

# Osborne confused by Colorado 'rivalry'

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday that amid all the talk of the "big-game week" and the "Colorado rivalry," the Cornhuskers had to keep everything in perspective while preparing for the matchup with the Buffaloes in Boulder, Colo., Saturday.

"It seems like around here, every game you play is pretty important," Osborne said. "I just never wanted to get into that attitude where if we win this game it's a successful season, or if we lose this game, it's a terrible season."

Osborne said he respected the job Buffalo coach Bill McCartney had done at Colorado but the situation in Boulder is different than Lincoln.

"Bill has, for his own reasons, chosen us to be a rivalry," Osborne said. "It maybe serves his purpose well, maybe it helps his program."

"People around here seem to add (the victories) up. You had better get a lot of W's and one game isn't going to do it for you."

McCartney requested Monday that Colorado fans refrain from any obnoxious behavior against Nebraska followers — something that has happened in past Husker visits to Boulder. Osborne said he appreciated McCartney's statement and hoped Nebraska fans would be courteous in future home games against Colorado.

"I think for some reason, over the last few years, there's been more ill will built up around this game than I can understand a reason for," Osborne said. "I don't understand the whole mentality of the thing."

"For the first time last year, I heard some complaints about how Coloradoans were treated in Nebraska. I was really sorry to see that. I don't think there's any place for that in college football."

No current Huskers have ever won a game in Boulder. Nebraska tied Colorado 19-19 in 1991 and lost 27-21 in 1989. Despite the fact that the Huskers won 52-7 last year in Lincoln and Colorado tied Kansas State 16-16 last week, Osborne said the Cornhuskers knew they would have their hands full with the 4-2-1 Buffs.

"We realize that Colorado has a very fine football team, and we're going to give them our



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones (background) cuts back behind the block of split end Reggie Baul while Missouri cornerback Jason Oliver (left) and free safety Andre White pursue. "We know that Colorado is a great team," Jones said, "and they're going to be up for this game."

best effort," he said. "Nobody's going to be looking past this one. They're playing well, and we're playing well, so it should be interesting."

"We're going to go out and play the best we can. I think our players have a good attitude toward the game and the Colorado players. I don't think you'll see any incidents on the field. It'll be a well-played game."

Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones agreed. Nebraska is 2-0 in televised games this year,

but the players said they felt they did not play well in the wins over UCLA and Oklahoma State.

"We know that Colorado is a great team, and they're going to be up for this game," Jones said. "So, in turn, we have to be up for the game."

Outside linebacker Trev Alberts said the Huskers hoped to finally be at their best for this game.

"I think, by far, you haven't seen the best of Nebraska this year," he said. "The guys are running around on air this week. This week's going to be a lot of fun. It's what college football's all about."

#### NOTE:

●Cornerback Eric Stokes hurt his ribs during practice Tuesday, but the extent of the injury is not known, Osborne said.

## Players say they're fine without Mitchell, Brown

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Reporter

Heading into their matchup with Colorado Saturday, the Cornhuskers are 7-0 and are the No. 6 team in the country.

But how good could Nebraska be if Johnny Mitchell and Derek Brown were still here?

"I think our offense would be 10, 15 or maybe even 20 percent better," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "It would be nice if we had them."

Mitchell left the Huskers after his sophomore season in 1991 and was drafted in the first round by the New York Jets.

Brown decided last year to forego his senior season at Nebraska and entered the National Football League draft after the 1992 season. Brown was drafted in the fourth round and has become the New Orleans Saints'

leading rusher.

Both players would be seniors this season.

Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones said he wasn't sure if the Huskers would be a better team with Brown and Mitchell. And, he added, Nebraska may be better off without them.

"You can't really say if they would have helped our offense that much," Jones said. "We're going to get our yards either way."

"It would have been nice to have Derek here when I got hurt to pick up the slack," Jones said. "But then our young backs wouldn't have gotten the opportunities to play, so maybe as a group, we are better than we would have been with Derek."

Osborne said he wasn't bitter about Brown and Mitchell leaving Nebraska early. He said he was happy they are having success in the NFL.



Brown

But Osborne said he was concerned that some younger players might look at them and pursue professional careers too early.

"Johnny was a first-round draft pick and he knew his chances were pretty good of making it with a team," he said. "But Derek went in the fourth round and his chances were really 50-50."

## Alas, if only baseball season could last forever

Thank you Joe Carter. We'll remember your dramatic blast and miss you and your baseball buddies until spring.

While my prediction for a World Series ring for Terry Pendleton and the Atlanta Braves was wrong, I am not bitter at all toward the Philadelphia Phillies or the Toronto Blue Jays.

It was apparent once again that the Blue Jays were the best team in Major League Baseball.

Isn't it nice, that in an era of selling talents to the highest bidder in professional sports, a guy who turned down a few million bucks and a chance to play for his hometown Kansas City Royals, stayed with the Blue Jays for a shot at another title?

To me, that is what baseball should be about and Carter was rewarded for his character.

Carter's three-run homer to end the World Series put a huge exclamation point at the end of one of the best baseball seasons in modern history.

It was a season filled with two new teams, record attendance at the ballparks totalling 73 million fans, one of the most exciting pennant races in history, the retirement of legends George Brett and Nolan Ryan and great postseason play.

October is always a rough transition period for me.

After the baseball season ends, I have to try to satisfy my craving for baseball by watching the other sports. Their sole purpose is to keep me amused when the news from baseball's winter meetings is slow and arbitration hearings and free agent signings are in a lull.

Big Red football can keep my at-



Jeff Griesch

attention until New Year's Day, and the Denver Broncos usually hold my interest until the end of January. After that, college hoops does a good job of securing my interest until spring training comes around.

But of course, I have to keep copies of The Sporting News and Baseball America around to satisfy any uncontrollable desires for baseball information.

Peter Gammons' "Diamond Notes" still comes on ESPN about once a

week, so I am sure to catch that. Somehow, he always manages to make me feel like the season is only just around the corner, instead of months away.

Most people feel that the baseball season is too long. With the new divisional realignment coming next season, it will be even longer.

But I wish it lasted 12 months. I know it gets cold in Kansas City, Milwaukee, Chicago and almost every other baseball city, but, wait a minute, before you start calling me an idiot.

I know that the players don't want to try to hit a 95-mph fastball in on the hands in six inches of snow in subzero temperatures. I also know that I don't want to see it come to that but I want to see something.

Maybe, for all of us baseball junk-

ies in need of a fix by late November or early December, ESPN could broadcast some games from the winter leagues in the Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico.

These telecasts probably wouldn't be economically feasible for ESPN or any other sports network competing for a buck against college football and basketball but I, along with a lot of other crazy baseball fans, get pretty desperate by mid-winter.

So, while I wait for the progression of sports television to bring me baseball year-round, I'll use the image of Joe Carter's bomb and my other memories of seasons past to help me endure the offseason.

"We're practicing for Colorado, but we're practicing more for us on our side of the net," she said. "We can't worry about Kansas State or Colorado."

Kansas State is last in the Big Eight

with a 0-6 mark. The Wildcats are 7-14 overall.

The Huskers defeated the Wildcats 15-5, 15-7, 15-9 in their first Big Eight match of the season. After Wednesday's match, the Huskers come home for a match against Colorado Saturday. The Buffaloes beat the Huskers in five games in Boulder, Colo., on Oct. 13.

But most Husker practices haven't been devoted to preparing for Colorado, Novak said. Even though the Cornhuskers have won their last two matches, they are focused on improving, Novak said.

"We're practicing for Colorado, but we're practicing more for us on our side of the net," she said. "We can't worry about Kansas State or Colorado."

Griesch is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.