

# NU, Buffaloes charge into battle

## Huskers say focus needed

By Nick Hytrek  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's matchup with Colorado Saturday won't be a simple case of running and throwing.

The Cornhuskers, who enter the game ranked No. 8 with a 5-1 record, 2-0 in the Big Eight, are averaging 347.5 yards rushing a game.

On the other hand, the Buffaloes, also No. 8 at 6-0-1 and 2-0-1, average 334 yards passing a game.

Husker coach Tom Osborne said people tended to overlook other parts of the game when analyzing big games.

"I think there's a lot that probably will be made of passing game vs. running game in this ballgame," Osborne said. "But there will be many other factors involved in winning or losing this ballgame besides running and throwing the football."

At the top of the list is defense.

"Defense will be a big factor," Osborne said. "Which defense is able to match up and play the best ballgame will be very, very important."

From there, the list gets more specific.

"I think turnover margin will be very important," Osborne said. "The kicking game will be a factor, and of course all those things have to do with field position."

"Anyway, it should be an interesting game. I think both teams are very good football teams and it should be a pretty even, close contest."

Kickoff is scheduled for 3:06 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. ESPN will televise the game nationally.

When assessing Colorado's strengths, Osborne wasted no time mentioning one position.

"They have an excellent group of receivers," he said. "They have several that they can run and they have particularly good speed."

Leading the Buffalo receiving corps are Michael Westbrook and Charles Johnson. The two have combined for 88 catches, 1,566 yards and 11 touchdowns this season.

Responsible for getting the ball to Westbrook and Johnson is quarterback Kordell Stewart. The sophomore has completed 88 of 151 passes and 1,324 yards. Backing up Stewart is freshman Koy Detmer, who has thrown for 828 yards this season, including a 418-yard outing against Oklahoma.

## Osborne looks for help from Husker fans

From Staff Reports

Tom Osborne said Thursday that he hoped the Nebraska crowd will help the Huskers Saturday.

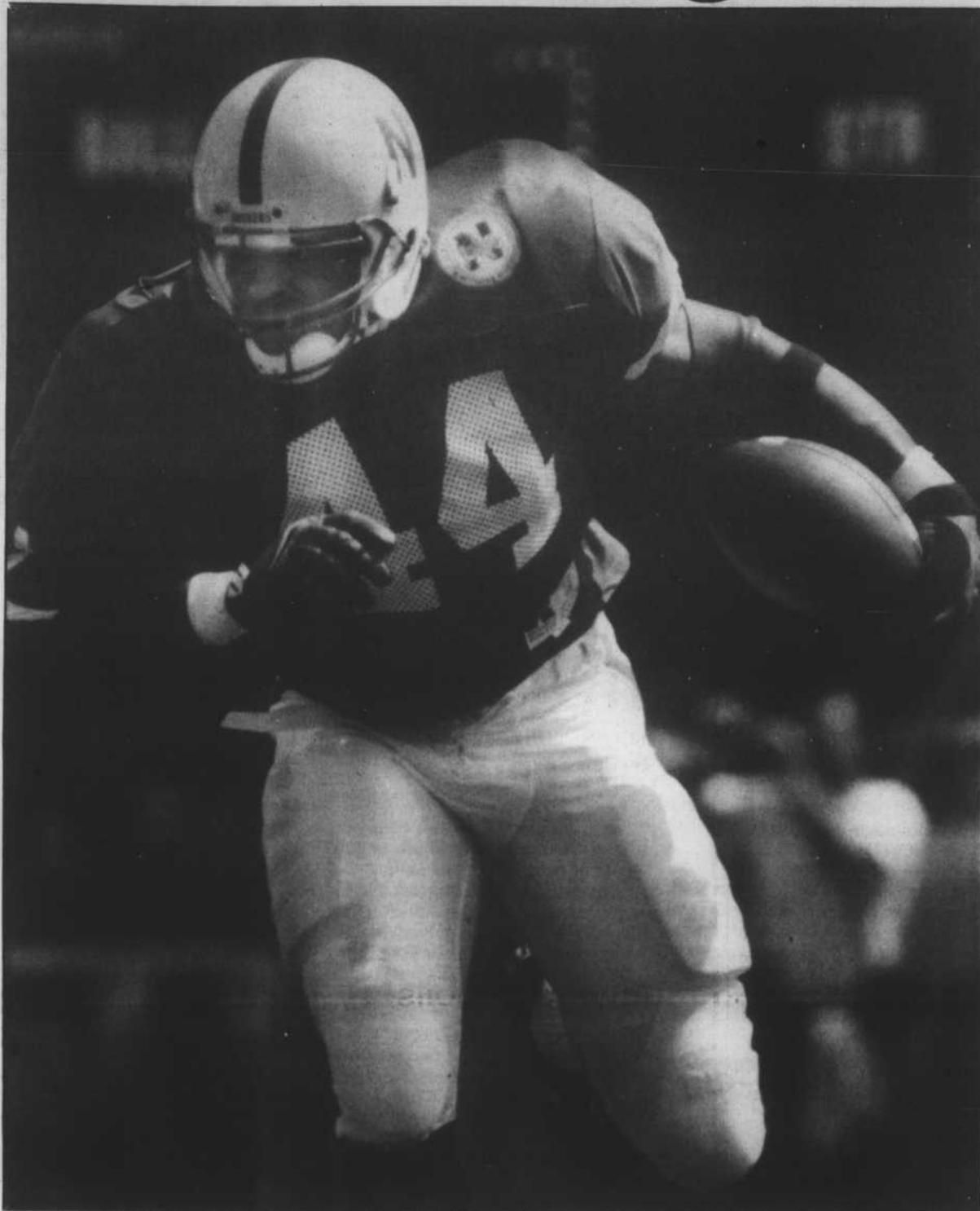
"We hope the crowd will allow us to audible," Osborne said. "I'm not going to say what they should do when Colorado has the ball, I'm just asking for quiet when Nebraska has it."

Osborne said practices had gone smoothly for Nebraska this week.

"We came through the week in pretty good shape," he said. "No one got hurt and everyone practiced."

While everything is going well on the practice field, the weather could be a problem for both Nebraska and Colorado by kickoff.

The National Weather Service forecast calls for a 50 percent chance of rain on Saturday with a high temperature between 45 and 50 degrees.



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones runs the ball in a game earlier this season against Utah. Jones and teammate Derek Brown rank as the No. 1 and No. 2 rushers in the Big Eight.

So far this season, Colorado's rushing game has struggled. Osborne said he didn't expect the Buffaloes to abandon their running game against Nebraska.

"I suspect that they will not come in here and entirely forget about their running game," he said. "I think that they will try to show some balance in the ballgame, although it appears as

though the thing that they have done the best overall is throw the football."

The Buffaloes can also get the job done on defense, Osborne said.

"What little I'd read about Colorado before the season, I think that they felt they have about as much defensive talent as they've had in a long time, maybe ever," Osborne said. "I'd say that looking at the film I'd

have to go along with that. They're very, very talented on that side of the ball."

Husker I-back Derek Brown said Nebraska would have to be on top of its game in order to move the ball on the Buffalo defense.

See COLORADO on 8

## Colorado arsenal loaded on defense

By Jeff Griesch and Phil Carter  
Staff Reporters

Deon Figures and Greg Biekert are two — but not the only — dangerous weapons the Colorado Buffaloes possess.

Figures is a senior cornerback who owns big-play ability on both defense and special teams. Biekert, a senior linebacker, has already left a lasting mark on the Nebraska-Colorado series.

Both will be integral parts of the Buffalo defense when Colorado plays Nebraska at 3:06 p.m. on Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

A four-year starter, Figures is an All-American candidate and is in contention for the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's best defensive back.

Figures said facing the Buffalo offense in practice had improved his defensive play.

"The new offense has helped my play, especially my man-to-man coverage," Figures said. "Going against

guys like Michael Westbrook is going to make you better."

Along with his defensive ability, Figures is also one of the Big Eight's most dangerous return men.

"I go in there wanting to run one back everytime I get the ball," Figures said.

Figures is trying to put professional football out of his mind while he prepares for the Cornhuskers and the remainder of the season.

"The NFL is in the back of my mind," Figures said. "I am trying to stay focused so I can go out on a winning note."

Last season, Biekert scooped up a blocked extra point and ran it back for two points. The play helped Colorado forge a 19-19 tie in Boulder.

"I think it was one of my better games," Biekert said. "I just remember (the ball) kind of bouncing into my hands. I just started to take off."

"I knew (former Husker tight end Johnny) Mitchell would be right behind me," Biekert said. "I just had to weave my way through."

## CU unsettled at QB spot

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

While Nebraska's quarterback question has been settled, Bill McCartney is still wondering who will be calling his team's signals Saturday.

McCartney, the coach of eighth-ranked Colorado, has seen his top quarterback, sophomore Kordell Stewart, hampered this week in practice by a lingering ankle injury.

Stewart's backup, freshman Koy Detmer, has been an able replacement already this season and has helped the Buffaloes to a 6-0-1 record.

But don't ask McCartney to reveal who his starter will be when the teams meet at 3:06 p.m. Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

"On Monday when we went out to practice, I expected (Stewart) to be OK," McCartney said. "But his ankle is still gimpy, and he's still nursing it."

Stewart has completed 88 of 151 passes for 1,324 yards and eight touchdowns so far this season, while Detmer has thrown for 828 yards, completing 56 of 88 passes and throwing for seven touchdowns.

Both quarterbacks have had to learn the Buffaloes' new one-back, passing-style offense that was installed in time for last year's Blockbuster Bowl against Alabama.

"It's a process," said McCartney, who used an I-bone offense in Colorado's 19-19 tie with Nebraska last year. "Nebraska has had the same offense for so many years that they know it like the back of their hand."

The Buffaloes' only blemish on their record so far this season has been a tie with Oklahoma two weeks ago. McCartney said the tie made Saturday's game a must-win situation for Colorado if the Buffaloes were to bring home a fourth straight Big Eight title.

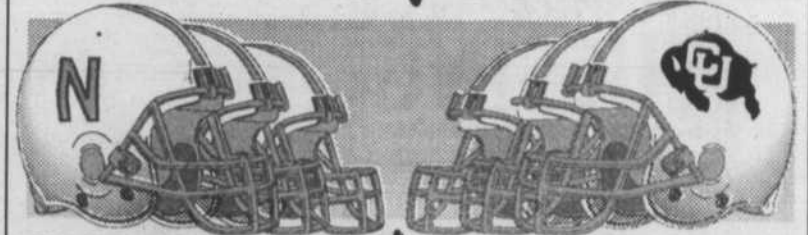
"If we had beaten Oklahoma, there'd be less pressure," McCartney said. "But by virtue of the tie, if we lose to Nebraska, our chances are all but gone."

McCartney said that if there were any questions whether the Buffalo-Husker game is a rivalry, they would be answered Saturday.

"When you walk out onto the field, you're going to see Memorial Stadium with more enthusiasm than they've had in a long time," he said.

## Probable Starters

Offense				Defense			
SE 80	Trumane Bell	6-3	210 Jr.	FL 8	T. J. Cunningham	6-0	200 Fr.
LT 77	Lance Lundberg	6-4	300 Jr.	TE 86	Christian Fauris	6-4	270 So.
LG 62	Ken Mehlin	6-0	265 Jr.	LT 72	Derek West	6-8	268 So.
C 51	Jim Scott	6-2	265 Sr.	LG 66	Clint Moore	6-4	270 So.
RG 75	Will Shields	6-1	305 Sr.	OC 64	Bryan Stollenberg	6-2	288 Fr.
RT 72	Zach Wiegert	6-5	310 So.	RG 76	Chad Hammond	6-4	298 Fr.
TE 89	William Washington	6-2	260 Sr.	RT 77	Jim Hansen	6-6	228 Sr.
QB 15	Tommie Frazier	6-0	190 Fr.	WB 81	Michael Westbrook	6-4	203 So.
FB 26	Lance Lewis	6-0	225 Sr.	SE 9	Charles Johnson	6-1	183 Jr.
IB 21	Derek Brown	5-9	185 Jr.	QB 10	Kordell Stewart	6-3	203 So.
WB 27	Abdul Muhammad	5-9	155 So.	TB 12	Lamont Warren	6-1	183 So.
PK 13	Byron Bennett	6-1	180 Jr.	PK 14	Pat Blottaux	6-0	190 Sr.



Offense				Defense			
LOLB 93	Travis Hill	6-2	240 Sr.	OLB 56	Ron Woolfork	6-4	235 Jr.
LT 92	John Parrella	6-5	290 Sr.	LT 99	Leonard Renfro	6-4	285 Jr.
NG 73	David Noonan	6-3	275 Jr.	NT 92	Shannon Clavelle	6-4	270 Fr.
RT 90	Bruce Moore	6-6	240 Jr.	RT 97	Marcellous Elder	6-5	290 Sr.
ROLB 34	Trev Alberts	6-4	230 Jr.	OLB 46	Chad Brown	6-4	240 Sr.
ILB 54	Troy Branch	6-0	235 Jr.	WLB 19	Greg Biekert	6-3	230 Sr.
WLB 32	Ed Stewart	6-0	205 So.	SLB 46	Ted Johnson	6-4	235 So.
LCB 19	Kenny Wilhite	5-8	175 Sr.	LCB 2	Deon Figures	6-1	195 Sr.
RCB 6	John Reece	6-0	200 Jr.	SS 21	Dwayne Davis	6-2	205 Jr.
SS 31	Steve Carmer	6-2	210 Sr.	FS 47	Chris Hudson	5-10	195 So.
FS 8	Tyrone Byrd	6-0	180 Sr.	RCB 13	Ronnie Bradford	5-11	185 Sr.
P 47	Mike Stigge	6-2	190 Sr.	P 17	Mitch Berger	6-3	225 Sr.

Scott Maurer/DN

Biekert has been a three-year starter at Colorado and is playing in his fourth Nebraska-Colorado game. He said this year's Buffalo defense still has room to improve.

This season, the Buffalo defense gave up 38 points to Baylor, and 20

See BUFFALOES on 8