

Coaches agree showdown significant

Huskers' hopes rest in defense

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne isn't one to live in the past. Osborne said he had not used last season's 36-21 loss to Washington to motivate his No. 12 Cornhuskers for this season's meeting.

"I haven't mentioned last year's game to them," he said. "We don't do that very much. We tend to focus on this week, this team."

"I think you play better than to dwell on what happened in the past. We don't ever try to use revenge as a motive. We just try to play well."

Kickoff is scheduled for 8:45 p.m. at Husky Stadium in Seattle. The game will be televised by ESPN, channel 23 on Lincoln CableVision. Both teams are 2-0.

When discussing this season's Washington team, Osborne did allude to last year's team, which finished 12-0 and won a share of the national championship.

"I'm sure they're somewhat different from last year because they have some personnel changes," Osborne said. "But I can't see any obvious changes. They seem to have great team speed again which they had last year. They're very quick, very aggressive."

The No. 2 Huskies are led on offense by quarterback Billy Joe Hobert. Last season Hobert riddled the Husker defense for 283 yards passing and one touchdown. He also ran for two. And if something should happen to Hobert, Mark Brunell, who was the Huskies' starter two years ago, would be a capable replacement, Osborne said.

"At quarterback they're probably about as strong as any team in the country right now with both Hobert and Brunell," Osborne said. "Both of them have shown the ability to take a team to the Rose Bowl and win it. Very few people ever have that luxury of having two players with that kind of talent."

Washington also is deep at tailback,



Nebraska's Calvin Jones (44) eludes the grasp of Middle Tennessee State's Sean Luckett. The Cornhuskers will face No. 2 Washington on Saturday in Seattle.

Erik Unger/DN

where Jay Barry, Napoleon Kaufman and Beno Bryant will split time.

Up front, 6-foot-7, 325-pound offensive tackle Lincoln Kennedy will try to keep Husker defenders out of the Husky backfield.

Osborne said he hoped the experience of the Husker defense would be able to neutralize Washington's offense.

"I think we're a little more experienced on defense," Osborne said.

"We're hoping the experience factor will help out."

Husker 1-back Derek Brown also said experience would help Nebraska.

"There is a lot more experience," Brown said. "We feel a lot more stable, more comfortable with each other and what we're doing right now."

Brown will be running against a defense that lost Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Steve Emtman. But All-America candidate

Dave Hoffmann at linebacker, D'Marco Farr at tackle and Walter Bailey at cornerback give the Huskies a solid defense that Brown said is impressive.

"Their aggressiveness is what impresses me," Brown said. "Not just nine players fly to the ball, but all 11. They really attack the ball well."

Nebraska quarterback Mike Grant

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Huskies expect tough matchup

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

If the Washington football team is to repeat this year as national champions, they will need to get by this weekend's obstacle, Nebraska.

But Washington football coach Don James isn't taking anything for granted when his Huskies battle the Cornhuskers at 8:45 p.m. CDT Saturday at Husky Stadium.

James said Saturday's game might be the toughest hurdle the Huskies would have to face all season.

"We're going to be tested this week," James said. "Nebraska is the most talented team on our schedule; they will definitely give our defense all we can handle."

The two teams met in Memorial Stadium last season, with the Huskies rebounding from a 21-9 deficit to win 36-21.

James said that although Washington will be playing at home this weekend, it doesn't mean his team would have an easy time with the Huskers.

"You get to sleep in your own bed and have your own fans cheering for you, but that doesn't mean that you're automatically going to win," James said.

The second-ranked Huskies opened their season two weeks ago with a 31-7 win over Arizona State and followed that effort with a 27-10 victory over Wisconsin in Washington's home opener last weekend.

The Huskies have been led by the quarterback duo of Billy Joe Hobert and Mark Brunell. Hobert completed 23 of 40 passes for 283 yards and one touchdown in last year's win over Nebraska, while finishing the season with 177 completions in 291 attempts for 2,312 yards and 22 touchdowns.

Brunell was hampered last season with a knee injury but came back to see playing time near the end of the season.

James said that although he had

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Husky offense should be ready for NU, QB says

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Reporter

Billy Joe Hobert's memory isn't the best.

Last year the Washington quarterback completed 23 of 40 passes for 283 yards and a touchdown in the Huskies' 36-21 win over Nebraska.

But that game didn't leave a lasting impression on Hobert.

"I don't really remember last year's game," Hobert said. "I don't really know what we did that was too special except throw a lot and execute."

But Hobert does remember the first

two games the No. 2 Huskies have played this season. He has heard the complaints of fans who say Washington's 31-7 and 27-10 wins over Arizona State and Wisconsin, respectively, were not big enough.

That criticism wasn't totally unwarranted, Hobert said.

"I think we're pretty comfortable with how we've moved the ball," he said. "We haven't scored as much as we'd liked to have."

"If we don't score more this week, we'll get kicked in the face."

Hobert said the Huskies needed to be sharp on offense this week against

Nebraska's defense.

"We've watched a lot of their defense," he said. "We know their personnel pretty well. Hopefully Nebraska won't give us something we can't handle."

Any hopes for a national title for either team hinge on this game, Hobert said.

"This game is very important to us," he said. "A loss knocks us out of the race for the national championship and it does for them, too."

"We both need this game."

NU volleyball team taking break from rated competition

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

After competing against five ranked teams in its first five matches, the Nebraska volleyball team will finally see an unranked opponent this weekend against Wyoming.

But Nebraska isn't overlooking the Cowgirls, who are off to one of their best starts with a 6-1 record.

The No. 6 Cornhuskers, who are 3-2 after last weekend's split in the Big Eight-Big 10 Challenge, will play Wyoming twice this weekend.

The first match will be 7:30 p.m. tonight in North Platte and the second match will be played at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday at the NU Coliseum.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said the Cowgirls can't be overlooked.

"The reason we've been so successful is because we don't take anybody lightly," said Pettit, whose teams have won 16 consecutive Big Eight titles. "Looking at their stats, they're very good, and they usually play us hard."

Wyoming forced a four-game match from last year's 27-5 Husker team, as Nebraska prevailed against the Cowgirls 15-8, 15-12, 10-15 and 15-4 in Lincoln.

Tonight's match at Mid-Plains Community College is also a home-

coming of sorts for Nebraska specialist Tami Thompson, who is from nearby Sutherland.

The 5-foot-8 sophomore said she was looking forward to playing in North Platte.

"It will be great just to be around my family, because a lot of people don't get to make it down here for a lot of games," she said.

She said tonight's match would be good for promotional purposes in western Nebraska.

"Nebraska volleyball is pretty much on this end of the state, so this will

help promote it out west," Thompson said. "It will let the younger kids get to see players like (Nebraska middle blocker) Stephanie Thater to look up to."

Pettit agreed with Thompson.

"We're doing this so people in the western part of the state can see the Nebraska team play; it's good for public relations," Pettit said.

Thompson, who came off the bench last weekend to score an ace with her jump serve and helped the Huskers to a three-game sweep of Ohio State, said Nebraska was starting to get into

midseason form.

"We're improving every game," Thompson said. "Just because you knock us down once doesn't mean we're not going to come back."

Pettit said he had also seen improvement in his squad, as the Huskers have rebounded twice from opening-match losses in their first two tournaments to register wins against high-ranked opponents the next night.

"Whether we're 5-0 or 1-4, the question is how hard you've played and are you improving," he said. "And we are improving."

Scott Maurer/DN

Probable Starters

SE 2 Corey Dixon	5-8 155 Jr.	LOLB 93 Travis Hill	6-2 240 Sr.
LT 77 Lance Lundberg	6-4 300 Jr.	LT 92 John Parrella	6-5 290 Sr.
LG 62 Ken Mehlin	6-0 265 Jr.	NG 73 David Noonan	6-3 275 Jr.
C 51 Jim Scott	6-2 265 Sr.	RT 70 Jamie Liewer	6-4 270 Sr.
RG 75 Will Shields	6-1 305 Sr.	ROLB 34 Trev Alberts	6-4 230 Jr.
RT 72 Zach Wiegert	6-5 310 So.	SLB 48 Mike Anderson	6-2 235 Jr.
TE 89 William Washington	6-2 260 Sr.	WLB 32 Ed Stewart	6-0 205 So.
QB 1 Mike Grant	6-3 206 Sr.	LCB 19 Kenny Wilhite	6-3 175 Sr.
FB 26 Lance Lewis	6-0 225 Sr.	RCB 6 John Reece	6-0 200 Jr.
IB 21 Derek Brown	5-9 185 Jr.	SS 31 Steve Carmer	6-2 210 Sr.
WB 38 Vincent Hawkins	5-11 210 Sr.	FS 8 Tyrone Byrd	6-0 180 Sr.
PK 13 Byron Bennett	6-1 180 Jr.	P 47 Mike Stigge	6-2 190 Sr.

Offense

SE 6 Damon Mack	6-0 182 Sr.
WT 75 Lincoln Kennedy	6-7 325 Sr.
WG 60 Andrew Peterson	6-5 290 So.
C 52 Jim Nevelle	6-2 265 Jr.
SG 65 Frank Garcia	6-1 283 So.
ST 68 Tom Gallagher	6-5 290 Jr.
TE 85 Mark Bruener	6-5 230 So.
QB 12 Billy Joe Hobert	6-3 225 Jr.
FB 31 Darius Turner	6-0 235 Sr.
TB 42 Jay Barry	5-11 190 Sr.
FL 9 Joe Kralik	5-10 185 Jr.
K 4 Travis Hanson	6-5 185 Jr.

Defense

OLB 13 Andy Mason	6-2 238 Jr.
DE 47 Jamal Fountaine	6-3 230 Jr.
DT 75 D'Marco Farr	6-1 265 Jr.
NT 74 Mike Lustyk	6-3 270 Sr.
ILB 54 Dave Hoffmann	6-2 225 Sr.
ILB 53 James Clifford	6-2 230 Sr.
OLB 3 Jaime Fields	6-0 230 Sr.
ROV 20 Tommie Smith	6-2 212 Sr.
CB 23 Walter Bailey	5-11 190 Sr.
CB 7 Josh Moore	6-1 190 So.
FS 21 Shane Pahukoa	6-3 202 Sr.
P 16 John Werdal	6-2 188 Jr.