming into the game, the size of Minnesota's offensive line was considered to be a major factor. It wasn't, Gutekunst said.

"It was no factor," he said. "What are we going to do, stick the ball at them for five yards and keep trying to work it that way? We couldn't do it. They're a tremendous defensive team with tremendous speed. I don't know if you can exploit any of it."

"You can't give them good field position and turn the ball over." That, exactly, is what Minnesota did.

Three lost fumbles, an interception and a botched fake punt allowed the Huskers to start four of their scoring drives inside Minnesota territory. The Gophers did not cross their own 45 the entire game.

Gutekunst said the foiled fake punt was especially upsetting.

"We had it open and we dropped the football," he said. "We dropped it a couple of times."

If anything in the game was positive for Minnesota, Gutekunst said, it was the fact that a number of young players saw action.

"We played a bunch of people in the second half," he said. "They got a lot of snaps. That's the only thing I can see positive at all."

Basketball tickets to go on sale today

From Staff Reports

University of Nebraska-Lincoln student ticket applications for home men's basketball games will be accepted starting today and continuing through Friday. Applications are available at the South Stadium ticket office, the Student Accounts Office and the East Campus Union information desk.

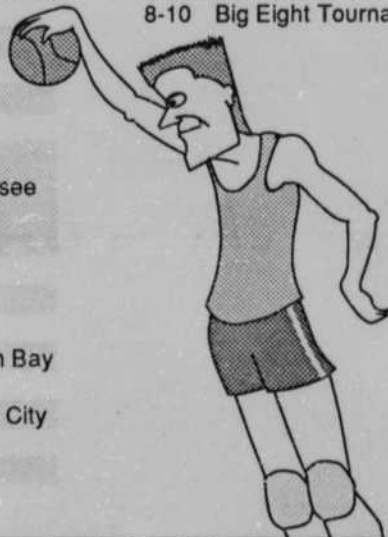
Nebraska will have 17 home games. UNL students can purchase season tickets for 14 of those games for \$35. That averages out to \$2.50 a game for students. A spouse ticket will cost an additional \$70. The three games excluded are between the fall and spring semester break.

Of the 14 games in the student-ticket package, five -- Michigan State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Kansas State -- are against teams that played in last year's NCAA tournament. Two -- Creighton and Oklahoma State -- were invited to the NIT post-season tournament.

The three games over break are against Miami of Ohio, Idaho and Iowa State. Idaho played in the NCAA tournament last season. UNL students will be able to purchase tickets for those games for \$7.50.

Nebraska Basketball Schedule 1990-91

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|------------------------|
| Nov. 9 | High Five America (exhibition) | Jan. 30 | Missouri |
| 14 | Czechoslovakia Nationals (exhibition) | Feb. 2 | Oklahoma St. at Kansas |
| 23-25 | at San Juan Shootout at San Juan, P.R. (Nebraska, Illinois, Old Dominion, American-Puerto Rico, Murray State, Bucknell, St. Louis, Northern Iowa) | 6 | at Kansas |
| 28 | Michigan State at Eastern Illinois | 9 | Colorado |
| Dec. 3 | Creighton | 13 | at Iowa St. |
| 6 | Toledo | 16 | Kansas St. |
| 8 | at Wisconsin | 18 | Northern Illinois |
| 11 | Ameritas Classic (Nebraska, Tennessee Tech, Alabama St., Bowling Green St.) | 20 | at Missouri |
| 22 | Miami of Ohio | 23 | Oklahoma |
| 28 | Idaho | 27 | at Oklahoma St. |
| 30 | at The Citadel | Mar. 3 | Kansas |
| Jan. 2 | at Wisconsin-Green Bay | 8-10 | Big Eight Tournament |
| 5 | at Kansas St. | | |
| 9 | at Missouri-Kansas City | | |
| 12 | Iowa St. | | |
| 22 | at Colorado | | |
| 26 | at Oklahoma | | |



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

NU handed its first loss

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

Pacific, ranked No. 3 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, upset No. 1-ranked Nebraska Saturday night and added wins against Illinois and Florida to secure a first-place finish at the Illini Invitational in Champaign, Ill., last weekend.

The Cornhuskers, 10-1, rallied Friday night to beat the host team, sixth-ranked Illinois, 6-15, 13-15, 15-9, 15-8 and 15-8.

Nebraska assistant coach John Cook said time was needed for the Huskers to get used to the surroundings before exploding with .528 hitting to break away from a 9-9 tie in the third game to win.

"We just got crushed the first game," he said. "It was nip and tuck in the second, we missed a chance to win."

"In the third game, we just hit

rhythm. Once we did that, they just couldn't play with us."

Nebraska was led by junior Cris Hall's 26 kills.

Nebraska fell 13-15, 4-15, 15-5, 10-15 Saturday night -- the victim of not just Pacific, 10-1, but emotional drain from the night before, Cook said.

"There was a lot of pressure on the Illinois match," he said. "Not just because of what it meant that night, but what it meant for hosting regionals at the end of the season."

The hitting was close in percentage: .205 for the Huskers, .235 for the Tigers, but Pacific did the job at the net defensively, out-blocking Nebraska 22-14.

"They're good, but it's not that they were a better team," Cook said. "We just didn't do the little things we needed to. I'd feel more than comfortable playing them again."

Coach: JV team prepared for, confident about Bethany game

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska junior varsity football team usually puts on a pretty good offensive show whenever it plays the Bethany (Kan.) JV.

First-year JV coach Bill Weber expects the Cornhuskers to generate plenty of offense again today when the two JV teams meet at 1 p.m. today at Memorial Stadium.

"We feel we should be fairly successful with our power running game," Weber said. "We feel confident in all phases of our offense."

Certainly all phases of Nebraska's offense clicked last year against Bethany -- the Huskers won 76-0.

Besides last season's wipe out, Nebraska beat Bethany 55-0 in 1987 and 68-0 in 1988.

Those whippings probably won't weigh on the minds of this year's team come kickoff, Weber said.

"This is a new group of kids so they're not sure what's ahead," he said. "We're not going to dwell on the points, we're just going to play hard."

Weber said that he's not sure what Nebraska will see offensively from Bethany.

"It's hard to say," Weber said. "It'll depend on how many varsity kids they bring down."

"We don't have any films of them this year. But from last year we know they like to run a lot of different things."

Weber said Nebraska is prepared for any of those sets after it opened with a victory over Snow Junior College 14-7 a couple weeks ago. Snow mixed formations often during that game.

"They (Bethany) run some one-

back sets," Weber said. "They probably run the ball a little better than Snow though."

On offense, Nebraska will see less stunting than it did against Snow, Weber said.

"They don't blitz and there's a difference in sets," he said.

Nebraska's passing game should click a little better against Bethany, according to Weber, although he sometimes has premonitions about airing the ball out.

During the Snow game, Weber said that whenever he would call a passing play he had this sensation that someone or thing would "jerk on my shoulder."

"There's something on that sideline, some spirit or something (that warns against the pass)," he said jokingly.

But Weber didn't see any glaring weaknesses from his offense in the first game to warrant any concern.

"There's really nothing we can single out," he said. "I thought we had a pretty solid game all-around."

"We can always improve on our execution. I felt we did very well against Snow but we can always do a little better."

Considering the outcome of the last three Nebraska-Bethany meetings, Weber said he hopes the Huskers will guard against any concentration gaps if the margin of score gets big.

"We just need to play well with intensity," he said. "Letdowns sometimes happen in games where you have a chance to win big."

Weber said two freshmen will probably miss the game. Fullback Rick Blatny injured his foot and tight end Erich Hohl has a knee injury that might keep him out.

"We're set to go in all other areas," he said.

Huskers to open solid schedule against MSU

By Sara Bauder Schott
Staff Reporter

Size, strength and speed will combine to create a "fun-to-watch" atmosphere for Nebraska men's basketball games at the Bob Devaney Sports Center this season, said Cornhusker coach Danny Nee.

"I think fans will like the style of play," Nee said. "We'll be a big, strong, quick basketball team."

After two home exhibition games and a preseason tournament in Puerto Rico, the Huskers open the regular season at home against last year's Big 10 champion Michigan State. The Spartans return four starters from their 28-6 team. This was a team that lost at the buzzer in overtime to Georgia Tech in a game that decided who advanced to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament.

The Spartans have one of the premier guards in the nation with senior Steve Smith, who averaged more than 20 points a game a year ago, Nee said. In Smith, he said, the Spartans once again have the "Magic Johnson of college basketball."

Johnson, of the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers, played for Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote, where he led the Spartans to the NCAA title in 1979.

Nee said the Huskers' entire schedule is solid. During the season, the Huskers play 14 teams that participated in post-

season play last year.

The Huskers open Big Eight play Jan. 5, on the road against Kansas State.

Nee said the Big Eight will be a tough conference again this year, despite losing three coaches, and having a number of players who will miss all or part of the season.

"The Big Eight is the Big Eight," he said. "This year it will be as good as ever."

Colorado, Kansas State and Oklahoma State are all under new leadership this season with the Buffaloes' Tom Miller being fired and now a coach at Army, the Wildcats' Lon Krueger taking the job at Florida and the Cowboys' Leonard Hamilton leaving for Miami.

In addition, Missouri and Oklahoma will be without some important players. Oklahoma's Jackie Jones and Smokev McCovery will not return, while Damon Patterson is ineligible to play the first half of the season. Missouri guard Anthony Peeler also is ineligible part of the season.

Nee said he still expects those teams to be strong.

"Any time you lose a starter it has an effect, but I don't think it will change the team," he said.

Nee also expects the conference to be a tighter race, saying that the teams that have finished at the bottom have improved.

He said one of Nebraska's goals is to win the Big Eight title, but achieving that is difficult because Nebraska has not been able to establish a winning tradition. The Huskers finished seventh in the Big Eight last year with a 3-11 conference record.

Nebraska Basketball Returnees

| Pos. | Ht | Class | Pts. Avg. | Reb. avg. |
|-----------------|------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Rich King | | | | |
| C | 7-2 | Sr. | 16.1 | 7.4 |
| Clifford Scales | | | | |
| G | 6-2 | Sr. | 12.2 | 3.6 |
| Carl Hayes | | | | |
| F | 6-8 | Jr. | 12.1 | 4.9 |
| Dapreis Owens | | | | |
| F | 6-8 | Jr. | 8.4 | 4.4 |
| Chris Cresswell | | | | |
| G | 6-4 | Jr. | 4.8 | 1.2 |
| Keith Moody | | | | |
| G | 5-10 | Sr. | 4.7 | 2.0 |
| Beau Reid | | | | |
| F | 6-7 | Sr. | 3.0 | 1.9 |
| Kelly Lively | | | | |
| C | 7-0 | Sr. | 1.9 | 1.4 |

"We don't have the tradition, the confidence to build on," Nee said. "That is our Achilles' heel. We just have to be willing to do what it takes to get it done."

The Huskers have the talent and senior leadership to get something done this season, Nee said.

He said three of the seniors, center Rich King, forward Beau Reid and guard Clifford Scales, have had a major impact on the team from the moment they arrived at Nebraska. Center Kelly Lively and guard Keith Moody also are returning seniors.

These seniors, with their experience and leadership, have an important role, Nee said. That role: consistency every night, he said.

Junior forwards Carl Hayes and Dapreis Owens also will be crucial to the team, Nee said.