

Osborne looks for opening-game answers

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

With Nebraska's opener against North Texas less than four days away, coach Tom Osborne still has some unanswered questions.

Osborne said at his weekly press conference Tuesday that the season opener was the most difficult game to get ready for, even though the Huskers have had three weeks of preparation.

"I suspect this is going to be a difficult game to enter because we don't know a whole lot about this team," Osborne said.

"We can look at what they did last year, but in the first game, you don't have a very good read of what the opponent is going to do."

Osborne said the coaches did not have a solid read on who would be the Huskers' backups at I-back and quarterback.

The leading candidates for I-back Calvin Jones' backup include Damon Benning, Clinton Childs and Lawrence Phillips, Osborne said.

"In terms of personnel, we're really unsettled at the backup I-back position," Osborne said. "There are about three or four guys with a chance at it."

"We don't know if anyone is going to redshirt. We talked with Lawrence Phillips and Clinton Childs about that, but they weren't terribly excited. So if they want to use a year of their eligibility, I guess that's what we'll do."

At quarterback, the No. 2 position behind sophomore starter Tommie Frazier is between sophomores Brook Berringer and Tony Veland.

"The No. 2 quarterback spot is about like the I-back," Osborne said. "Veland and Berringer are pretty close. Berringer is probably ahead because he hasn't had the injuries Tony has, but they're close."

Osborne said he didn't have to make any decisions on those races until Big Eight play began Oct. 7 at Oklahoma State.

"Right now, we're just hoping to get the

guys playing time in ball games to see how they rank," he said.

Osborne said he was pleased with how his players were holding up.

"The general health is very good," he said. "I'm very pleased with fall camp and the amount of contact we had and having very few injuries."

The only player questionable for Saturday's game is guard Joel Wilks, who has a pulled calf muscle, Osborne said.

While Osborne is anxious to see how his team performs, he said he does not get very anxious for seasons to begin.

"People tell me that they can't wait, and to be real honest with you, I can wait," he said. "The thing about when the season starts is you're moving into a tunnel and it is going to be awhile before you can come up for air."

"I'm always interested in how we're going to do," Osborne said. "As far as getting butter-

“People tell me that they can't wait, and to be real honest with you, I can wait.”

—Osborne
Nebraska coach

flies and getting excited for Saturday, I really don't too much. I can always take one more fishing trip."

Although Osborne thinks his team is ready, he warned the public about having high expectations.

"Overall, the attitude and effort is real good," Osborne said. "I think people are expecting an awful lot in terms of performance on Saturday and I hope they get it, but I don't know how we're going to do."

Two starters injured for first NU match

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

If the Nebraska volleyball team is going to start out the season with a win, it will have to do it without two starters from last year's Big Eight championship team.

Coach Terry Pettit said senior outside hitter Laura Luther would not play in tonight's 7:30 game against Iowa at the NU Coliseum. Junior middle blocker Kim Tonniges will suit up but probably won't play against the Hawkeyes.

The Huskers also lost All-American Stephanie Thater and All-Big Eight player Eileen Shannon to graduation.

Both Luther and Tonniges are recovering from off-season shoulder surgery.

"Laura hasn't got any better since the alumni game," Pettit said.

Luther was fourth on the team last year in kills, and Tonniges played in all 28 matches last season.

Nebraska will start two freshmen in their place against the Hawkeyes, Pettit said.

Maria Hedbeck, an outside hitter from Sweden, and middle blocker Jen McFadden, from Dubuque, IA, both will make their first starts at Nebraska.

The Huskers are coming off a 15-9, 15-13, 15-12, 13-15 victory over Husker alumnae last Saturday night. McFadden recorded 13 kills, and Hedbeck had seven kills against the alumnae.

Pettit said the Huskers had improved in their two days of practice since the game against the alumnae.

"We made improvements in practice this week," he said. "We learned some things in the alumni game, and we've hopefully improved on those things."

The Hawkeyes, who finished 13-19 and fifth in the Big Ten last season under second-year coach Linda Schoenstedt, return five starters from last season's team.

The Huskers have won each of

Nebraska vs. Iowa

7:30 Tonight
NU Coliseum

Nebraska's probable starters

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
S	Nikid Stricker	5-10	Sr.
OH	Billie Winsett	5-11	So.
OH	Maria Hedbeck	5-10	Fr.
OH	Kelly Aspegren	5-11	Jr.
MB	Jen McFadden	6-2	Fr.
MB	Allison Weston	6-0	So.

DN Graphic

the 10 previous meetings against Iowa. The last time the teams squared off was Sept. 2, 1989, in Lincoln, when the Huskers swept the Hawkeyes in three games.

Pettit said he didn't know much about the Hawkeye team that will come into Lincoln tonight.

"I know very little about them," he said. "I know they've had a good program in the past. They've been in the NCAA tournament before, and I think they return five starters from last year."

"I haven't seen any film of them, but we're expecting and preparing for a tough match," Pettit said.

Pettit said his team wanted to do well before the home crowd. The Huskers are 15-2 in season openers, and they have the same mark in home openers. Their last home opening loss came last year at the hands of New Mexico.

Pettit said it was important to start off the season on the winning track.

"The issue is that we want to win, and the other issue is that we want to play harder and more consistently than we did last Saturday night," he said.



Outside hitter Billie Winsett sets the ball during a match with alumnae.

Shaun Sartin/DN

Bring on the Huskers, the offense — the opponents?

The wait is almost over. Cornhusker fans will not have to spend another Saturday without some sign of their beloved Big Red.

The college football season arrived last Saturday as preseason No. 1 Florida State greeted not-quite-good-enough-to-be-ranked Kansas with a friendly 42-0 shellacking in the Kick-off Classic at the Meadowlands.

While the Jayhawks were being run into the ground at the Meadowlands by the Seminoles, a handful of die-hard Husker fans sat in the rain at Memorial Stadium watching Nebraska's final preseason scrimmage.

For the fans, this Saturday means

they can stop drooling over preseason polls, new depth charts and the latest news on Husker practices.

For the players, it means no more two-a-days, no more letting up on the big hit, no more "Mr. Nice Guy" on defense.

The excitement is building. The hype is everywhere. Calvin Jones' image is plastered on magazines and television screens as he pursues a Heisman Trophy.

Linebackers Trev Alberts and Mike Anderson are both Butkus Award candidates.

And the Cornhusker passing game actually flew by its running game in



Jeff Griesch

the final scrimmage to give fans a hint of a balanced and deadly offensive attack.

Lee Corso, ESPN college football analyst, has even picked the Huskers to steal a national title from the front runners.

Enough build-up already. Bring on

the big boys of college football so we can see how tough the Huskers are.

Let's see some smash-mouth, hard-hitting, non-stop excitement.

Somebody give me a schedule. No better yet, give me a media guide so I can read all about these big boys the Huskers are going to be beating on this season.

Let's see who the first victim is going to be.

Ah, here it is, page 125. I can't wait, bring 'em on.

Bring on — North Texas?

Huh? Come again. North Texas?

What about the hype? What about the build-up? What about the excite-

ment? What a disappointment. I thought we were going to see some real football.

No more scrimmages. No more guys with duplicate numbers. No more losing interest after the first 15 minutes of the game.

Why don't they just have another scrimmage on Saturday? At least we know that the guys on the other side of the ball during practice are Division I opponents.

Wait a second. Maybe I'm being too harsh. Maybe Nebraska had no

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