

NU's Osborne still pondering Minnesota rout

From Staff Reports

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne was still stunned Monday from the Cornhuskers' 56-0 blowout of Minnesota two days before.

"You can't appreciate the win with such a point spread," Osborne said.

The victory margin affects the fans, too, he said.

"People have been mentally conditioned to think that the game wasn't worth it if it wasn't a close game," Osborne said.

Nebraska's injured skill-position players should be back when the Huskers attempt another rout Saturday against Oregon State.

Leodis Flowers, Scott Baldwin and Nate Turner, who missed the Minnesota game, were back at the half-pad practice Monday. Flowers, the starting I-back, has been out with a knee injury and Baldwin, Flowers' alternate, has been plagued by a turf toe.

Turner was X-rayed again Monday to check his recovery from a broken collarbone that has kept him out of Nebraska's first three games. Osborne said the junior wingback was still sore.

One new skill position player missed practice. Jon Bostick, the team's leading receiver, sat out but should return today, Osborne said.

NU junior varsity defeats Bethany

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska junior varsity team was afflicted with breakdowns in the first half of Monday's game against Bethany (Kan.) junior varsity, but the game ended with a healthy 45-0 victory over the Swedes.

Plagued by turnovers and penalties that ended numerous scoring threats, the Cornhuskers could only manage seven points after 28 minutes of the first half.

"Offensively we didn't get rolling like we anticipated," JV coach Bill Weber said. "We had a number of good plays, but our drives were getting about 10 to 12 plays long and we'd start having breakdowns."

With two minutes left in the first half, Bethany had some breakdowns of their own. A Jeff Lang punt sailed to the 1-yard line when Bethany's Jay Miller bobbled the ball. Nebraska split end Travis Grant recovered the football at the 1, and I-back Bob Cook scored on the next play.

Two changes of possession left Bethany with the ball once again. Nebraska safety Jason Simdorn then picked off a Jeremy Baeckel pass and returned it to the Swedes' 26 with 30 seconds left.

Nebraska moved into field goal range when wingback Jeff Hughes caught a 31-yard pass from quarterback Matt Jones on the next play. With time running out, Lang nailed a 19-yard field goal to put Nebraska up 17-0.

Although a 17-point lead was comforting, Weber said he was disappointed with the three turnovers and four penalties Nebraska suffered in

the first half.

"Their defense was doing a good job of making us go the full distance, we just weren't disciplined enough to execute," Weber said. "You get concerned that something wasn't quite right... they needed to be jostled or something (at halftime) to get going."

But Nebraska's defense didn't need much jostling, Weber said.

"We were pretty confident that the 17 points we had would hold up based on how our defense was playing," he said.

And it did.

Led by linebacker Leroi Jones with six total tackles, Nebraska's defense held the Swedes to five first downs in the game.

"We did a good job of not giving up the big play," Weber said. "We got a lot of pressure on the quarterback and (when) that happens they're not going to be successful."

Matt Jones was successful more times than not on Monday. After a sub-par passing performance in Nebraska's opening win against Snow, the freshman completed 9 of 11 passes for 171 yards and one touchdown.

"He's a good thrower," Weber said. "When he gets his feet set and makes a good decision, he can really throw it in there."

Despite the 45 points, Weber said the junior varsity will have to improve on offense for the Oct. 5 matchup with the Air Force junior varsity, a team that beat Nebraska 38-34 a year ago.

"We're really going to have to improve our execution on offense... we play in spurts," he said.

"At times we're just not hitting on all cylinders and that's our goal."



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska junior varsity's Michael Bowen breaks up a pass from Bethany's Jeremy Baeckel in the fourth quarter Monday.

USC plunges in AP poll; Nebraska remains No. 8

The Associated Press

Southern Cal and Arkansas plummeted in the rankings after losing their first games, and Virginia jumped to its highest spot ever in The Associated Press college football poll.

Southern Cal dropped 13 places to No. 18 after getting blanked by Washington 31-0 and Arkansas fell 10 notches to No. 23 following a 21-17 loss to Mississippi.

Virginia's 59-0 thrashing of Duke moved the unbeaten Cavaliers up three spots to No. 7. The best previous ranking for Virginia was No. 9 in 1949 and 1952.

Nebraska remained eighth after crushing Minnesota 56-0 Saturday.

Notre Dame remained No. 1 for the third straight week after edging Michigan State 20-19. The Fighting Irish received 43 first-place votes and 1,478 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Florida State is second, followed by Auburn and Brigham Young. Florida State, which beat Tulane 31-13, got 11 first-place votes and 1,397 points.

Auburn and BYU each received three first-place votes, but the Tigers out-pointed the Cougars 1,384-1,261. Auburn had the week off, and BYU beat San Diego State 62-34.

Tennessee is fifth, followed by Michigan, Virginia, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Miami, Texas A&M, Washington, Houston, Illinois, Ohio State, Arizona, Florida, Southern Cal, Clemson and Colorado. Rounding out the Top 25 are Arizona State, Michigan State, Arkansas, Fresno State and South Carolina.

Fresno State and South Carolina moved into the rankings for the first time this season, replacing Texas and Pittsburgh.

Fresno rose to No. 24 after beating New Mexico State 42-3 and South Carolina moved up to No. 25

Associated Press Top 25

1 Notre Dame	2-0-0	1
2 Florida St.	3-0-0	2
3 Auburn	2-0-0	3
4 BYU	4-0-0	4
5 Tennessee	3-0-1	6
6 Michigan	1-1-0	7
7 Virginia	4-0-0	10
8 Nebraska	3-0-0	8
9 Oklahoma	3-0-0	11
10 Miami	1-1-0	9
11 Texas A&M	3-0-0	12
12 Washington	3-0-0	21
13 Houston	2-0-0	14
14 Illinois	2-1-0	15
15 Ohio St.	2-0-0	16
16 Arizona	3-0-0	18
17 Florida	3-0-0	19
18 Southern Cal	2-1-0	5
19 Clemson	3-1-0	17
20 Colorado	2-1-1	20
21 Arizona St.	2-0-0	23
22 Michigan St.	0-1-1	24
23 Arkansas	1-1-0	13
24 Fresno St.	4-0-0	-
25 S. Carolina	3-0-0	-

record previous

Source: Associated Press
John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

after downing Virginia Tech 35-24. It is the second straight season that Fresno has been ranked. Last year, the Bulldogs got as high as 23rd.

Texas, 22nd last week, is 1-1 after losing to Colorado 29-22 and Pittsburgh, last week's No. 25, is 2-1-1 after tying Syracuse 20-20.

JV player Cook says he scored touchdown for ill grandmother

By Sara Bauder Schott
Staff Reporter

Nebraska I-back Bob Cook has no miracle cure, so he ran hard to give his grandmother what he could in Monday's junior varsity football game.

Cook had just found out that his grandmother, who was in the stands, has cancer.

"I just wanted to score a touchdown for her," Cook said. "I wanted to do well for her. It makes you realize there's more to life than football."

Cook did score that touchdown for his grandmother, as the Cornhuskers beat Bethany College, 45-0. He also was the leading rusher for the Huskers, gaining 78 yards on 17 carries.

The 5-foot-9, 180-pound freshman

from Omaha said he was happy with the Huskers' performance. He thinks the team is well-prepared for the rest of the season, he said, but lacks concentration. The Husker victory was marred by mistakes like six fumbles and seven penalties -- four of the fumbles and four of the penalties coming in the first half.

"We need to cut down on mistakes and get more consistent," he said. "We need to get everyone -- all 11 guys on the field -- concentrating."

Cook said Nebraska's recent dominance over Bethany made concentration on the game more difficult. In the past three years, Nebraska has outscored Bethany 199-0. With that kind of imbalance, it's easy to look past Bethany to the other teams on the

JV schedule, Cook said.

At times, Cook dominated the Nebraska offense. In the Huskers' first drive of the second quarter, he ran the ball four consecutive times, gaining 26 yards and two first downs.

Cook said eventually he'd like to run the football more.

"I'm real happy that all the I-backs got in today," Cook said. "In the future, I hope to get a few more snaps, but I'm not complaining."

Cook, who played at Millard South, came to Nebraska in 1989. A knee injury kept him from playing for the JV last year, and he received an injury redshirt. He said he has recovered from the injury, but has to wear a brace on his knee.

"It slows me down a little, but I just put my head down and go," he said.

Joseph manages to find flaw in weekend whipping

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

Mickey Joseph had the luxury of nitpicking.

Saturday the junior quarterback led the Cornhusker offense to six touchdowns in eight series, and 368 yards in 50 plays.

But after Nebraska's 56-0 plastering of Minnesota, Joseph was still bugged by a first-quarter interception and his three-game interception streak.

That's a good sign, when the worst part of the day is a pass thrown into a 25-mph wind, tipped into the air and caught by a Golden Gopher defender with no effect on the game's outcome. But that's the kind of day Joseph had, beginning with a 13-play, 89-yard drive to start the game.

"You can feel it from the beginning of the game that everything's going smoothly," Joseph said. "When you get a drive like that, you get going pretty good."

Joseph, who was making his sec-

ond start, finished with 32 yards rushing and 117 yards passing. Joseph said he was pleased with his 7 of 11 passing, other than the interception.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Joseph only made one bad audible, and estimated that Joseph changed the play about half the time.

Particularly impressive, if simply because it was so obvious, was a 21-yard touchdown pass to Derek Brown in the third quarter. Joseph looked over the defense and audibled to a new play, one that called for the spread formation instead of the I formation.

I-back Derek Brown, though, couldn't hear the check call, so Joseph had to turn and wave Brown into a flanker position. Joseph took the snap, Brown took a few steps downfield and turned out, and Joseph flipped the pass to the wide-open back. Brown scored without being touched.

So the passing and play-calling was there. Also evident was Joseph's strength in effectively running the

option against the Gophers.

More than once Joseph ducked under one defender, only to have another player challenge him. Joseph had to regain contact with the trailing back and make the pitch. Only once did he miss on a pitch, and it rolled harmlessly out of bounds.

"You just got to keep going out with him," I-back Derek Brown said.

Joseph faces the prospect of standing on the sidelines most of the time next week against Oregon State. Mike Grant, who started the first game, is expected to be back from his bruised knee.

"We did not play Grant today because he said before the game that he'd rather not play," Osborne said. "Hopefully next week we can play Mike and play him a lot."

Joseph took that prospect better than he did the interception.

"Mike's got to get back in a rhythm, too," Joseph said. "It's only fair that he get back in there."