

Jones glad to have Cowboys back in saddle

Oklahoma State's football downfall

Year	Record	Big 8 finish
1988	10-2	3rd
1989	4-7	5th
1990	4-7	8th (tie)
1991	0-10-1	8th
1992	4-6-1	5th



DN graphic

By Jeff Singer
Senior Editor

Three years can seem like an eternity when you're the coach of a college football team on probation.

For Oklahoma State's Pat Jones, one of the longest and toughest parts of his coaching career is finally being laid to rest.

After four consecutive years of sub-.500 records — including an 0-10-1 finish in 1991 at the height of the Cowboys' probation — Oklahoma State is finally winning again.

The Cowboys are 2-1 and are favored to beat Texas Christian University this weekend. Jones said starting Big Eight play with a 3-1 record would be a big plus for his program. Oklahoma State's conference opener is Oct.

7 against Nebraska.

"Persistence and determination will usually win out," Jones said. "Our talent level has gradually picked up, but we're still not out of the woods."

In 1989, the NCAA placed the Oklahoma State program on probation through 1991 for recruiting and other violations. The sanctions levied on the Cowboys included a three-year ban on television appearances, a two-year ban on bowl appearances and reductions in scholarships and recruiting visits.

The probation came after Oklahoma State finished two of its most successful seasons in 1987 and 1988, when the Cowboys went 10-2 both years and won both bowl games.

After being successful for so many

— **“Persistence and determination will usually win out.”**

— Jones
OSU football coach

years — the Cowboys had posted six consecutive winning seasons before the sanctions — it was difficult suffering through the limits placed on his program, Jones said.

"The toughest part is when you're in the throes of it, especially with the decreased margin of error you have in recruiting," he said. "Our talent level started to erode, and even the two years of rumors before we were actu-

ally placed on probation hurt recruiting."

However, Jones said, Oklahoma State's downfall didn't have to come so quickly.

"Losing Barry Sanders was probably the biggest factor," Jones said. "The questions people wonder about is 'What if Barry stays around?'"

See OSU on 8

Coaches hoping for NU rebound against Wildcats

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

After their first loss last Saturday to Notre Dame, Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said, the Cornhuskers hope to start another winning streak against Kansas State tonight in their Big Eight opener.

Nebraska, 11-1, will try to rebound from an 8-15, 7-15, 15-3, 10-15 loss to the No. 14 Fighting Irish at the Golden Dome Classic. But the Huskers won the invitational with a 2-1 record.

"I hope we can bounce back well," Pettit said. "We'll know Wednesday night."

Assistant Coach Val Novak said the Huskers would bounce back from the loss.

"I'm sure they will," she said. "It's a loss, but any team would bounce back from a loss like that."

Nebraska, which dropped two spots to fifth in the coaches' Top 25, will begin its quest for an 18th consecutive Big Eight conference title when it plays the Wildcats at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

Novak said the Huskers had to play better defense and play more consistently than they did against Notre Dame. She said the team worked mainly on defense in Tuesday's practice.

"Against Notre Dame, mentally, our consistency broke down," Novak said. "It affects our level of play."

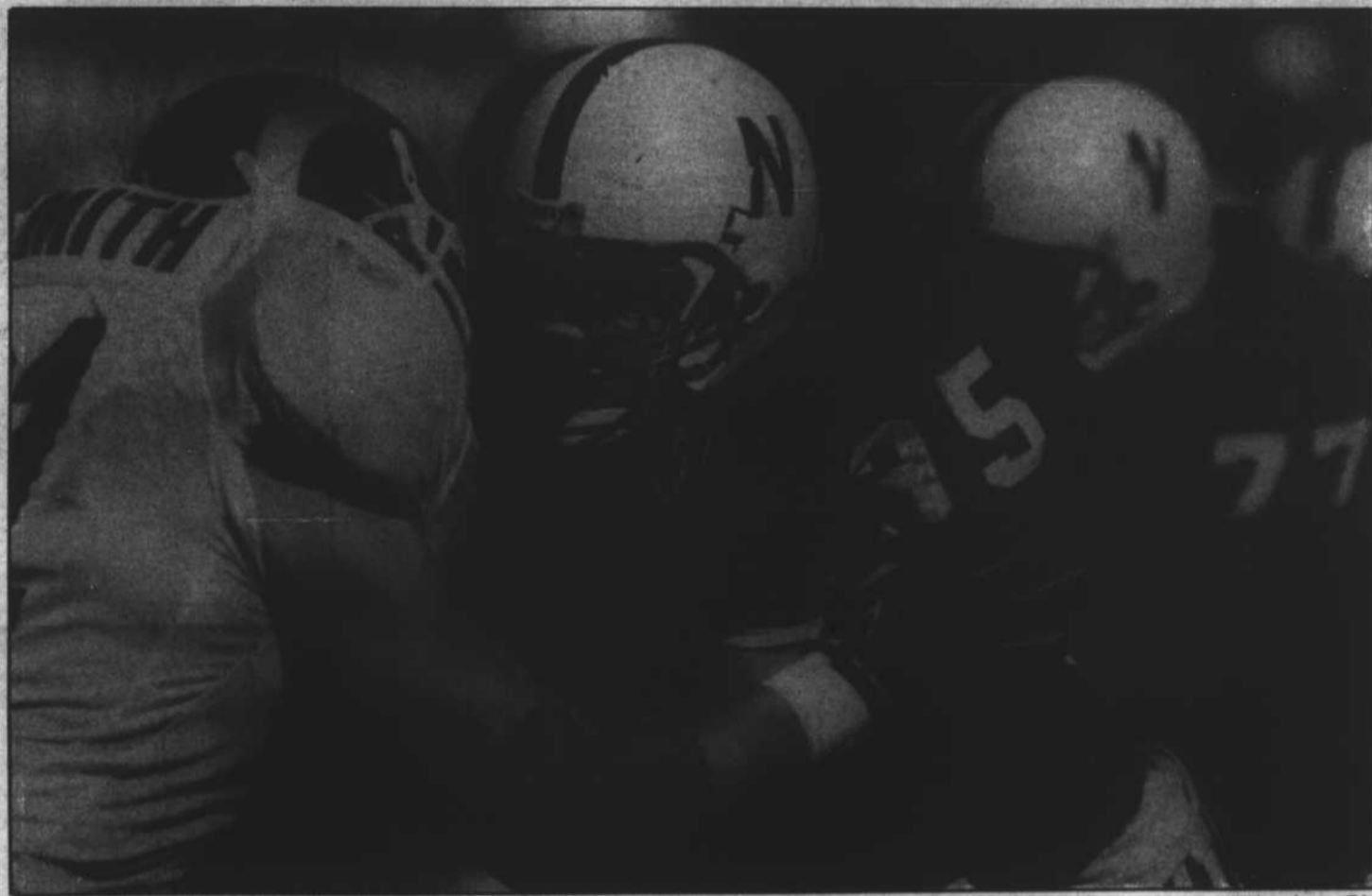
The Wildcats are coming off a seventh-place finish in the conference last year. They were 0-12 in conference play.

But they return five starters from last season. And they lost only one player after last year.

The Wildcats are 4-7 this season, and they have won two of their last four matches. The Wildcats lost their Big Eight opener to No. 11 Colorado.

Kansas State is winless in 46 tries against Nebraska. The Huskers have won 59 straight regular season conference matches. In the Cornhuskers' last 113 Big Eight matches, their record is 112-1.

But Nebraska setter Nikki Stricker, second in the Big Eight in set assists, said the Huskers weren't taking the Wildcats lightly.



William Lauer/DN

Nebraska tight end Gerald Armstrong blocks Colorado State defensive end Brady Smith during the Huskers' win Saturday.

Mr. Touchdown

Small town walk-on scores big as Husker receiver

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

For Nebraska tight end Gerald Armstrong, the touchdowns just keep coming.

His one-yard touchdown reception on Saturday against Colorado State marked his third touchdown — out of six receptions —

this season, putting him ahead of his record-setting pace last year.

Armstrong's seven touchdown receptions last season tied the Nebraska record held by Junior Miller, Todd Millikan and Johnny Mitchell.

Armstrong also tied an NCAA record last year by Louisiana State's Carlos Carson by

scoring a touchdown on six consecutive receptions.

Armstrong's 11 touchdowns in 15 career receptions have come from a player that did not earn a scholarship until after last season.

Armstrong came to Nebraska as a walk-

See ARMSTRONG on 8

Wine and roses not part of pigskin and the playing field

On Saturday, the usually friendly and lovable game of college football turned into a battlefield.

The North Carolina-North Carolina State game erupted into a brawl just before the first half ended.

The players got over the first fight, but not all the coaches could let bygones be bygones.

While the players were kissing and making up at midfield after the game, North Carolina assistant coach Donnie Thompson and N.C. State assistant Ted Cain exchanged blows.

For Thompson, the No. 18 Tarheels' 35-14 win over the 19th-ranked Wolfpack was not enough. He refused to give up the fight with Cain and had to be dragged from the field by other North Carolina coaches.

Virginia Tech and Maryland came to blows, too. Virginia and Duke continued the bad blood between their schools, but managed to show enough

southern hospitality to keep from outright punching.

Finally, in the marquee matchup of the day, Colorado and Miami went toe-to-toe for four quarters and blow-for-blow for five minutes more in a bench-clearing brawl. It resulted in the ejection of seven Miami players and five Buffaloes.

What do these players think this is, a professional baseball game? Has college football taken a turn for the worst?

What can be done to stop this violence in football before it's too late and the game's reputation suffers permanent damage?

Hold it.

Violence can't be stopped in football. Football is, by its nature, a violent game. If you were getting hit by five guys and knocked on your back-side every thirty seconds, you would probably want to get up and punch



Jeff Griesch

sombody every once in a while, too. Iowa State football coach Jim Walden agreed:

"Why does anybody want to stop it? Why do we always have to psycho-analyze everything? Boys will be boys. They fight on the playground, and they will fight on the football field."

"It's not like a drive-by shooting. That needs to be stopped, but no one can do anything about it either."

Usually, Walden and I don't agree on much when it comes to the game of football. But in this case, I have to side with Big Jim.

Now don't get me wrong. I am not

advocating all-out, helmets-in-hand, knock 'em, sock 'em brawling.

But it just so happens that when athletes get involved in big games, emotions run high and sometimes spill into anger. They are unable to vent their frustrations within the rules of the game.

After the fight plays itself out and the dust has settled, players are ejected and the game goes on without them.

For the players who are ejected, it means that they miss the rest of the game, which is equal to at least one-twelfth of their season.

Despite this heavy punishment, some people think the players should be suspended for the next game too, as in college basketball.

However, college basketball teams play more than 30 games a year. Even if the player misses two games, the suspension amounts to only one-fif-

teenth of the season.

Two games for a football player means one-sixth of his season, which would be about five games for a basketball player.

In professional baseball, most players receive a three- to five-game suspension for fighting. Could you imagine if a player was slapped with a 27-game suspension — or one-sixth of the baseball season — for one fight? Fights don't happen too often in college football, or any other sport for that matter. When they do happen, they grab our attention.

When fights happen, most fans love it. Fans' eyes bulge, they jump off their couch at home and root for their team to beat the crap out of the other guys.

Immediately after the fight is over, they talk about it being a great fight

See GREISCH on 8