

Osborne says too early to measure freshmen

From Staff Reports

As freshmen football players rolled in for fall practice this week, coach Tom Osborne said it was difficult to predict what future they would have as Cornhuskers.

"They're just in sweat clothes right now and you can't tell a whole

lot, yet," he said. "The only thing you can tell is in the testing."

"Right now, I would say there are three or four players with a reasonably good chance to contribute. It's always interesting to take a look at them now."

Osborne said that once the varsity begins practicing, things will become

clearer.

"Everything will look a lot better once we get the varsity out here, too," he said. "Then the freshmen will get a better idea on how to practice and the kind of intensity it takes to practice."

"It looks a little sluggish right now."

Big Ten expansion concerns NU coach

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Talk of the Big Ten Conference expanding to 12 teams and pulling in a Big Eight school has Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne crossing his fingers and hoping that the Big Eight Conference stays in tact.

Osborne said he hoped that the Big Ten will look somewhere besides the Big Eight in its search for a 12th member.

"I'd like to see the Big Eight stay as it is," he said. "You would hope the rest of the Big Eight schools are honest and don't surprise anybody."

The Omaha World-Herald reported Thursday that Nebraska was one of five schools mentioned for possible expansion at last week's Big Ten Kick-off preseason meetings in Rosemont, Ill.

Penn State became the 11th member of the Big Ten Conference in 1991. If the conference adds a 12th school it could divide the conference into two divisions of six teams and have championship game similar to the one held by the Southeastern Conference.

Osborne said money was probably influencing the Big Ten to consider expanding the conference. "Lately, the stance has been that they weren't going to talk about it, but money seems to influence the thinking," he said. "If they go to 12 teams, I think there is a rule that the top in each division, like the Southeastern Conference, would have a playoff game that wouldn't go against your regular season."

"That brings in quite a bit of mon-

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— Osborne
NU football coach

ey for the conference, so I don't see the Big Ten staying at 11 teams for very long.”

Osborne said he thought the Big Ten would be attracted to Nebraska, Missouri and Colorado.

"Our stance is that we would like to see the Big Eight stay in tact," he said. "Very few Big Eight teams would do better financially in the Big Ten."

"To lose a team would also hurt the Big Eight because it is going to lose a team that has some clout."

The decision, said Osborne, rests at the hands of the administration, and not the coaches.

"The decision isn't up to the football or basketball coach, it rests at the hands of the administration," he said. "I assume there are many considerations that would go into it, especially academic considerations."

Osborne said the threat of the Big Eight breaking up should not be taken lightly.

"I definitely don't think the Big Ten will stay at 11, but what they're going to do, I don't know. I think getting another team for them is as close as anything else," he said.

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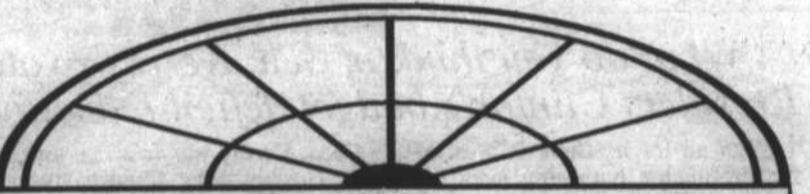


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