

League moves toward parity, coaches say

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

With the emergence of Kansas State as a legitimate contender to break into the top three of the conference, Big Eight coaches said Monday that the league may be moving toward parity.

"I don't know if there is any team, except for maybe Nebraska, that is going to be able to make it through this thing undefeated," Iowa State coach Jim Walden said during the Big Eight coaches weekly teleconference.

Walden said the competition in the Big Eight was improving each season and each week because of the relatively equal strength of the top teams in the league.

"I don't think we have the one dominant team that we've had in the past," Walden said. "I think it makes for great competition within the conference, but I'm not sure what that does for us nationally."

The conference coaches said they considered Nebraska and Colorado the leading contenders for the Big

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— Walden
Iowa State football coach

Eight crown. Oklahoma and Kansas State both have an outside shot at the title, the coaches agreed.

"I think we have four good teams at the top, but I'm not sure that the four teams at the bottom can't beat any one of the them," Walden said.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he thought the parity in the conference may have arisen because of the quality athletes on all the teams in the league.

Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones disagreed.

"I don't think anybody's real good," Jones said. "If you turn the ball over against anybody, you're going to get beat."

Jones said he thought Colorado

had the best players in the conference.

NOTES:

● The Oct. 30 Nebraska-Colorado game will be carried live by ABC, the station announced Monday.

The contest in Boulder, Col., will be carried on a regional basis.

● Kansas State quarterback Chad May was named Big Eight Offensive Player-of-the-Week. May completed 30 of 51 passes for 489 yards and two touchdowns in the Wildcats' 45-28 loss to Nebraska.

● The Big Eight Defensive Player-of-the-Week was Missouri cornerback Jason Oliver. Oliver had two interceptions, two pass break-ups and six tackles in the Tigers' 42-9 win over



Round-up

	Conference Games				All Games			
	W	L	T	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.
Nebraska	2	0	0	1.000	6	0	0	1.000
Colorado	2	0	0	1.000	4	2	0	.667
Kansas State	1	1	0	.500	5	1	0	.833
Oklahoma	1	1	0	.500	5	1	0	.833
Kansas	1	1	0	.500	3	4	0	.429
Missouri	1	1	0	.500	2	3	1	.417
Oklahoma State	0	2	0	.000	3	3	0	.500
Iowa State	0	2	0	.000	1	5	0	.167

Saturday's Results

Kansas 35, Iowa State 20
Colorado 27, Oklahoma 10
Missouri 42, Oklahoma State 9
Nebraska 45, Kansas State 28



DN graphic

Oklahoma State.

● Nebraska linebacker Trev Alberts became Nebraska's all-time sack leader, recording the 25th sack of his career against Kansas State.

Alberts, a senior from Council Bluffs, Iowa, broke the Nebraska record of 24.5 sacks held by Jim Skow and Danny Noonan. Alberts also tied the single-season mark of 10 sacks, set by Broderick Thomas in 1989.

Safety says Kansas State will surprise some teams

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

With the assurance that they would get the ball to start the second half, the Kansas State Wildcats lined up on Nebraska's 4-yard line Saturday, planning to cut the Husker lead to 28-21.

But with 45 seconds left in the first half, Nebraska free safety Tyrone Williams had another idea.

Williams' interception at the goal line eventually led to a Nebraska field goal, which increased the Husker halftime lead to 31-14. Nebraska went on to win 45-28.

"Everybody looks to make those kind of big plays," Williams said. "They were about to

score and, with them getting the ball in the second half, we needed something like that to happen."

Williams said the pass, which was a quarterback throwback from tailback J.J. Smith to quarterback Chad May, did not fool at him at all.

"Smith was running toward the other side, but what caught my eye was that (May) sprinted out to the flat after he handed off," Williams said. "I just broke over to (May), and once he threw it I made the move on the ball."

Despite the Williams' interception, Kansas State never gave up. The Wildcats pulled to within 31-28 with 7:44 left in the game, behind a Big Eight-record 489 passing yards by May.

Williams said Nebraska's defense was

shocked Saturday.

"He is a big, strong kid and I think he surprised all of us with his strength throwing the football," Williams said. "I think Kansas State was a well-prepared team. They came in and played a good game. They're going to surprise some teams the rest of the year."

The defense was not proud of giving up 565 total yards Saturday, Williams said.

"Sure, I got that interception, but I don't think I finished the game very strong," he said. "Our defense is a lot better than this but we do have a need for improvement. We had a lot of little, mental mistakes that just killed us."

Despite the breakdowns, Williams, a 6-foot, 180-pound sophomore from Palmetto, Fla., said the defense still has accomplished its main

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— Williams
Nebraska free safety

objective this season.

"The goal set early this summer was to go undefeated and we're still there," he said. "We feel like whatever the score is, we're going to pull the game out. We never quit and I think that shows in the fourth quarter."

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Husker secondary prepares for second Big 8 air assault

From Staff Reports

Not only did the Cornhuskers escape the Kansas State game Saturday with a victory, but they escaped without any major injuries as well.

Coming off the 45-28 win over the Wildcats Saturday, only two Huskers sat out of practice Monday.

Neither tight end Gerald Armstrong and nose tackle Terry Connealy practiced but their injuries aren't serious, Osborne said.

"Other than (Armstrong and

Connealy), we got out of Saturday's game with just a few bumps and bruises," Osborne said.

After giving up 489 passing yards to Kansas State, Osborne said, the Husker defense is preparing for another air attack Saturday.

"Missouri still throws the ball a lot and they throw the ball well," he said. "We'll have to be ready for it. We have no reason to panic or change anything. Our secondary played well in our past games. We just had some mistakes."

Pearson

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cat J.J. Smith's pass as the Wildcats were attacking in the red zone with Nebraska up 24-14.

The Huskers prevailed in the end, but giving up a Big Eight-record 489 yards passing doesn't exactly look good on the resumé.

The next interview of the Blackshirts' formation will be Saturday against Missouri. The Tigers have to be looking at Nebraska's experience and they have to be thinking they can throw the ball against the Huskers.

Tiger quarterback Jeff Handy has passed for 1,330 yards this season. Although that's 203 yards less than May, Handy knows from experience that he can throw against the Huskers.

It was just a year ago when Handy threw for 424 yards against the Husker defense.

But expect the Huskers to rebound like they did last year. Against Mis-

souri, the Huskers were in a battle until the end. The Tigers kept it close before pulling away at the end.

The Husker defense allowed 446 yards of total offense to the Tigers.

But everybody remembers what happened the next week. Nebraska's defense came up big as the Huskers crushed Colorado 52-7.

Now Missouri is in Colorado's position. It may not be a big game like the Colorado game last season, but it's time for the Husker defense to come up big.

Expect it to happen because Trev Alberts and the rest of the Husker defense want to make sure the Kansas State nightmare never haunts the Huskers again.

But if the Husker defense doesn't get the job done, Handy and Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart could end Nebraska's national title hopes for good.

Pearson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Cornhusker volleyball falls to 16

From Staff Reports

After two losses in its last three matches, Nebraska's volleyball team fell from the No. 12 spot to No. 16 in "Volleyball Monthly" magazine's Top 20 released Monday.

Nebraska lost in four sets to Oklahoma and in five sets to Colorado.

The Buffaloes moved up from No. 16 to No. 13 in the poll.

No. 1 UCLA is the only undefeated team left in the poll. Georgia, which lost to Nebraska earlier this season, moved ahead of the Cornhuskers to the No. 13 spot.

Players

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not feel that women athletes should be denied opportunities.

"I think women's sports have their place and they should have every opportunity that men get," he said.

As far as hurting Nebraska's football program, Ramaekers said, effects may not be too negative because evasive guidelines.

Osborne expressed concern that the quality of college football might drop because of the cuts.

"I don't think football is going to decline," Ramaekers said. "It will affect it to a certain extent. But you'll still have the good personnel and the good athletes — there might just be a few less of them on the team."

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