



DN file photo

Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones eludes Washington's Paxton Taillele in last year's 36-21 Husky win at Memorial Stadium.

Huskies anticipate ground war

It's a whole new ball game, Washington's Hoffman says

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

Last year doesn't matter to Washington linebacker Dave Hoffman.

All that matters is this year and this Saturday's showdown against No. 12 Nebraska.

The Huskies took home a share of the national championship last year with an undefeated record, but Hoffman said 1992 was a new season.

Hoffman led the Huskies in tackles last year for the second straight year with 71 stops. When Hoffman was named an All-American last year, he became the first Washington linebacker to receive that honor since 1982.

Although the Huskies came out of Memorial Stadium with a 36-21 win last season, Hoffman said that the Husky defense "gave up some big plays."

Hoffman sealed the victory against the Huskers with a fourth-quarter interception which stopped a final Nebraska threat to score. He also picked up eight tackles in the win.

Hoffman said he was hoping for a repeat performance against Ne-

"I know it's going to go a hard four quarters. We're just expecting good, old, hard-nosed football."

—Hoffman
Washington linebacker

braska this year, minus the big plays.

"Hopefully, both teams won't run up the field and put points on the board. I know it's going to go a hard four quarters," he said. "We're just expecting good, old, hard-nosed football."

Nebraska's offensive potential — especially defending the option — is a specific concern, Hoffman said.

"We have been working on the option," he said. "They've got great athletes. They can throw the ball, and they can catch it, too."

Washington enters Saturday's contest with victories over Arizona State and Wisconsin. Although the Huskies are 2-0, Hoffman said the defense needed to get better.

NU's rushing game worries Washington, lineman says

By Phil Carter
Staff Reporter

What's it like trying to fill the shoes of an All-American, an Outland Trophy winner, a Lombardi Trophy winner and No. 1 draft pick?

Just ask Washington junior defensive tackle D'Marco Farr, who has the difficult task of trying to replace former Husky standout Steve Emtman as defensive middle guard.

"After losing a lot from last year's defense across the line, we definitely need to tighten down up front," Farr said. "Especially this week against Nebraska."

The No. 2 Huskies enter this week's showdown with the Cornhuskers trying to answer several of their own questions after giving up more than 300 yards rushing in their season opener against Arizona State two weeks ago.

"We really need to focus on the run this week," Farr said. "(Nebraska's) big, strong and they come at you every play. We need to be wary of the situations they throw at us."

Farr, 6-foot-1 and 265 pounds, is a smaller version of Emtman,

who was the first pick of the entire NFL draft last spring. Despite the size differential, Farr said he was not concerned about being too small.

"As long as I get in there and make the plays, that's what I'm worried about," he said. "If I'm double-teamed, that means 600 pounds coming down on me, but it also means I'm doing my job."

The game, which will be televised by ESPN, is receiving a lot of attention from both Husky fans and players.

"I know how big this game is," Farr said. "This is the game of the year for this team. After Nebraska, we'll start to focus on our conference race, and re-establish our goals for a tough USC team."

Farr, who graduated from Kennedy High School in San Pablo, Calif., will face Husker running back Derek Brown — a La Habra, Calif., native — for the first time since a high school all-star game four years ago.

"I remember him well. He gained 148 yards in that game," Farr said. "On the first play, he blew right by me."

Trick plays, dry weather needed for Husker victory

Thirty-two years and counting.

That's how long it's been since the Nebraska football team went on the road and beat a higher-ranked team, and it's a streak that will continue unless the Cornhuskers can shock the college football world with a victory Saturday against second-ranked Washington.

Back in 1960, the Huskers traveled to Austin, Texas, and defeated the No. 4 Texas Longhorns to highlight a dismal 4-6 season.

But since then, futility has reigned when Nebraska has put on its white road jerseys to play as an underdog in an opponent's stadium.

In order for the streak to be broken this weekend, the Huskers are going to have to play a near-perfect game this Saturday in Seattle.

Can the streak be broken? Yes. Will it be broken? Doubtful.

But if the streak is to come to an end in Husky Stadium, then the Huskers will need to accomplish the following five things to try to kennel the Huskies:

1. On offense: Utilize fullback Lance Lewis. With so much attention being given to Nebraska I-backs Derek Brown and Calvin Jones, the Huskers will need to take advantage of Lewis' abilities throughout the game.

With teams focusing on the Nebraska I-backs so far this season, Lewis has been able to score on touchdown runs of 57 and 42 yards, and has a total of 144 yards in his first two games, while only netting 196 yards all of last year.

And if Nebraska football coach



Jeff Singer

Tom Osborne uses Lewis properly, Lance just might end up looking like Carl Lewis on Saturday night.

2. On defense: Force Washington to run the ball. The Huskers can't let the Huskies talented quarterback duo of Billy Joe Hobert and Mark Brunell get on track, otherwise the celebrations in the Pacific Northwest will be starting early.

The Huskies are led by overrated sophomore running back Napoleon

Kaufman, and his 159-yard rushing game against Arizona State a couple of weeks ago was inflated.

The Sun Devils' defense is so bad that half of Nebraska's high school running backs could run for over 100 yards against Arizona State, and that includes the eight-man and six-man players as well.

3. On special teams: Dust off the trick plays. This is where the typically-conservative Osborne has to loosen up and utilize the trick plays in his playbook.

With Nebraska All-American candidate Mike Stigge punting, Washington will probably be setting up for punt returns in Puget Sound, therefore giving the Huskers the opportunity to run whatever's up the 55-year-old Osborne's sleeves.

Wyoming has eyes on berth

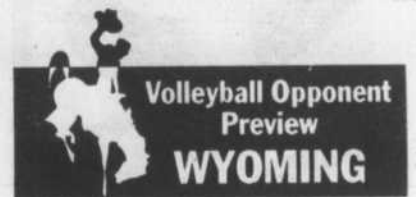
By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

Forget that it's only September — the Wyoming volleyball team is looking to use its two weekend showdowns against No. 6 Nebraska as a steppingstone to the NCAA tournament.

The Cowgirls are off to a 6-1 start this season and will face the Cornhuskers twice on Friday and Saturday.

The first match will be in North Platte at the Mid-Plains Coliseum. Saturday's match will be in Lincoln at the NU Coliseum.

Wyoming coach Mike English has his eyes on a possible NCAA tournament berth.



"Being able to play a top-ranked team is important as far as seeding," English said. "We always have our eyes on going to the big dance, and that's part of the ticket."

Wyoming won the Spokane Spikeoff last weekend by beating Oregon, Boise State and Gonzaga. Earlier in the week, the Cowgirls had lost a five-game match at home to No. 16 Colorado.

"The Colorado match was important for us to push us and raise our level of play," he said. "Other than a couple late errors in the fifth game, we had a chance to win the match."

This year's team, English said, was similar to last year's team that lost to Nebraska in four games.

"We have three different starters," he said. "We're going to be scrappy defensively, and we'll be a pretty fair blocking team."

English said playing in North Platte would be an opportunity to showcase volleyball to other parts of the state.

"It's a nice opportunity for Nebraska to promote their program," he said. "Since we've had a good connection in Nebraska, we hope to turn a few fans' heads."

English said his team would have to be at its best if it were to beat the Huskers.

"We're concerned about Stephanie Thater, but who's not?" he said. "But our concern should not just be with Stephanie... They're going to come at us with more than just Stephanie Thater."

English said his team was looking forward to playing Nebraska.

"It's always an honor to play a quality program like Nebraska," he said. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for them."

4. Crowd control: Keep the 84,000 Husky fans out of the game. Nebraska can't allow the Huskies to take an early lead, otherwise the crowd noise in Husky Stadium will become deafening.

This week, a Husky fan told Washington football coach Don James that the Husky faithful were saving their voices for this week's game. But who can blame them, since with the Seahawks, Supersonics and Mariners playing in Seattle, the only thing people in Washington have to cheer for is for the five days of the year that the sun comes out in the Pacific Northwest.

5. Pray for dry weather: Keep the Huskies out of their natural

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