



Osborne critique inevitable

Look out, Coach Osborne.

For the last few years, the college basketball season has been the time for Nebraska fans to crawl into a hole and lick their wounded egos.

After they sufficiently expressed their displeasure at Tom Osborne's offense, Charlie McBride's defense and Nebraska's inability to win the big game in football, the fans disappeared into their recliners.

Unsettling memories of late-season losses were washed away as Husker fans enjoyed the euphoria of March Madness from their living rooms.

This year, however, they have not had the chance to enjoy their annual spring hibernation.

They have been chasing the Cornhusker basketball team around the Midwest, watching wide-eyed as Nebraska surprised the nation on the road to the NCAA tournament.

They have been awake cheering on the "other Huskers" while the stinging sores of the gridiron festered under their bright red "Nebraska basketball" sweatshirts.

This spring they are tired, they are grumpy and they are not going to get much sleep in before spring football.

In other words, this spring will be the toughest season on the Huskers in a long time, despite not having to play anything more than an intrasquad game.

Nebraska fans are going to come out in droves one more time to see if Osborne has turned into Bill Walsh over the winter and adopted a purely passing offense.

They will bitch about any play, whether it goes up the middle, toward the short side or toward open field, if it gains less than 10

Chris
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yards.

They will rally behind a quarterback who can dance through defenses better than most I-backs, only to turn on him when he throws an interception.

His replacement will win the favor of the Memorial Stadium crowds until they find out he is as slow as molasses when it comes to running the option.

Spectators will clamor for their choice out of a long list of potential field generals.

Mickey Joseph, the shake 'n' bake quarterback, who gained 554 of Nebraska's most exciting yards last season, will try to return from the leg injury that ended his season last year.

Senior Tom Haase, who came off the bench to lead the Huskers back in their Citrus Bowl loss, will be a top contender for the job as well as Mike Grant, who struggled with a knee injury after battling Joseph for the starting role early in the season.

Not even mentioned in the three-deep depth chart are redshirt freshman Matt Gragnano and sophomore Matt Jones, who led the Nebraska junior varsity in its last season.

Unfortunately, none of them will be able to play perfectly enough to silence the Cornhusker critics.

It is not bad enough that Nebraska will have to replace almost an entire team defensively. It will have to replace one of the best units

in the history of the school.

McBride is probably reeling from trying to figure out how to replace last year's Blackshirts who ruled most of the Huskers' games with an iron fist.

Gone is All-American defensive lineman Kenny Walker, who wasn't fast enough to catch every quarterback.

Gone is NFL prospect linebacker Mike Croel and two-time leading tackler Pat Tyrance, who weren't strong enough to bring down every streaking running back.

Gone are two-time All-Big Eight starters Reggie Cooper and Bruce Pickens, who weren't agile enough to cleanly knock down every pass.

Back are a bunch of guys who will never fill the shoes this state has etched in its collective dreams of Husker greatness.

I hope no one will get hold of the Huskers' fall schedule, which lists potential Nebraska losses to teams like Washington and Colorado State.

Undoubtedly Nebraskans will stream from every nook and cranny of the state to critique the Huskers' new gameplan.

They will compose their own guides to winning the national championship which will end up, with all the others, as easily broken ideas in a game of hard knocks.

They will crowd the bleachers of Memorial Stadium, swapping statistics and keeping up on a sport that doesn't start for another six months.

Maybe Osborne should tell them all to take a nap.

Hopfensperger is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports senior reporter.

NU faces competitive NMS

The weather-battered Nebraska baseball team will see its first action in more than a week when it takes on Northwest Missouri State today in a 4 p.m. doubleheader at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Bearcats are a Division II team but beat Division I Eastern Michigan twice this season and lost to nationally ranked Arkansas 7-5, a team Nebraska split a doubleheader with

earlier this season.

Coach John Sanders said he expects Northwest Missouri State to be competitive.

"They'll be very anxious to play a Division I team and do well," he said.

Wednesday the Cornhuskers will face Wayne State for a single game starting at 1:30 p.m. at Buck Beltzer.

-- Nick Hytrek

'Razor' shaved; crowd froths

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson, rocked in the sixth round, beat Razor Ruddock in the seventh round Monday night when referee Richard Steele stopped the fight after a flurry sent Ruddock to the ropes but did not drop him.

Ruddock turned his hands up and looked at Steele in disbelief that the fight was over, then bodyguards representing both camps piled into the ring and a melee broke out.

Tyson knocked Ruddock down in the second round and again in the third. Ruddock, however, came on strong in the sixth and had Tyson in trouble late in the round with several hooks and a right hand.

In the seventh, action slowed until Tyson landed a six-punch combination with both hands that sent Ruddock back to the ropes and Steele stopped it at 2:22.

When order was restored in the ring and the time was announced, there were thunderous boos from the crowd of more than 15,000.

Several minutes after Steele's shocking action, security men were still pitching people from the ring.

The last two punches that drove Ruddock into the ropes were a right hand and a left hook. He appeared dazed but looked more shocked at Steele's decision than from Tyson's punches.

Fairy-tale team wins

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

The Cinderella team — or rather the Tom Thumb team — of the All-University intramural men's basketball tournament continued winning Tuesday night, as the regular-season Small Fry champion Untouchables upset previously undefeated Delta Tau Delta B1 68-64.

The Deltas entered the game 9-0 and had a tremendous height advantage. No Untouchable was over the 5 foot, 10 inch limit of Small Fry competition, while each Delt was taller than 5-10.

The game started out with the bigger team taking a big lead, with Delta Tau Delta racing ahead 27-9 behind the play of 6-5 center Jason Moxness.

The Untouchables closed the gap

to a 32-23 deficit at half. Moxness had 10 points and 10 rebounds at the break.

The teams traded baskets the first few minutes of the second half, and the Deltas still held a 42-36 lead with 15 minutes left in the game. The Untouchables then started to live up to their name.

A barrage of three-pointers sparked a 12-2 run that gave the Untouchables their first lead of the game at 44-42. The lead increased to four points when John McMillen hit a jumper with eight minutes left.

Dean Hestermann was the key to the Untouchables' comeback, leading the squad with 23 points.

"Everybody usually scores the same amount, but tonight I really felt it,"

See FAIRY-TALE on 8

Hosers burn Sig Eps

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

The members on the Sigma Phi Epsilon-A1 team lit a fire under Jamar Johnson Monday night and got burned by The Hosers in the second round of the All-University Playoffs.

Johnson, who signed last fall to play with the Nebraska basketball team, scored 34 points to lead The Hosers to a 76-53 win. His performance was spurred on by his opponents on the floor, he said.

"Sometimes you've got to fight a little fire with a lot of fire of your own," Johnson said. "I get pushed sometimes. Sometimes I get mouth."

Some of the players on the Sig Ep team were talking a little trash on the

court, Johnson said, but he did his talking with his numbers.

"Where I come from that's how we play," Johnson said. "That's how I was brought up — to just play the game."

A 5-foot-11 guard, sitting out this season as a Prop 48 casualty, Johnson said he is playing intramurals to stay in shape and have a little fun.

The Hosers, 10-0, were helped down low by the play of former Nebraska football lineman Brent Pick (6-foot-5) and Jake Young (6-4).

Johnson said The Hosers were without teammate 6-4 Kenny Walker, the All-American defensive tackle.

The Sig Ep team was led by the

See HOSERS on 8

UNLV advances in NCAA tournament

Coach says remaining contenders will prove challenging

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Having survived a close call against Georgetown, UNLV men's basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian said there isn't a team left in the NCAA tournament that can't beat his defending national champions.

"I've said it all season — any team can beat us on a given night. There's no team left in the tournament that can't beat us," said Tarkanian, whose undefeated Runnin' Rebels (31-0) held off the Hoyas 62-54 Sunday to reach the Sweet 16. "They're all going to be tough from here on in."

The Rebels will leave for Seattle on Wednesday for their Thursday night

game against Utah. Arizona will meet Seton Hall in the other West Regional semifinal.

Also on Thursday, in the Southeast Regional, Arkansas will play Alabama and Indiana will play Kansas.

UNLV center George Ackles, who suffered a sprained ankle in Friday's victory over Montana, played only 13 minutes against the Hoyas and had two points and one rebound. His replacement, 7-foot Elmore Spencer, scored two points but blocked six shots.

Ackles' status for Thursday is uncertain, although he is expected to

play. "We didn't want to use him unless he was 100 percent and he wasn't," Tarkanian said.

"Hopefully, with a couple of days' rest and treatment at home, I'll be ready for Seattle," Ackles said.

"George has been our starting center all year and it hurts when he's not at full speed," Tarkanian said. "He runs the court so well."

Tarkanian, who went into Sunday's game 0-5 against Georgetown, said he was happy to have the Hoyas behind him.

"Utah is a good perimeter shooting team, and they're real patient,"

Tarkanian said. "They'll be real tough. And you know Arizona is going to be tough, and Seton Hall will be, too."

The Rebels are 7-4 against Utah, having last played the Utes in 1983. Utah advanced to the regional semifinal with an 85-84 double overtime victory over Michigan State. The Rebels beat Michigan State at Ann Arbor in December, 95-75.

"I knew it was going to be real tough, and it was one of the toughest I can remember playing," Tarkanian said. "I have the greatest respect for Georgetown. They never give you an inch. We're just glad to get past them."

