

# Osborne: Academics, kicking game improving

By Chris Hoptensperger  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne took some time away from football to talk about academics at Tuesday's weekly press conference.

Osborne said he is pleased with the programs of Roger Grooters, director of academic programs, and Keith Zimmer, athletic/career counselor.

"We feel we have good students here," Osborne said. "I know a lot of people from time to time maintain you can't do well academically and participate in college athletics."

Only two of this year's 156 football players had a grade point average below 2.0 and both were borderline, he said. Twelve players had GPA's above 3.55 and the team average is a 2.72.

"The overall program is really where I would like to see it," Osborne said. "Of course nothing is perfect, but it's coming along pretty well."

Another aspect of the football program that is coming along is the kicking game, Osborne said.

"We've been fairly dominant on both sides of the ball, but the thing that jumps out at me more than any-

thing else is kicking," he said.

Nebraska's return teams are averaging 12.5 yards a punt return and 35 yards on kickoffs. The opposition is gaining 16 yards on kickoffs and the punt average is nil.

Osborne said he also is pleased with the Huskers' low number of penalties. In the first three games Nebraska has been flagged for just 60 yards in penalties. That is highly unusual, Osborne said.

"I can't ever remember when we've averaged that few," he said. "We've had a lot of games where we've had well over 60 yards in a half."

Several injuries that have been bothering the Huskers in past weeks are beginning to heal, he said.

I-backs Leodis Flowers and Scott Baldwin, and quarterback Mike Grant all have practiced this week and, Osborne said, they all have improved.

"Out of those three, the only one I would say might still be a little bit uncertain as to how well he will be will be Grant," he said. "He can play, there's no question about it. The question is whether he will be full speed."

"If he can be close to 100 percent

by game time than we'll start him and play him a good deal. If he's not we won't."

One player guaranteed to return is wingback Nate Turner. Turner broke his collarbone in the second day of fall camp.

"Nate Turner will play some," Osborne said. "I think there's still some apprehension (from the trainers). He needs to get hit a couple of times."

Besides Grant, Osborne said another player who may be questionable is middle guard Paul Brungardt, who woke up with a swollen knee on Sunday after the Minnesota game.

"We're probably in a little better shape physically than we have been at any time this year," Osborne said.

Nebraska leads the Big Eight in yards per pass attempt. In fact, in a rating done by the Big Eight, Husker quarterback Mickey Joseph is first in passing efficiency.

"That's the key thing to me," Osborne said, (is) what happens when you throw it?"

"I know I'm a minority of one in the state that believes that's at all important."

## Nebraska's depth chart

Offense				Defense					
SE	Jon Bostick	6-2	185	Jr.	LOLB	Travis Hill	6-2	225	So.
	Dan Pleasant	5-9	175	Jr.		David White	6-2	225	So.
	Mark Dowse	6-0	180	Jr.		Dan Svehla	6-0	230	Sr.
LT	Tom Punt	6-8	285	Sr.	LT	Joe Sims	6-3	280	Sr.
	Steve Engstrom	6-3	290	Sr.		Le Andre Anderson	6-4	260	Sr.
	Brent Pick	6-5	265	Sr.		Paul Brungardt	6-7	270	Sr.
LG	Jim Wanek	6-1	245	Sr.	MG	Pat Engelbert	6-2	250	Jr.
	Jeff Chaney	6-2	250	Jr.		Greg Koellner	6-3	260	Jr.
	Scott Peterson	6-4	245	So.		Mike Jefferson	6-2	280	Fr.
C	David Edeal	6-2	260	Sr.	RT	Kenny Walker	6-4	240	Sr.
	Bill Ziegelbein	6-5	240	Jr.		Brian Brown	6-6	260	Jr.
	Terris Chorney	6-1	250	So.		David Noonan	6-3	265	Fr.
RG	Will Shields	6-2	260	So.	ROLB	Mike Croel	6-3	225	Sr.
	Erik Wiegert	6-4	270	Jr.		Dan Svehla	6-0	230	Sr.
	Chris Zyza	6-2	255	So.		Rick Wendland	6-1	215	Sr.
RT	Brian Boerboom	6-7	285	Jr.	SLB	Mike Petko	6-2	230	Jr.
	Terry Eymann	6-6	265	Sr.		Matt Panland	6-0	220	So.
	Ray Riefenrath	6-5	290	Jr.		Troy Branch	6-2	220	Fr.
TE	Wm. Washington	6-2	245	So.	WLB	Pat Tyrance	6-2	240	Fr.
	Chris Garrett	6-3	240	Jr.		Mike Anderson	6-1	230	Fr.
	Daryl Leise	6-2	230	Jr.		Paul Wightman	6-1	220	So.
QB	Mike Grant	6-2	210	Jr.	LCB	Bruce Pickens	5-11	190	Sr.
	Mickey Joseph	5-11	180	Jr.		Jon Crippen	5-10	170	Sr.
	Tom Haase	6-0	180	Jr.		Robert Hicks	5-10	185	Sr.
FB	Omar Soto	5-11	220	Jr.	RCB	Tahaun Lewis	5-11	170	Sr.
	Lance Lewis	6-0	225	So.		Tyrone Legette	5-9	180	Jr.
	Tim Johnk	5-10	215	Jr.		Eric Anderson	5-8	175	Sr.
IB	Leodis Flowers	5-11	200	Jr.	SS	Reggie Cooper	6-3	210	Sr.
	Scott Baldwin	6-1	200	So.		Curtis Cotton	6-1	210	Jr.
	Derek Brown	5-10	175	Fr.		Brian Pollard	5-10	190	So.
WB	Nate Turner	6-2	225	Jr.	FS	Tyrone Byrd	5-11	165	So.
	Tyrone Hughes	5-9	175	So.		Steve Carmer	6-1	205	So.
	Brad Devall	5-9	180	Sr.		Will Thomas	6-0	175	Jr.

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

## Osborne says team needs to improve in some areas

From Staff Reports

Nebraska held a two-hour controlled scrimmage Tuesday in preparation for the Oregon State game this Saturday, Coach Osborne said.

I-back Scott Baldwin reinjured his toe and left practice early. Offensive guard Dave Jensen missed practice with a sore leg.

The Huskers are guarding against any concentration gaps with the possibility of another big scoring gap this week, Osborne said.

"It (the concentration) has been pretty good," he said.

Despite a near-perfect performance against Minnesota Saturday, Osborne said the Huskers could do better in some areas.

"We hope to see the turnovers diminish, the blocking improve, the throwing improve," he said.

## Pettit: Fatigue from tournaments contributed to Huskers' loss

From Staff Reports

Nebraska's volleyball team dropped to No. 2 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Top 20. But in the season's first NCAA poll, which was released Tuesday, the Cornhuskers were voted No. 1.

Saturday, the Huskers lost their first match of the year to No. 3-ranked Pacific in the Illinois Invitational, after rallying to beat No. 14-ranked Illinois the night before.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit called the Illinois match one of the most emotionally draining Nebraska has ever played and the critical match of the tournament.

"Our preparation was pretty much limited to Illinois prior to the tournament," Pettit said. "I really feel that personnel-wise and talent-wise we're in pretty good shape against Pacific, but they were in a situation where they could spend the week preparing for us."

Last week, the team began to feel the fatigue of having played in three tournaments against six top-20 teams, Pettit said, but he doesn't regret scheduling such powerful competition.

"I figured if we could win a majority of the matches against top-10 teams on the road that would be great," he said. "But that wasn't the reason we did it."



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

I-back Derek Brown is NU's leading rushing with 192 yards after gaining 120 yards against Minnesota on Saturday.

## I-back's first day is full of yards

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

Starting as Nebraska's I-back is something to call home about. So when Derek Brown found out Friday after practice that he would be starting Saturday against Minnesota, he did.

"At first I was nervous and I had to give a call to my mother," Brown said. "She helps make me relax."

Brown, a freshman from La Habra, Calif., who had to sit out a year because of Proposition 48, relaxed enough to gain 120 yards rushing and score three touchdowns in the Cornhuskers' 56-0 victory over the Golden Gophers.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne gave Brown plenty of chances to get rid of his butterflies. Brown returned the opening kickoff, had five carries in the first six plays and

ran the ball 13 times in the first quarter.

In fact, Brown had a lot of work for a 5-foot-10, 175-pounder, even one so muscular. He had 21 carries and two receptions, hurled himself through the air for one touchdown and even recorded a tackle after an interception.

Yet Brown said playing against the Gophers wasn't as rough as he expected.

"I thought they'd come out a little more aggressive than they did and be a lot tougher than they were," he said.

Not bad for a third-string player who became the first freshman to start as I-back for Nebraska since Monte Anthony in 1974.

Brown was starting in place of injured backs Leodis Flowers and Scott Baldwin. Fourth-string I-back George Achola followed Brown over the century mark with 123

yards.

"For us to come in and make out 100 yards looks good for (running backs) coach (Frank) Solich," Brown said.

Osborne said the Minnesota game doesn't give Nebraska an excessive number of I-backs.

"You don't ever have too many I-backs," Osborne said. "You can lose two or three in a quarter."

But if Flowers recovers from his injured knee and Baldwin returns from his turf toe as expected for Saturday's game against Oregon State, Brown could find himself out of the rotation, having to wait his turn for playing time.

Brown, Nebraska's leading rusher with 192 yards, said he's not worried about that. Wins come first, he said, not carries.

"If I don't get any next game, I don't get any," he said.

## NCAA Volleyball Top 20

	Record
1 Nebraska	9-1
2 UCLA	10-1
3 Pacific	9-1
4 Texas	11-0
5 Stanford	6-1
6 Cal-Santa Barbara	13-1
7 Hawaii	6-2
8 Ohio St.	8-3
9 New Mexico	10-2
10 Penn St.	13-0
11 San Jose St.	6-0
12 Texas Tech	11-0
13 Brigham Young	8-2
14 Illinois	6-4
15 Long Beach St.	10-2
16 Pepperdine	8-3
17 Louisiana St.	8-5
18 Pittsburgh	9-2
19 Kentucky	9-3
20 Southern Cal	6-4

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan