

# NU special teams may untwist ISU

By Todd Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Iowa State Cyclones relied on tricky special teams in its 33-31 upset at Oklahoma Saturday, and they may try to do the same against Nebraska this week, according to Cornhusker graduate assistant coach Turner Gill.

Nebraska plays a 1 p.m. game at Iowa State Saturday.

"The one thing for sure about Iowa State is they're going to do a lot of things — they do a lot of crazy things on their kicking game," he said.

Gill, who scouted the Iowa State-Oklahoma game, told those attending Monday's Extra Point Club luncheon that Iowa State is just as unpredictable with its defensive stunting schemes.

The Cyclones, facing fourth-and-5 at their own 25-yard line, ran a pass play from punt formation. Gill said.

"The one thing about it is their back-up quarterback is the up back on their punt team, so they have him doing a lot of audibles," Gill said. "The coaches give different signals to him."

Recruiting coordinator Jack Pierce also noted that Coach Jim Walden was emphasizing special teams play to the Iowa State players before the season began.

"I went to the Big Eight officials' meeting in Kansas City," he said. "Walden expressed then that the officials should take more time looking at the kicking game. You can tell right there he has it in mind to do those things."

Pierce also doubles as a coach for the Huskers' special team units.

He said he sees Iowa State's threat in the special teams as a deterrent to Nebraska's preparation for the Cyclones in other areas.

"All that work (on the special teams) takes a lot out of practice time," Pierce said.

But Nebraska's continual emphasis on the special teams play throughout this season should help counter Iowa State's success.

"We've been pretty good on our special teams and we're going to have to be real good coming up this week," Gill said.

Iowa State, which had not beat Oklahoma in 28 years, played with desire, Gill said.

"The one big factor is that Iowa State wanted it more than Oklahoma did," he said. "You could just see that they had a chance to win the ball game and they stayed in there and played well."

Although a lot of publicity at Iowa State has surrounded running back Blaise Bryant, Gill said Nebraska's defense will have to contain quarterback Chris Pedersen.

Pedersen rushed for 148 yards on 29 carries against Oklahoma and was named the Big Eight's Offensive Player of the Week.

"He's an outstanding athlete," Gill said. "He kind of ran up and down the field against Oklahoma."

"We're going to have to play well — do some right things right off the bat. We're playing them in Ames (Iowa), and I think they're going to be a little tougher. Plus, they're coming off a big win against Oklahoma, so they're going to be enthusiastic and ready to play."

didn't seem surprised after Monday's practice when he saw the poll.

"We haven't played anybody," Osborne said, referring to the national perception about the seven teams Nebraska has beaten. But, he said, the Huskers' schedule is better than the national perception.

Injured players include tight end William Washington (sprained ankle), tackle Steve Engstrom (turf toe) and outside linebacker David White (dislocated shoulder), all of whom may play Saturday against Iowa State.

| Associated Press Top 25 |        |          |
|-------------------------|--------|----------|
|                         | record | previous |
| 1 Virginia              | 7-0-0  | 1        |
| 2 Auburn                | 5-0-1  | 5        |
| 3 Notre Dame            | 5-0-0  | 6        |
| 4 Nebraska              | 7-0-0  | 4        |
| 5 Illinois              | 5-1-0  | 8        |
| 6 Houston               | 6-0-0  | 9        |
| 7 Washington            | 6-1-0  | 13       |
| 8 Miami                 | 4-2-0  | 2        |
| 9 BYU                   | 5-1-0  | 12       |
| 10 Colorado             | 6-1-1  | 14       |
| 11 Tennessee            | 4-1-2  | 3        |
| 12 Florida St.          | 4-2-0  | 7        |
| 13 Texas                | 4-1-0  | 19       |
| 14 Florida              | 6-1-0  | 17       |
| 15 Iowa                 | 5-1-0  | 22       |
| 16 Georgia Tech         | 5-0-1  | 11       |
| 17 Mississippi          | 6-1-0  | 18       |
| 18 Wyoming              | 8-0-0  | 21       |
| 19 Clemson              | 6-2-0  | 22       |
| 20 Michigan             | 3-3-0  | 10       |
| 21 Southern Cal         | 5-2-0  | 15       |
| 22 Oklahoma             | 5-2-0  | 16       |
| 23 Arizona              | 5-2-0  | -        |
| 24 Texas Christian      | 5-1-0  | -        |
| 25 Oregon               | 5-2-0  | -        |

Source: Associated Press

# Cornhuskers remain fourth in AP ranking

Virginia is the clear choice as the No. 1 team in college football, but voters are split over who's No. 2.

Auburn edged Notre Dame by one point for the runner-up spot in Monday's Associated Press poll. Nebraska is a close fourth, only 17 points behind Notre Dame.

Auburn (5-0-1) and Notre Dame (5-1) each climbed three spots after beating Top 10 opponents Saturday. The Fighting Irish beat Miami 29-20 and the Tigers downed Florida State 20-17. At the time, Miami was ranked second and Florida State was seventh.

Nebraska (7-0), which has yet to play a ranked team, remained fourth after beating Oklahoma State 31-3.

Virginia (7-0) tightened its grip on the No. 1 spot, getting 45 first-place votes and 1,469 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Auburn received four first-place votes and 1,370 points, while Notre Dame got five first-place votes and 1,369 points. Nebraska received 1,352 points and was also the No. 1 pick on five ballots.

Illinois (5-1) jumped three notches to fifth after edging Michigan State 15-13 and Houston (6-0), which got one first-place vote, moved up three places to sixth following a 44-17 rout of Southern Methodist. Washington

(6-1) climbed six spots to No. 7 after stomping Stanford 52-16.

Miami (4-2) fell six notches to No. 8, idle Brigham Young (5-1) remained No. 9, and Colorado (6-1-1) climbed four spots to No. 10 after beating Kansas 41-10.

Tennessee (4-1-2) plunged eight places to 11th after losing to Alabama 9-6 and Florida State (4-2) fell five spots to 12th. Texas rose six notches to 13th after clobbering Arkansas 49-17.

Iowa's 24-23 victory over Michigan (3-3) vaulted the Hawkeyes (5-1) seven spots to 15th and dropped the Wolverines 10 places to 20th.

Michigan, which was No. 1 before losing to Michigan State on Oct. 13, has plummeted 20 places in two weeks — the largest drop for a No. 1 team in recent history.

Georgia Tech (5-0-1) fell five places to 16th after tying North Carolina 13-13. Southern Cal and Oklahoma dropped six spots each, to 21st and 22nd, after losing for the second time. Southern Cal was beaten by Arizona 35-26 and Oklahoma lost to Iowa State 33-31.

Arizona and Oregon, which beat Arizona State 27-7, moved back into the Top 25 after a week's absence. Texas Christian, which did not play, is ranked for the first time since 1984.

# Cooper enters record books

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Senior Reporter

Strong safety Reggie Cooper wants to be all over the record books as much as he is all over the field.

Cooper, who broke the mark for career tackles by a defensive back against Missouri last week, scribbled his name in the charts two more times against Oklahoma State Saturday by tackling tailback Vernon Brown in the Cowboy backfield.

The tackle tied the mark for unassisted tackles by a defensive back and tackles for loss by a defensive back. In all, Cooper had eight tackles Saturday.

Cooper said he didn't know about the record, but isn't arguing.

"I'll take it," Cooper said. "I'm

going to go for it, try to get as many as I can, try to be all over the record book."

Cooper's 43 tackles are good enough for third on the team. This year's aggressive defensive line makes it difficult for him to lead the team in tackles, but the senior is wise and knows of ways to pad his stats.

"Every time I run up to the line — Joe Sims, Pat Engelbert, Mike (Croel), Kenny (Walker), or Travis (Hill) — somebody's on top of him already," he said. "So I just jump on top of the pile and try to get an assist or something."

An All-Big Eight and second-team All-American selection last year, Cooper is a finalist for this year's Thorpe Award, which recognizes the

best defensive back in the country.

Cooper, who is known for vicious hits took a pretty good shot himself against the Cowboys.

On a bootleg to the left, Cooper was chasing down Oklahoma State quarterback Kenny Ford when he was blind-sided and put flat on his back by Cowboy wide receiver Shannon Colbert.

"I was concentrating on tackling the quarterback and the guy peeled back and got a good lick on me," Cooper said. "I didn't see him at all, but he didn't hurt me. He didn't hurt me at all."

"I was looking for him, because I was going to get him later, but coach took me out of the game so I didn't get a chance."

# CU game to be televised

From Staff Reports

Nebraska's game against Colorado Nov. 3 will be televised by ESPN, in the afternoon. The cable network has decided to broadcast the game at 3 p.m.

The game will be the Cornhuskers' second opportunity to impress the nation-wide panel of media voters who leap-frogged Auburn and Notre Dame over Nebraska in this week's Associated Press top 25.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne

# Barsness falls two kills short of NU record

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

Linda Barsness was two kills away from history Saturday.

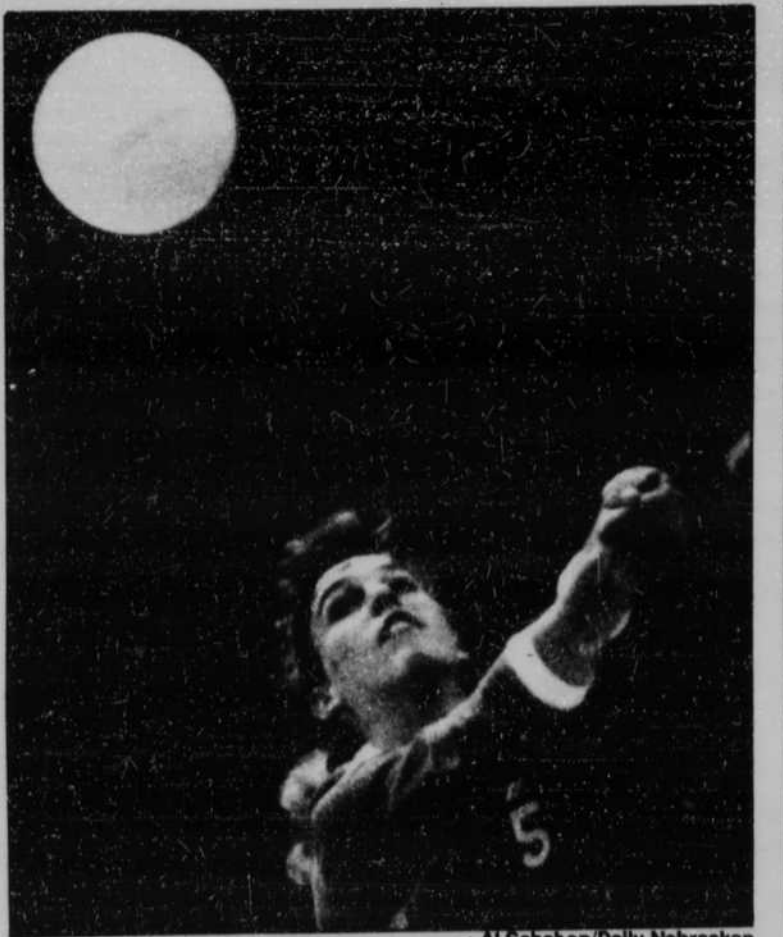
Barsness, a senior outside hitter on Nebraska's volleyball team, fell short of breaking a four-year-old record of hitting percentage. The record is held by former Cornhusker All-American Lori Endicott.

Barsness had 10 kills in 12 attempts in Nebraska's straight-game win over Oklahoma for an .833 percentage, topping Endicott's previous mark of .800. But a minimum of 12 kills is required for entrance into the record books so Barsness' performance was not allowed.

After the game, Barsness played down her individual accomplishments and focused on the team.

"You don't feel as good if the team didn't play as well, and we didn't play like we could've tonight," Barsness said.

Although Barsness did not set any records, she recorded season bests in hitting percent-



Linda Barsness keeps the ball in play at a Cornhusker match earlier this season.

# NU middle guard takes down 8 Cowboys — without a chill

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

Pat Engelbert said he didn't notice at first. Then he heard the complaints and felt the wind.

In the third quarter of Nebraska's 31-3 win over Oklahoma State Saturday, the bad weather — 57 degrees and a strong north wind at kickoff — got worse.

"It seemed like it dropped 20 degrees in 10 minutes," Engelbert said.

With the temperature drop came a cold mist.

"I kind of get a kick out of that," Engelbert said.

He said he doesn't get cold while playing, and he psyches himself up knowing he can play without a long-sleeve T-shirt while others in warmer dress are complaining about the chill.

"It's just one of those stupid mental things," he said.

Whatever advantages Engelbert has worked Saturday. The Cornhuskers' starting middle guard had eight tackles, five of them unassisted, two of them for losses.

Twice he lined up in one guard-center gap, slanted over to the other guard-center gap and grabbed the ball carrier behind the line of scrimmage, almost untouched.

Engelbert wasn't the only Husker

lineman to stand out. Joe Sims, the tackle to his left, had eight tackles. Kenny Walker, the tackle to his right, had 11 tackles despite being blocked by two Cowboys on almost every play.

"I think people are beginning to realize (Walker's) a great player," Engelbert said.

With 16 combined tackles, Engelbert and Sims won a round in their competition to beat Walker in tackles and sacks. The competition was to beat Walker separately, but the Outland Award candidate got too far ahead.

So Sims and Engelbert changed the challenge and it is now two against one.

"That's a tribute to his phenomenal athletic ability," Engelbert said.

Engelbert helps the deaf Walker by giving hand signals on check calls.

Walker doesn't always notice, though. On one play Saturday, Walker was lined up across from the Oklahoma State tackle and was supposed to move in front of the guard.

Engelbert started by waving his hand, then waved his hand frantically, then started pounding on the turf. Walker made the play the hard way, jumping inside of the tackle on the snap and getting back outside to tackle the quarterback.