

Tight end Mitchell is under scrutiny for feature show

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Johnny Mitchell sneak preview has been a smash hit, but it could be going back for further editing.

The Colorado-Nebraska game is the feature presentation Saturday. A high priority for the Cornhuskers will be to block Colorado's All-American outside linebackers, Alfred Williams and Kanavis McGhee.

To do that the Huskers will need

"As long as we win, I don't care if I don't play a down," Mitchell said.

Saturday as the Huskers beat Iowa State, 45-13, Leise and Mitchell handled all the tight end duties, often playing in a two-tight end formation. With those two blocking, Nebraska rolled up 557 rushing yards.

"We have two tight ends that I think deserve purple hearts today," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said.

Mitchell may not have received a purple heart, but he received his share of congratulations after two touchdown receptions. Mitchell now has Chris Garrett-like numbers: four touchdowns in six receptions.

In the second quarter, quarterback Mickey Joseph threw over the middle, toward Mitchell and into a strong wind. The ball dipped toward Mitchell's feet. Not phased by the wind, he reached down and snared it from around his knees.

"I concentrate on the nose of the ball," Mitchell said. "I think the Lord gave me a feeling for where the ball could be."

Two Cyclone defenders bounced off Mitchell, who weighs 250 pounds, and he stumbled into the end zone for the 22-yard touchdown.

Mitchell, who stands 6-foot-5, had to jump for the next one. Joseph lofted the ball toward the goal line, 33 yards from the line of scrimmage. Mitchell was there with two Cyclones.

"I know I was surrounded. Somebody tipped it and I grabbed it," Mitchell said. "As soon as it was in my hands, that was it."

But Osborne warned against giving Mitchell the thumbs-up too freely.

"Johnny didn't play a perfect game," Osborne said. "He missed some things run-blocking that hurt us badly."

Mitchell said he missed a few blocks on pitch plays, being out-guessed by the linebacker.

"I had them last week, too, and the week before, but I'm working on it," he said.

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.
	Erik Wiegert	6-4	270 Jr.		Mike Jefferson	6-2	280 Fr.
	Jeff Chaney	6-2	250 Jr.		Greg Koellner	6-3	280 Jr.
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.
	Dave Jensen	6-5	275 So.		Dan Svehla	6-0	230 Sr.
	Chris Zyzda	6-2	255 So.		Trev Alberts	6-4	220 Fr.
RT	Brian Boerboom	6-7	285 Jr.	SLB	Mike Petko	6-2	230 Jr.
	Terry Eymann	6-6	265 Sr.		Matt Penland	6-0	220 So.
	Ray Riefenrath	6-5	290 Jr.		Troy Branch	6-2	220 Fr.
TE	William Washington	6-2	245 So.	WLB	Pat Tyrance	6-2	240 Sr.
	Daryl Leise	6-2	230 Jr.		Mike Anderson	6-1	230 Fr.
	Johnny Mitchell	6-5	250 Fr.		Paul Wightman	6-1	220 So.
QB	Mickey Joseph	5-11	180 Jr.	LCB	Bruce Pickens	5-11	190 Sr.
	Mike Grant	6-2	210 Jr.		Jon Crippen	5-10	170 Sr.
	Tom Haase	6-0	180 Jr.	RCB	Robert Hicks	5-10	185 Sr.
FB	Lance Lewis	6-0	225 So.		Tahaun Lewis	5-11	170 Sr.
	Omar Soto	5-11	220 Jr.		Tyrone Legette	5-9	180 Jr.
	Tim Johnk	5-10	215 Jr.	SS	Greg Salvo	5-9	170 Sr.
IB	Leodis Flowers	5-11	200 Jr.		Reggie Cooper	6-3	210 Sr.
	Scott Baldwin	6-1	200 So.		Curtis Cotton	6-1	210 Jr.
	George Achola	5-11	195 Jr.	FS	Robert Hicks	5-10	185 Sr.
WB	Nate Turner	6-2	225 Jr.		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.

Soto practices despite injury

From Staff Reports

Cornhusker fullback Omar Soto practiced Tuesday in spite of a strained ligament in his knee, Coach Tom Osborne said.

Soto said his injury, suffered against Oklahoma State Oct. 20, has been a "big adjustment" for him. He said he had been running well before the injury.

"It was kind of stiff when I woke up this (Tuesday) morning, and it was sore here and there during practice," Soto said.

Soto is wearing a brace on his left knee because of the injury, and he said that has been an adjustment as well. The brace hasn't really slowed him down, but it has cut back on his ability to make quick lateral movements, he said.

Soto said he may be able to play in Saturday's game against the Colorado Buffaloes.

"I've been running pretty good," he said. "I'd like to be out there in the game, but the coaches will have to make that decision."

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Osborne
NU football coach

King leads Red-White scrimmage

By Scott Stempson
Staff Reporter

It has been said that the fortunes of the 1990-91 Nebraska men's basketball team depend largely on the play of senior Rich King.

In Saturday's intrasquad Red-White game at Pius X High School, the 7-foot-2 center was, well, king.

He scored 43 points, which accounted for nearly one quarter of the total scoring that had the red defeating the whites 107-97 before a nearly packed gym.

King said although it wasn't a true game situation, it was nice to get out of the practice regimen.

"Practice drills are starting to get pretty tedious," he said. "I felt like tonight I started shaking off some of the summer rust."

King said the scrimmage wasn't only good for the players.

"This type of thing is mainly for the coaches," he said. "They need to see how well the players are doing their jobs."

Coach Danny Nee agreed. "This was a good opportunity for us to get out of our gym and see how the players respond in this type of situation," he said.

A few players responding were forwards Tony Farmer, a transfer from San Jose State who had to sit out all of last season, and junior Dapreis Owens. Farmer and Owens each scored 20 points.

Younger players Eric Piatkowski, a freshman from Rapid City, S.D., and sophomore Jamie Cole from Grand Rapids, Mich., added 16 points each.

At the midway point of the scrimmage Nee told players on both teams to concentrate more on a team concept than individual performances.

Nee said although the crowd may get excited with the flashy individual stuff, that wouldn't help in defeating Big Eight teams with the caliber of Kansas and Oklahoma.

"These types of games sometimes turn into individual contests, and that's somewhat to be expected," Nee said.

Other players scoring in double figures were senior guards Keith Moody, who had 15, and Clifford Scales who had 13 points in the first half, and finished with 14.

Junior forward Carl Hayes had 14, and senior forward Beau Reid chipped in 13. Bruce Chubick, a 6-foot-7 freshman, scored 12.

Preseason polls have ranked the Cornhuskers no better than seventh in the Big Eight. Coach Nee said that doesn't bother him or the team.

"We're using that as a positive motivator," he said.

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