

# Red Raiders set for 'cat' fight, coach says

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

For the second consecutive week, the Nebraska football team will play host to a team from Texas.

But this week could be a completely different story than Nebraska's 76-14 blowout of North Texas, Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes said.

"I think our offense is going to be productive," Dykes said. "We're not barefooted. We can move the ball. I don't know to what extent, though."

Texas Tech returns nine starters from an offense that averaged a school-record 423 total yards per game last season.

And the Red Raiders picked up

where they left off last week, crushing Pacific Saturday 55-7, while piling up 587 yards of total offense.

However, Dykes said, the Huskers will be a much greater test for his team than Pacific.

"We've got a lot of work to do," Dykes said. "We had some nice things happen last week (against Pacific). At times we looked pretty doggone good."

"But playing Nebraska is a whole different story. We're talking about a different breed of cat."

And a cat with a good coach, he said.

"They're extremely well-coached and never make a bad play," Dykes said. "Their line is so big, I don't know where they get the scale to

weigh them all.

"It's a program that everyone envies. We know we're in for a long, hard day."

Following their trip to Lincoln, Texas Tech is in for a long haul — they must travel to Baylor and Georgia, before returning home to play Texas A&M and North Carolina State. All four teams are currently ranked.

"It's an extremely hard run," Dykes said. "But if we can stay healthy and don't get lambasted Saturday at Nebraska, we can be competitive."

Dykes said he was not preparing to put everything on the line against the Huskers.

"We're not going to put all our eggs in one basket and say if we lose

“*Everything is bigger and stronger and faster than we saw last Saturday. And there's a whole lot more of them.*”

— Dykes  
Texas Tech coach

this one it's our season," Dykes said. "We feel like we can go in there and gain a lot of experience. Who knows in football today, if you have a break or two, you have a chance to win the game."

The Red Raiders boast three dangerous offensive weapons, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said.

Senior Lloyd Hill, a preseason All-American, at split end, I-back Byron "Bam" Morris, who gained more yards as a sophomore last year than Calvin Jones, and senior quarterback Robert Hall, who completed 20 of 30 passes for 327 yards against Pacific, lead the

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## Strickland may take on third sport—football

By Jeff Griesch  
Staff Reporter

Erick Strickland did it all in high school, and now he wants to do it all in college, too.

After a two-year absence from the gridiron, Strickland told the Daily Nebraskan on Wednesday that he wants to play football for Nebraska.

Strickland said he misses his childhood love — football — after two summers of playing professional baseball and a year on the Nebraska basketball team.

He quit playing football after his junior year at Bellevue West High School because of a shoulder injury.

But now that his shoulder is healed, he wants to give football a shot at Nebraska.

"Today my shoulder feels strong and I feel like it is OK for me to play again," Strickland said. "Once you play a sport for so long in your life and then drop it, you tend to start to miss it and want to play again."

However, Strickland said he would not give up basketball or baseball in order to pursue his football career.

Strickland said he simply thinks he has a better chance at making it into the National Football League than he does in the NBA.

"For a guy like me at 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds, it is pretty tough to make it in professional basketball because I would be small," Strickland said. "In football though, at that size, I would be big as a wide receiver or in the (defensive) secondary."

Last year, Strickland said he wanted to keep his options open between baseball and basketball, but he did not rule out playing football as a fifth-year senior.

But now, Strickland says that football is an option for him this year.

"This year may be just a learning thing for me where I watch what they're doing and try to pick things up, but I am interested in football right now," Strickland said.

Strickland would not say for sure when he would start playing football, but he pointed toward this spring.

Strickland has talked with Husker football

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William Lauer/DN

Nebraska cornerback Kareem Moss eludes North Texas tacklers on his 52-yard punt return against North Texas.

## 'Juco' transfers boost Husker defense

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

Last year, coming in as junior college transfers, Kareem Moss and Toby Wright had to learn Nebraska's 5-2 defensive system.

This year, they had to learn the 4-3, which Moss said catered to both players' abilities.

Now both are key players in the new "Husker" 4-3 defensive scheme.

They proved it in the first game of the season against North Texas.

"I think I've improved tremendously from last season," Moss said. "I'm honored to be a part of the Nebraska defense."

Wright is also glad to be involved in the Husker defense, he said. Being a successful football player was almost expected from him. Football runs in Toby Wright's family.

Wright has been trying to show his brothers

for years that he could play football.

He showed them last Saturday in Nebraska's 76-14 victory over North Texas, as he recorded a 33-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Wright, a senior rover in the "Husker" defense, has two brothers who have played professional football — Terry, who now plays in the Canadian Football League, and Torrey, who was a running back for the New York Giants in the National Football League.

"I can't wait to get home to call them up,"

Toby Wright said after Saturday's victory.

"I always let them know that I could play before anyone, and now they know that I can do it."

"North Texas threw the ball up a lot, and I felt like I'd get an interception," he said.

Moss contributed to the Husker victory on both offense and defense.

A junior cornerback from Spartanburg, S.C., Moss had a 52-yard punt return in the first quarter, which set up the Huskers' second touchdown of the game. Moss also had one tackle as the backup to starting cornerback John Reece.

"I'm playing a bigger part this season," Moss said. "And I don't like guys catching passes on me, so I'd like to pay them back with a 100-yard punt return."

Wright had three tackles against the Eagles along with his first interception at Nebraska.

On the interception return, Wright said he just used his instincts and his moves to get into the end zone.

"On the interception, I drifted into the throwing lane, John Reece tipped the ball, and it just popped up," Wright said. "I

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## Tigers' Big 10 lobbying will place program in Misery

One suggestion for the Misery (Missouri) athletic program: Before realigning your school with the Big Ten, realign your thinking.

"MU — A National Asset," a Misery booster group, embarked on a campaign earlier this summer to promote Misery academics. In a clear move to draw the Big Ten's attention, it concluded that Misery's academics had skyrocketed past the Big Eight to the level of the Big Ten.

Anyone smell Tiger doo doo? Misery's move would have nothing to do with academics and everything to do with athletics.

In the Big Ten, the Tigers would have a better chance at television revenue in both basketball and football. Exposure on the tube, of course, means more recruits in the Misery pipeline.

But there's one big Tiger hairball in this pipe.

Put simply, Misery has no stripes to back up their claims as a top academic program in the Big Eight.

Just look at the list of Academic All-Big Eight football players since 1980.

Nebraska tops the list with 94 players. Oklahoma is second with 51. Kansas State is third with 41 and Kansas is fourth with 31.

Where's Misery? Fifth, with 29 players on the all-academic teams.

Let's see: That's Nebraska 94, Misery 29. Sounds like a football score.

Go ahead, Misery, try taking those numbers to the Big Ten. They love athletic programs committed to student-athletes.

And it's known that they also have a passion for student groups like the Antlers, those incredibly classy Misery fans. The Antlers are the fans that prompted Iowa State's Jeff Grayer,



Todd Cooper

who's normally calmer than lake water, to climb into the stands after the Antlers shouted insults about his mom during a game three years ago.

The Big Ten clearly wants more academicians like Jevon Crudup.

The Misery basketball player was arrested Monday night for driving drunk, driving fast, driving on the wrong side of the road and driving on the shoulder of the wrong side of the road.

Or maybe, just maybe, the Big Ten wants another hothead basketball coach.

Norm Stewart — who once

threatened a reporter that the writer's baby could be endangered if he printed a story revealing violations in Misery's basketball program — might fit in nicely with rampaging Big Ten coaches like Purdue's Gene Keady, Michigan State's Jud Heathcote and Knight.

Stewart's program would fit in nicely with its Big Ten twin, Illinois.

The Tigers and Illini are neck-and-neck at putting their necks on the line with NCAA violations. Both programs were put on probation for blatant and excessive recruiting violations.

And now more than ever, the Tigers will need the company of teams like Illinois in the Big Ten.

As Iowa State football coach Jim Walden said:

"I don't like reading where a member of my family says he likes another family better than he does mine. I take it a little personally."

Other Big Eight coaches have joined Walden and have called for the conference to penalize teams who decide to leave the Big Eight.

The Tigers already will be penalized when they're slaughtered by Big Eight teams out to dethrone the so-called academic kings.

In the spirit of realignment, the rest of the conference should also impose the ultimate penalty on Misery: Leave the Tigers floundering in the Misery Valley and have the other six teams east of Colorado join the Big Ten. Colorado could join the Pacific 10 Conference.

And as for the Tigers, they'd be left in Misery — on their high academic perches above everyone else.

That way, Misery will have no company to complain about.

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