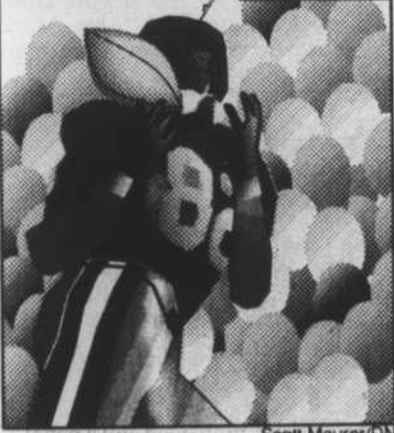


Washington win could boost NU respect

Nebraska Against Top Ten Teams

Nebraska is 2-8 in its last 10 games against teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 10. A game-by-game look at those matchups.

Year	Opponent/Rank	Outcome
1992	Miami (1)	UM, 22-0
1991	Washington (4)	UW, 36-21
1991	Georgia Tech (2)	GT, 45-21
1990	Colorado (9)	CU, 27-12
1990	Florida State (5)	FSU, 41-17
1989	Colorado (2)	CU, 27-21
1989	Miami (2)	UM, 23-3
1988	Oklahoma (9)	NU, 7-3
1988	Oklahoma State (10)	NU, 63-42
1988	UCLA (5)	UCLA, 41-28



Scott Maurer/DN

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Reporter

No. 2 vs. No. 12.
Washington vs. Nebraska.
A big game.
And in Nebraska's case, a chance to regain some national respect.
Cornhusker I-back Derek Brown said a win Saturday would quiet critics who said Nebraska couldn't win an important game.

"We have lost a lot of respect," Brown said. "(The national media) say that we can't win the big games. It seems like we go through this same question each year."

Although the definition of a "big game" is subject to one's opinion, the last time Nebraska beat a Top 10 team was in 1988 when the Huskers beat Oklahoma 7-3. The Sooners were rated No. 9 going into that game. Nebraska was seventh.

Quarterback Mike Grant said the team knew it was approaching a big game.

"Everyone realizes how important this game is as far as our respect in the polls is concerned. This will be our check," Grant said. "We're trying to take it like an everyday game, but in reality it's not an everyday game."

"It's a big game for both teams," Brown also said that a win would increase the team's confidence.

"This is a big game for us and to come out with a win here would, I guess, build a lot of confidence in us all," Brown said. "I think we have the confidence now but it could be a good stepping stool."

Grant said there was some pressure involved, but he had not let it get to him.

"Maybe in the back of my mind (there's pressure)," he said. "As far as immediate pressure, I don't think so."



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska fullback Dave Fiala breaks loose during the fourth quarter of the Cornhuskers' 48-7 win over Middle Tennessee State last Saturday.

"I don't think about it at practice like 'Wow, this pass has got to be good, we've got to have this pass.' For me it's an everyday occurrence of consistency."

Even though it's a big game, Brown said he would like to see Husker players focus on going out and playing their game.

"I think some of the guys view it as

a big game," he said. "I hope they go out and treat it like any other one and do the best to their ability and don't worry about not making mistakes because when you do that, you make mistakes."

Big game or not, Husker coach Tom Osborne said it came down to his team going out and doing what it had to in order to win.

"We're going to do the best we can," Osborne said. "We'll do everything we can to do the job. How crucial it is depends on the eye of the beholder."

"I think the national media will focus on this game some. There's really nothing we can do but just play the best you can and take your lumps or your benefits or whatever comes."

Husky sees role reversal from last year for team

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Last year, the Washington Huskies entered Memorial Stadium fearing the unknown and walked away with a 36-21 victory.

This year, the situation is reversed, and Washington offensive tackle Lincoln Kennedy doesn't seem to mind.

"(Last year) we had one game under our belt and didn't know what to expect," Kennedy said. "We went in and saw their crowd and the Big Red. Now the tables are turned."

Washington will play Washington at 8:45 p.m. Saturday at Husky Stadium in Seattle.

Kennedy, a 6-foot-7, 325-pound senior, is a front-runner for the Outland Trophy, awarded to the best lineman in college football.

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— **“**
(Last year, we had one game under our belt and didn't know what to expect. We went in and saw their crowd and the Big Red. Now the tables are turned.
— Kennedy
Washington offensive tackle

Washington defensive tackle Steve Emtman won the Outland last year. The last time two players from the same school won consecutive Outland trophies was in 1982-83, when Nebraska's Dave Rimington and Dean Steinkuhler received the award.

But Kennedy said he wouldn't be focusing on individual accomplishments when the teams face each other in front of a television audience.

"This game is not as important for an individual as it is for the team," he said.

"As a team, we like to focus one game at a time. A lot of guys are here from last year, but a lot have left," he said.

"There will be a lot of teams that come at us. Nebraska is one of the ones that will really come after us."

"We never overlooked a team last year, and we have to do that again."

Kennedy said Nebraska was the team that must prove itself Saturday.

"Nebraska is one of our toughest games, but this game is not as heavy on our minds as it is on Nebraska's," he said. "We've had two games where our opponents came at us hard."

Kennedy predicted an exciting game for the national audience and for the fans.

"It will be really loud, on national television and the teams will be pumped up," he said.

Improvements needed to pull baseball from back page

We need to examine what baseball needs to do to get itself back to the forefront of sports instead of watching another year of declining attendance and a lackluster postseason that could feature another Toronto-Oakland rematch.

There's no reason that America's pastime and some of sports' greatest athletes should relegate themselves to second-class status behind guys like Tony Danza and the Refrigerator.

So, here's an open letter to the now-vacant commissioner's office. And while you're at it, lower the price of nachos, will ya?

1. Shorten the regular season — Without a doubt, baseball purists will never let it happen. But if the season

were to end in September, the advantages would be endless:

First, fans in cities like Kansas City and Boston would be spared the misery of watching their teams struggle through September in near-empty parks.

Second, if a team like Baltimore or Detroit were to again make it to the World Series, no longer would we have to watch games played in 40-degree weather and guys dressed in three turtle-necks trying to hit against Tom Glavine.

Lastly, a shorter season might prevent the rash of big-player shifting we saw before the trading deadline on Sept. 1.

2. Expand the playoffs — Eight teams — four from each of the two leagues — would have a chance at



John Adkisson

postseason play.

A seeding system similar to that used in the NBA could be used, giving the top two teams in each league a better chance at advancing to the World Series.

To give an advantage to those who posted better records, the league could go to five-game series with the first three being played on the better team's home field. That way, if a team really doesn't deserve to be in the playoffs, it can be swept out early and quickly.

3. More head-to-head battles — Minnesota and Oakland are now playing their last three games against each other this season. If the Twins were really the better team for the past two months of the season, they would only have had three chances to do any damage to the A's themselves.

Huskies' loss NU's gain, analyst says

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's powerful rushing game — combined with inexperience in Washington's defensive line — could add up to a Cornhusker victory this Saturday, ESPN analyst Ron Franklin said.

"I don't feel like I'm going out on a limb," he said. "I like the Huskers' chances."

Franklin, who will call play-by-play for the Cornhusker-Husky matchup at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN, said he thought No. 12 Nebraska matched up well against No. 2 Washington.

"It just appears to me what Washington lost on defense — where they are having to shore up some holes — is where Nebraska is strongest," he said.

Washington will be without three starters from last year's defensive line, which helped the Huskies rank second in the nation in

total defense.

Donald Jones and Tyrone Rodgers exhausted their eligibility and junior Steve Emtman, an All-American and Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner, left the team to enter the NFL draft.

Nebraska enters the game ranked first nationally in both total offense and rushing offense. The Huskers are scoring 48.5 yards per game.

However, those numbers have come against Utah and Middle Tennessee State — a Division I-AA team.

Washington will pose a much greater challenge.

Franklin said. But despite greater challenge, Franklin said. But despite Nebraska's reputation for not being able to win big games, Franklin said he thought Nebraska coach Tom Osborne and the Huskers could pull it off.

See FRANKLIN on 8

and baseball has surrendered Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights to football.

And last Sunday's telecast of the Chicago Cubs playing the St. Louis Cardinals was hardly the stuff dreams are made of. ESPN locks its Sunday night broadcasts before the season even begins, allowing no flexibility for a pennant race or even an individual batting title.

When CBS's baseball contract expires in 1994, the sport needs to see how it can get into more homes on a regular basis. Kids emulate who they see on television, and there's been a lot more air time for Magic Johnson and Mark Rypien this year than there has been for Nolan Ryan and Kirby Puckett.

Adkisson is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

4. Get more exposure — CBS's showing of games has been terrible —