

Osborne predicts plenty of passing from the Tigers

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

At the Memorial Stadium on Saturday, Nebraska fans will finally see all that passing they have been demanding, Coach Tom Osborne said. No, Osborne hasn't given in. The Cornhuskers still think run first, pass second. But Missouri, Nebraska's opponent, will pass, pass and pass some more.

Missouri's offense is averaging 397 yards of total offense per game, with 295 of those yards through the air. Missouri quarterback Kent Kiefer is first in the Big Eight and eighth in the nation in both passing efficiency and total offense, with 141.7 rating points and 267.6 yards a game.

"They go deep quite a bit," Osborne said. "They're not just a team that's going to try to pick at you for five yards a down."

Last weekend the Tigers lost to Colorado, 33-31, when the Buffaloes scored a touchdown on a fifth down, the final play of the game.

Colorado coach Bill McCartney said that Missouri's Faurot Field on a bright, sunny day was slick and unplayable.

Osborne found some humor in McCartney's comments.

"I would say that in view of the whole thing we may occasionally need five downs and we may need to do some things to the field," he said. "We're thinking about using Vaseline or something to help our situation."

The Tigers are not a team to be intimidated by the Huskers' high national ranking. The week before the Colorado game, Missouri upset a top-20 team, Arizona State, 30-9.

"They've certainly got to feel they played Colorado on even terms and probably could have or should have won the game," he said. "They probably won't have any great trepidation about coming up here and playing

Probable starters

Missouri (2-3)				Nebraska (5-0-0)					
Q	F	F	E	N	S	E			
Lizzy Collins	WR	6-2	182	Sr.	Daryl Leise	TE	6-2	230	Jr.
Rick Trumbull	LT	6-6	293	Sr.	Tom Punt	LT	6-8	285	Sr.
Mike Bedosky	LG	6-5	294	Fr.	Jim Wanek	LG	6-1	245	Sr.
Brad Funk	C	6-3	280	So.	David Edeal	C	6-2	260	Sr.
Don Wright	RG	6-4	264	Jr.	Eric Wiegert	RG	6-4	270	Jr.
Russ McCullough	RT	6-10	313	Jr.	Brian Boerboom	RT	6-7	285	Jr.
Tim Bruton	TE	6-5	256	Sr.	Jon Bostick	SE	6-2	185	Jr.
Kent Kiefer	QB	6-1	187	Sr.	Mickey Joseph	QB	5-11	180	Jr.
Michael Jones	FB	6-2	221	Sr.	Leodis Flowers	IB	5-11	200	Jr.
Sean Moore	TB	5-10	201	Sr.	Omar Soto	FB	5-11	220	Jr.
Damon Mays	WR	5-10	168	Sr.	Nate Turner	WB	6-2	225	Jr.
Jeff Jacke	K	6-0	189	So.	Gregg Barrios	PK	5-8	170	Sr.
D	E	F	E	N	S	E			
Rick Lyle	LE	6-6	269	Fr.	Travis Hill	LB	6-2	225	So.
Mario Johnson	LT	6-5	317	Jr.	Joe Sims	LT	6-3	280	Sr.
George Hunt	RT	6-3	261	Fr.	Pat Engelbert	MG	6-2	250	Jr.
Bob Harper	RE	6-7	271	Fr.	Kenny Walker	RT	6-4	240	Sr.
Mike Ringgenberg	LB	6-4	235	So.	Mike Croel	LB	6-3	225	Sr.
Tom Reiner	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	Mike Petko	LB	6-2	230	Jr.
Jerald Fletcher	LB	6-2	220	Sr.	Pat Tyrance	LB	6-2	240	Sr.
S. Washington	LC	6-0	194	Jr.	Bruce Pickens	CB	5-11	190	Sr.
Harry Colon	SS	6-0	204	Sr.	Reggie Cooper	SS	6-3	210	Sr.
Mike Jadlot	FS	6-5	197	Fr.	Tyrone Byrd	FS	5-11	165	So.
Maurice Benson	RC	6-0	192	So.	Tahaun Lewis	CB	5-11	170	Sr.
Mark Plunkett	P	6-1	204	Jr.	Mike Stigge	P	6-1	185	So.

us."

The Huskers, who lead the Big Eight and are second in the nation in passing defense after allowing 412 passing yards in the first five games, have not played a team of Missouri's strength in the offensive line, Osborne said.

"Of the teams we've played so far they have the best pass protection," he said, and joked, "We may have to go with some of our inside-kick team in there because they may be the only guys that can get between their big guys. We have to get somebody to get through the holes."

Who may some of those players be?

"Right now we have Kenny Walker, who is probably as good as we have ever had," Osborne said. "Pat Engelbert is certainly better than most middle guards. He's very quick. Joe Sims is a

powerful pass rusher; he's capable of getting there. Then you've got guys like Mike Croel and Travis Hill who have great quickness.

"There's none of the first five that can't put heat on you."

Mickey Joseph will start as quarterback for Nebraska. Mike Grant will be the starter the past two games.

"The overall picture favors Mickey right now," Osborne said. "It's nice to have two."

Last year Nebraska crushed Missouri 50-7, holding the Tigers to 265 yards of total offense. But, Osborne said, coach Bob Stull was in his first season, so Missouri was in transition.

"I can't say they've changed a whole lot offensively," he said. "They did all that last year, they're just doing it better."

"It's just a matter of learning the system."

Missouri's Kiefer says NU pass rush won't be the best

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Missouri quarterback Kent Kiefer said he believes he already has seen the best pass rush he'll face all season.

While Kiefer said he believes Nebraska has the best overall defense he will see, he does not think the Cornhuskers' pass rush can match Colorado's. The Buffaloes defeated Missouri 33-31 Saturday.

"Last week, with Kanavis McGhee and Alfred Williams coming at me, it was like having two Lawrence Taylors staring you in the face," Kiefer said.



Kiefer

Kiefer said the loss to Colorado, which came on a last-play, fifth-down touchdown, was the most emotional game he has ever played. Even on the fifth down, Kiefer said, it looked as if the Tiger defense kept the Colorado quarterback from crossing the goal line. He said the official's delayed touchdown call was devastating.

"I went running out on the field like a crazy man," Kiefer recalled. "And then the ref signaled a touchdown for them. I've never gone from one extreme to the other so quick."

The Tigers have gone from one extreme to the other as a team. Two weeks before the Colorado loss, Missouri lost 58-7 to Indiana. The next week, the Tigers defeated nationally-ranked Arizona State 30-9.

"We've been to the bottom, believe me," Kiefer said. "Things are

only going to get better."

Missouri's game at Nebraska Saturday will be the Tigers' third straight against a ranked team.

A large part of Missouri's success against Colorado was the team's improved passing. The Tigers' 326 passing yards against the Buffaloes ranks as the fifth-best total in Missouri's history. Kiefer leads the Big Eight in total offense, averaging 268 yards a game.

"I'm really happy that I'm doing that well," Kiefer said. "It's a reflection on how much the team and I have improved."

Kiefer said his on-field decision making has improved this season because of experience.

"When I look at last year's films, I can't believe how confused I looked on the field," Kiefer said. "It seems like I've got my head in the game a lot more this year."

Last year, Missouri struggled to a 2-9 record and lost to Nebraska 50-7 in Columbia, Mo. Kiefer said the team and coach Bob Stull, who is in his second season, appear to be turning things around.

"This program is on the upswing," Kiefer said. "We're just going out and playing relaxed football."

A key to Saturday's game, Kiefer said, will be not forcing passes to covered receivers.

"Nebraska will put their best people on you say 'Take your best shot,'" he said. "I've just got to be smart enough to throw it away when there's nobody there."

Kiefer said the Tigers plan to use the pass to open up the run. Big plays also are part of the plan, he said.

"I might get sacked on one play," he said. "But our goal is to surprise them on the next one."

Stull sidelines CU game, motivates team for NU

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Missouri coach Bob Stull isn't one for sour grapes.

After losing to Colorado 33-31 Saturday on a disputed fifth down, Stull took his team to the locker room, and told his players to put the loss behind them.

Saturday, Stull faces perhaps a more difficult task than swallowing last weekend's loss: getting his 2-3 Tigers motivated to face No. 7 Nebraska at Memorial Stadium.

Stull said his team would be ready. "It's no different than any other week," he said. "We've just got to come up there and play good football."

Stull said he doesn't think his team would be affected by last weekend's controversy. Instead, he said, the Tigers would have another opportunity to knock off a top-rated team.

"Each week is a new opportunity, another crack at getting an upset," Stull said. "There's no doubt that last weekend is behind us now."

After losing to Texas Christian University, beating Utah State and losing to Indiana, Missouri shocked nationally-ranked Arizona State 30-9. Then came the narrow loss to Colorado.

Stull said the reason for the turnaround was simple.

"We've been hanging on to the ball," he said. "In our first couple of losses, we were dropping the ball, getting punts blocked. We've turned that around."

Last season, Nebraska used turnovers and a solid kicking game to

blitz Missouri 50-7 in Columbia, Mo. The Huskers blocked two first-quarter punts and led 26-0 after one period.

Stull promised a better effort from Missouri Saturday.

"We can't go out and give them a bunch of mistakes like we did last year," he said. "We found out the hard way that you can't do that with a team like Nebraska."

Missouri is led by senior quarterback Kent Kiefer, who is completing 64 percent of his passes. Stull said Kiefer would have to pass well for Missouri to defeat Nebraska.

"We have to get the ball out to our wide receivers," he said. "That'll be the key to the game."

Keeping Nebraska's defense away from Kiefer also will be important, Stull said.

"Our pass protection has really improved over the last two games," Stull said. "We'll need to keep that up against Nebraska."

Stull said that Nebraska's defense would be the best the Tigers would see this season. He praised Husker defensive tackle Kenny Walker and cornerback Bruce Pickens.

"Kenny Walker is an outstanding pass rusher, mainly because of his . . . speed," Stull said. "And Pickens is the best coverage man in the Big Eight."

Stull is concerned about playing in front of a sellout crowd at Memorial Stadium. Stull said the crowd at Indiana was the major factor in the Tigers' 58-7 loss to the Hoosiers.

"We're learning more and more

See TIGERS on 8

★ GAME NOTES ★

Nebraska (5-0-0) vs Missouri (2-3)

October 13, 1:30 p.m. Memorial Stadium/Homecoming
Nebraska leads: 48-32-3

Last meeting:
1989
Nebraska, 50-7

1989 records:
Nebraska 10-2-0
Missouri 2-9

SCORES

Nebraska	13	Baylor	0
Nebraska	31	Northern Illinois	14
Nebraska	45	Minnesota	0
Nebraska	31	Oregon St.	7
Nebraska	45	Kansas St.	8
Missouri	19	TCU	20
Missouri	45	Utah St.	10
Missouri	7	Indiana	58
Missouri	30	Arizona St.	9
Missouri	31	Colorado	33

AROUND THE BIG 8

Iowa St. (2-2-1) at Colorado (4-1-1);
Oklahoma St. (2-3) at Kansas St. (3-2);
Oklahoma (5-0) vs. Texas (at Dallas) (2-1);
Kansas (1-3-1) at Miami (3-1)



Nebraska baseball alumni will round the bases again

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders hopes the inaugural alumni baseball game Saturday will add to the history of the former Cornhuskers.

"We hope to make it memorable for the players and fans," Sanders said. "This is the first time ever, and we have over 50 playing and another 20 in attendance . . . so we really are excited."

Sanders said fans should be equally thrilled with the 5 p.m. game at Buck

Beltzer Field. The alumni played at Nebraska from the 1920s to last year.

"We think it'll be a real good bridge from the past to the present," Sanders said. "We have quite a few players who are active in the pros combined with the non-actives."

The most notable professional in attendance will be pitcher Tim Burke from the Montreal Expos. Minor leaguers Bill McGwire and Kip Gross are among the other pros.

They'll collaborate with players

See ALUMNI on 8

Replacement tight ends fill vacancies

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Injuries to the top two tight ends, Chris Garrett and William Washington, have left the Cornhuskers in a familiar situation — starting a third string player.

Earlier in the season injuries toLeodis Flowers and Scott Baldwin forced Nebraska coach Tom Osborne to start No. 3 I-back Derek Brown against Northern Illinois.

This weekend Daryl Leise and Johnny Mitchell will have to pick up where Brown and his backup George Achola left off.

"I guess we're lucky in that was probably, other than I-back, the deepest spot on our football team," Osborne said. "We're hurting a little bit there, but it's not like we're just flat out of players."

The injuries at tight end, however, pose a slightly larger problem because the Huskers run two tight ends in more than a third of their plays, Osborne said.

"We felt, going into this season, that we had two very good, experienced tight ends," Osborne said. "Plus Daryl Leise, who was a good player getting better. And then Johnny Mitchell who was a potentially good player. "Now the potential's got to be out of there and Daryl's got to be good."

Since Garrett broke his ankle two weeks ago against Oregon State and Washington went down on the third play of the Kansas State game with a

See ENDS on 8