

## Nebraska could lose game despite score



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska wingback Abdul Muhammad is tackled by defenders during a recent scrimmage. Muhammad will lead Nebraska's wingbacks and split ends into Saturday's 1 p.m. matchup with North Texas at Memorial Stadium.

### Eagles aim to upset NU, coach says

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Reporter

North Texas coach Dennis Parker isn't about to pity Nebraska coach Tom Osborne and his Cornhuskers.

In fact, he said he didn't feel a bit sorry for Osborne after the Husker coach said he hoped Nebraska never scheduled a Division I-AA team like the Eagles again.

Osborne said the Huskers were in a "no-win situation" against North Texas Saturday.

"If you win but don't win convincingly it's almost like a loss," Osborne said. "If you lose, it's the end of the world. If you win real

“**We're preparing to beat Nebraska. We're not flying to Nebraska to be their sacrificial lambs.**

—Parker  
North Texas coach

big, then maybe you ran it up."

Parker said he understood why Osborne made the comment, but had very little sympathy for the Huskers' position.

"If he feels that way, then don't schedule us," Parker said. "No one forced them to schedule us. That

statement to me is an admission of judgement on his part for putting us on the schedule."

Parker said he was more concerned with getting his team ready to play than with whether or not the

See EAGLES on 11

### Big game mixes quarterback's emotions

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

North Texas quarterback Mitch Maher is filled with mixed emotions about the Eagles' matchup with Nebraska Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

"It's a great opportunity for us," Maher said. "I'm real excited about it. There is really no pressure on us."

On the other hand, Maher said, he doesn't think the Eagles can afford to just try hard and settle for a loss.

"There is nothing positive about

a loss," Maher said. "It doesn't matter who your opponent is. When you lose a game, it stands as a loss and you can't do anything about it."

Maher, who completed 151 of 293 passes for 2,096 yards and 11 touchdowns in 1992, said the North Texas offense will face plenty of obstacles Saturday.

"The whole defense is going to be good and we realize that," he said. "I can look at their linebackers and realize how good they are, but I can't focus on that. The same goes for the defensive backs."

"This will probably be the best

defense I'll ever play against, but I have to do my assignments. The receivers have to run good routes and I have to get the ball to them."

Maher said that the Eagles are not expecting Nebraska to be looking past them.

"I think they're going to be very prepared because of their coaches," he said. "Any time you have a team like Nebraska and a coach as great as Tom Osborne, you can count on them being ready to play."

Even so, Maher said, beginning the season at Nebraska was an ex-

See MAHER on 11

### Game day

Saturday, 1 p.m.  
TV: none  
Radio: Nebraska Radio Network  
KLIN 1400 or KFAB 1100

Nebraska

North Texas

#### OFFENSE

QB 15 Tommy Frazier	6-2 200	QB 23 Mitch Maher	6-0 185
FB 40 Corey Schlesinger	6-0 220	FB 17 Stacy Anderson	5-10 180
IB 44 Calvin Jones	5-11 210	RB 34 Terrance Brown	6-1 190
SE 2 Corey Dixon	5-8 180	WR 4 David Brown	5-8 170
WB 27 Abdul Muhammad	5-9 160	WR 14 Clayton George	5-10 180
RT 72 Zach Wiegert	6-5 300	OT 77 Kent Englehardt	6-5 250
LT 77 Lance Lundberg	6-4 300	OT 70 Chris Brown	6-3 260
RG 66 Brenden Stal	6-4 300	OG 78 Scott Dukatnik	6-2 270
LG 56 Rob Zatechka	6-5 300	OG 61 Greg Price	6-3 290
C 62 Ken Mehlin	6-0 275	C 57 Brian Gothard	6-3 245
TE 95 Gerald Armstrong	6-2 225	TE 88 Luis S'iva	6-2 220
PK 13 Byron Bennett	6-1 180	PK 27 Richard Defelice	6-1 170

#### DEFENSE

LOLB 84 Donta Jones	6-2 210	DE 52 Travis Roberts	6-2 250
DT 67 Kevin Ramaekers	6-4 290	DT 80 Stan Thomas	6-2 315
NT 99 Terry Connealy	6-5 275	DT 91 Shane McLaughlin	6-5 270
ROLB 34 Trev Alberts	6-4 240	DE 41 Chad Rudzik	6-2 220
SAM 23 Ernie Beler	5-11 200	OLB 50 John Luker	6-2 240
MIKE 48 Mike Anderson	6-2 230	MLB 5 Shawn Hicks	5-8 225
WILL 32 Ed Stewart	6-1 215	OLB 44 John County	6-0 205
LCB 14 Barron Miles	5-8 160	CB 9 Greg Matthews	5-9 180
RCB 6 John Reece	6-0 200	CB 31 Dimitri Markham	5-11 180
ROV 3 Toby Wright	6-1 200	S 1 Wayne Walker	6-0 200
FS 4 Troy Dumas	6-3 215	S 21 Sean Mayes	6-0 185
P 13 Byron Bennett	6-1 180	P 85 John Chupp	6-0 180

DN graphic

### Osborne says victory won't benefit Huskers

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said his team was facing the impossible in Saturday's contest, and he wasn't talking about the opponent.

Instead, the Husker coach said, the Cornhuskers will have a hard time getting any benefit out of the game, even if they're victorious.

"It's a no-win situation," he said. "If you win, but not convincingly, it's just like a loss."

"If you lose, then it's the end of the world. If you win big, then everybody is going to say you ran it up. It's a tough situation to play in."

A scheduling error on the part of Wyoming, Nebraska's original opponent for Saturday, left Nebraska without a foe for Saturday. Out of more than 30 teams that were contacted, Osborne said North Texas was the only one that showed interest in filling the empty spot on the Huskers' schedule.

"There is a lot of downside risk involved in games like this," he said. "We wish that North Texas had that I-A connotation behind its name."

However, Nebraska is no stranger to I-AA teams. Last season, the Huskers defeated Middle Tennessee State 48-7 in Lincoln.

"I looked back at last year and Middle Tennessee State was more competitive than about three other teams that we played," Osborne said. "How North Texas will fare, I don't know. What I do know is

that we are going to have to be ready to play."

"We can't worry about whether our opponents are better or worse than us. We just have to worry about playing as good as we can play."

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—Osborne  
Nebraska coach

Osborne said the Huskers' defensive unit must be on top of its game for Nebraska to be successful.

"North Texas runs a lot of different formations, so our biggest challenge will be defensively," he said. "They have a good quarterback (Mitch Maher). He threw for over 2,000 yards last year, so that shows they have a number of good receivers also."

Osborne said probably the biggest problem would come from

See OSBORNE on 11

## Weekend tournament to challenge Huskers, coach says

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

After a season-opening win against Iowa, the Nebraska volleyball team takes to the road to play ranked competition.

The Cornhuskers, coming off a 15-5, 15-5, 15-8 win over the Hawkeyes, travel to University Park, Penn., for the Penn State Invitational.

The Huskers will play three matches in the invite. The Huskers will play West Virginia today at 4 p.m. Nebraska will play twice Saturday — against Pittsburgh at noon and against Penn State at 6:30 p.m.

Husker coach Terry Pettit said the three matches in two days would be a tough test for his team.

"The other teams will be well prepared for us," he said. "The Iowa win gave us some confidence, and it's a lot better for us to go in there with one win rather than a loss."

Sophomore middle blocker Allison Weston also said the win over Iowa would give the team additional momentum.

"It'll give us some great momentum going into a tough tournament like this," she said. "There'll be some tough teams that we'll have to play."

Penn State, the Big Ten champion last year with a 28-4 record, entered the season ranked No. 11 in the country by the coaches and No. 13 by Volleyball Monthly.

Lady Lion coach Russ Rose said his team was similar to this year's Nebraska team. Both

teams made it to the NCAA Midwest Regional semifinals last season.

"Nebraska lost one of their best players ever in Stephanie Thater from last year's team," Rose said. "We also lost an All-American, among other players."

Penn State returns four starters from last year. But Rose said this year's team was less experienced than last year's, with no seniors on the squad.

Rose said he expected his team to face a typical Nebraska squad.

"I've been seeing them for 17 years, and I was coaching with Terry when he started, so I know Nebraska pretty well," Rose said. "They're the type of team with good athletes who play

both front and back row well.

"They've always had a competitive, exciting spirit for the game, and that's why Nebraska's been so successful over the past 15 years," he said.

Rose, who was an assistant to Pettit 15 years ago, said he had some doubts about his team playing a ranked team like Nebraska so early in the season. But that was only until he talked to Pettit a couple of days ago.

"I spoke with Terry yesterday, and I felt better about my team's chances after I got done calling him than before I called him," Rose said. "We're significantly down from last year, and Terry led me to believe that they're kind of rebuilding this year."