

Huskers block an upset bid

From Staff Reports

AMES, Iowa — The Nebraska volleyball team's blocking removed any chance of an upset Tuesday night as the second-ranked Cornhuskers defeated Iowa State, 15-3, 15-11, 15-12.

Nebraska (23-2, 8-0 in the Big Eight) recorded 23 blocks in the game, led by Cris Hall with seven. Hall also had 12 kills to lead the Huskers, Hall's ninth-straight game with 10 or more kills.

Nebraska assistant coach John Cook said the Cyclones (20-9, 8-3) put up a stiff fight.

"Iowa State played hard, about as hard as they can," Cook said.

The Cyclones were serving hard, keeping the ball in play and mixing

See HUSKERS on 10



Nebraska football players Mike Croel (left), Curtis Cotton and Kenny Walker pose with their detailed artwork. Croel's painting is entitled "Secret." Cotton's sculpture is entitled "Power," and Walker's drawing is untitled.

Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Art majors double as football players

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

They're bigger, stronger and faster than the average artist. On fall Saturdays they turn opposing football players into bright splotches on the green canvas of Memorial Stadium.

Artists Curtis Cotton, Mike Croel and Kenny Walker moonlight on the Nebraska Cornhuskers' defense.

They moonlight rather successfully, too. Croel starts at left outside linebacker, Walker starts at right defensive tackle and Cotton is the second-string strong safety.

They are big, bad Blackshirts. They are art majors, though, despite people scratching their heads at the idea of huge weekend brutes delicately dabbing a paint brush on a canvas, sketching a line or carefully molding clay shapes.

Walker's interpreter Mimi Mann, who helps conduct his interviews, sites herself as an example of a skeptic.

"I was fascinated when I first saw him draw as a sophomore," she said. "Watching those great big hands doing such tiny little artwork. He gave me this drawing in India ink of a twig.

"It was amazing the opposites, those great big hands doing such fine work."

Often plagued by sore hands from the turf, Walker has found drawing difficult at times.

Croel shrugged his shoulders when asked about the stereotype that football players are too rugged to be artistic.

"I don't know why that is," he said. "Somebody should give me some feedback. From what I've heard, people don't expect us to be art majors. It's just some sort of weird rule set by society, I guess."

Mann said small children often giggle when Walker tells them he is an art major at college and not just a football player. They must imagine him sitting around finger painting, she said.

Adults, too, react strangely.

"... and believe it or not, he's an art major," ESPN announcer Ron Franklin reported to his television audience after Croel thumped a ball handler to the turf during Nebraska's victory over Baylor.

"It's hard for me to see a contradiction because I'm in that category," Croel said. "I think everybody's an artist at what they do in a sense.

Looking at it from another person's view, I still don't know why it should be so strange because, you know, it's the '90s and everything's messed up anyway."

Cotton said other stereotypes might be the reason for the wide-eyed, baffled looks he gets.

"A lot of people probably think I'm in art because it's easy," he said. "Once I show them my work, they usually understand."

All three started in art before ever becoming starters, or even members, on the Nebraska football team.

Young Croel sat beside his mother in Sudbury, Mass., and "played in the paints" while his mother painted, he said. He has drawn and painted ever since.

Cotton, who is from Omaha, also has been artistically inclined as long as he can remember.

"That's been since I was a little shorty, way back," he said. "I've always liked art. I used to draw out of comic books and stuff like that."

Walker started drawing in his Crane, Texas, high school, he said, and chose it as a major over architecture when he came to college. Meanwhile, Cotton, who only doodled for himself,

avoided art classes until deciding that's what he wanted to do last fall.

Croel said he picked art because — and this may surprise Nebraska coaches who saw him make second-team All-Big Eight in 1989 — it is all he is really good at.

"Art I would do every day if I could," he said. "I picked art as a major right off, I never really even took anything else into consideration."

Unable to hear since a fever at age 2, Walker said he was naturally compelled by art. He said he is enticed by all kinds of art, from metal work, to the oil paintings of ranch scenes he saw in Texas, to splatter painting.

"A deaf person approaches things more visually," he said. "I have a language of sign that's visual and you see pictures, too. I can find ideas with my eyes. It's kind of a complex thing, but I know I'm a visual person."

Croel said he wouldn't want to choose between art and the Huskers; but, for the long haul, he would choose art because his playing days eventually will end. Walker said his educa-

See ARTISTS on 10

NCAA Volleyball Top 20

| | | |
|---------------------|------|----|
| 1 UCLA | 23-1 | 1 |
| 2 Nebraska | 22-1 | 2 |
| 3 Stanford | 19-3 | 6 |
| 4 Pacific | 21-4 | 3 |
| 5 Texas | 26-1 | 4 |
| 6 Hawaii | 20-4 | 5 |
| 7 UC-Santa Barbara | 25-4 | 7 |
| 8 Penn St. | 34-0 | 8 |
| 9 San Jose St. | 18-4 | 9 |
| 10 Wisconsin | 23-6 | 9 |
| 11 New Mexico | 16-4 | 11 |
| 12 Long Beach State | 19-8 | 14 |
| 13 Texas Tech | 25-2 | 12 |
| 14 BYU | 20-6 | 14 |
| 15 Ohio State | 18-6 | 13 |
| 16 Pepperdine | 19-5 | 16 |
| 17 Louisiana St. | 24-6 | 17 |
| 18 Pittsburgh | 25-4 | 18 |
| 19 Florida | 22-7 | - |
| 20 Gonzaga | 21-6 | - |

Record Previous

NU defensive line scarred by injuries

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne has faced criticism from the media and public since Saturday's 27-12 loss to Colorado, when the Buffaloes were able to rack up 166 rushing yards and four fourth-quarter touchdowns.

Most of those yards came right up the gut where Colorado's front five outweighed the Cornhuskers' front three by an average of 23 pounds.

"They started hammering us in the middle," Osborne said at Tuesday's weekly media conference, "which I thought was a little unlikely."

"Of course in that kind of weather if you could do what they did, which was run straight ahead, you weren't handicapped much."

The size required to stop the rush is difficult to combine with the speed



Osborne

needed to rush the passer, Osborne said. That has been compounded by the diversity of offenses in the Big Eight, making it almost impossible to shape the perfect lineman.

"If you've got 280-pound guys that are the best, then they play," Osborne said. "You just take what you've got and play with them."

"Preferably you'd like 300-pounders that can run like (defensive tackle) Kenny Walker."

Going into this weekend's game at Kansas, the defensive line is one of several areas on the field that will be scarred by injuries.

"We have a pretty significant list of people, right now at least, that are somewhat hampered," Osborne said.

Walker, who is second on the team in tackles and one of 14 finalists for the Outland Trophy, injured a knee at Monday's practice.

The Outland Trophy is presented annually to the nation's top collegiate lineman.

Osborne said he is not sure about the status of I-back Leodis Flowers

See OSBORNE on 10

Big Eight coaching tenures

Oklahoma track coach J.D. Martin is the dean of Big Eight coaches entering his 27th season, heading a list of five coaches of 20-plus years of experience at their respective schools. Missouri head basketball coach Norm Stewart enters his 24th season as the sixth winningest active coach in the NCAA with 552 wins. Below are the totals entering the 1990-91 academic year:

| NAME | SCHOOL | SPORT | YEAR |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|------|
| J. D. Martin | Oklahoma | (M&W) track | 27th |
| Norm Stewart | Missouri | (M) basketball | 24th |
| Dale Anderson | Iowa State | (M) golf | 24th |
| Francis Allen | Nebraska | (M) gymnastics | 22nd |
| Larry Romjue | Nebraska | (M) golf | 21st |
| Stan Abel | Oklahoma | wrestling | 19th |
| James Wadley | Oklahoma | (M) tennis | 19th |
| Tom Osborne | Nebraska | football | 18th |
| Mike Holder | Oklahoma St. | (M) golf | 18th |
| Gene McArtor | Missouri | baseball | 18th |
| Marian Washington | Kansas | (W) basketball | 18th |
| Joann Rutherford | Missouri | (W) basketball | 16th |
| Gary Kempf | Kansas | (W) swimming | 15th |
| Ann Pitts | Oklahoma St. | (W) golf | 15th |
| Terry Pettit | Nebraska | volleyball | 14th |
| Gary Ward | Oklahoma St. | baseball | 14th |
| Richard Poe | Missouri | (M) golf | 14th |
| Bill Bergan | Iowa State | (M) track/CC | 14th |
| John Sanders | Nebraska | baseball | 14th |
| Cal Bentz | Nebraska | (M) swimming | 13th |
| Miles Pabst | Oklahoma | volleyball | 13th |



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Poll slates NU basketball 6th, names top players

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's basketball team, which tied for seventh last season, is picked to finish sixth in the Big Eight preseason poll that was released Monday.

The poll also predicted who the top conference players would be this season.

Cornhusker freshman Meggan Yedsena was named co-newcomer of the year along with Kansas State's Lynn Holzman.

Nebraska sophomore Karen Jennings and senior Ann Halsne received votes on the All-Big Eight team but failed to make the top five. Jennings got three votes and Halsne one. Those making the top five were players receiving five or six votes.

In the preseason team standings, Colorado is picked to win, while Kansas State and Oklahoma State are tied for second. Missouri, last year's league champ, is picked fourth and Kansas fifth. Iowa State and Oklahoma were picked seventh and eighth, respectively.