

Coach says team's mentally prepared

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

Although Nebraska is coming off of its biggest win of the season, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he didn't think the undefeated Cornhuskers would be emotionally down against Kansas.

"I would be surprised if we were flat in these next three games," Osborne said during his weekly press conference on Tuesday. "I think we'll play well."

After beating Colorado 21-17 Saturday, the Huskers will face Kansas on Saturday in Lawrence, Kan., and then host Iowa State on Nov. 13 before finishing the regular season against Oklahoma in Lincoln on Nov. 26.

Osborne said every team the Huskers faced this season gave Nebraska a strong effort and he didn't expect things to change in the last three games.

He also said that Nebraska was in a similar position as other top teams around the country.

"Any team that can beat Florida State right now will make their season," Osborne said. "We are in the same kind of position. We'll have to play at a top level the next three games."

Because teams have been gunning for Nebraska all season, Osborne said, the Huskers had developed a strong will to win.

Coach says win has Huskers in national championship hunt

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

With three games remaining, Cornhusker players say they are legitimate contenders for the national title, especially after their 21-17 victory over Colorado Saturday.

The win over the Buffaloes shows people around the country that the Huskers have a definite shot at winning the title, over Toby Wright said.

"We showed that we deserve to be considered," he said.

The Huskers are 8-0 and have the inside track to the Big Eight title and an Orange Bowl berth with the win.

Husker coach Tom Osborne agreed, saying Nebraska had a chance to win the title "for

"They have been able to find a way to win, and we hope they can continue to do that the next three games," Osborne said.

While Osborne is assured the Huskers will be mentally prepared for the rest of the season, he is unsure about the physical health of Nebraska.

Tommie Frazier has a sore shoulder and Calvin Jones and Damon Benning are sick.

Osborne said he still wasn't sure if Frazier or Jones would be able to play Saturday.

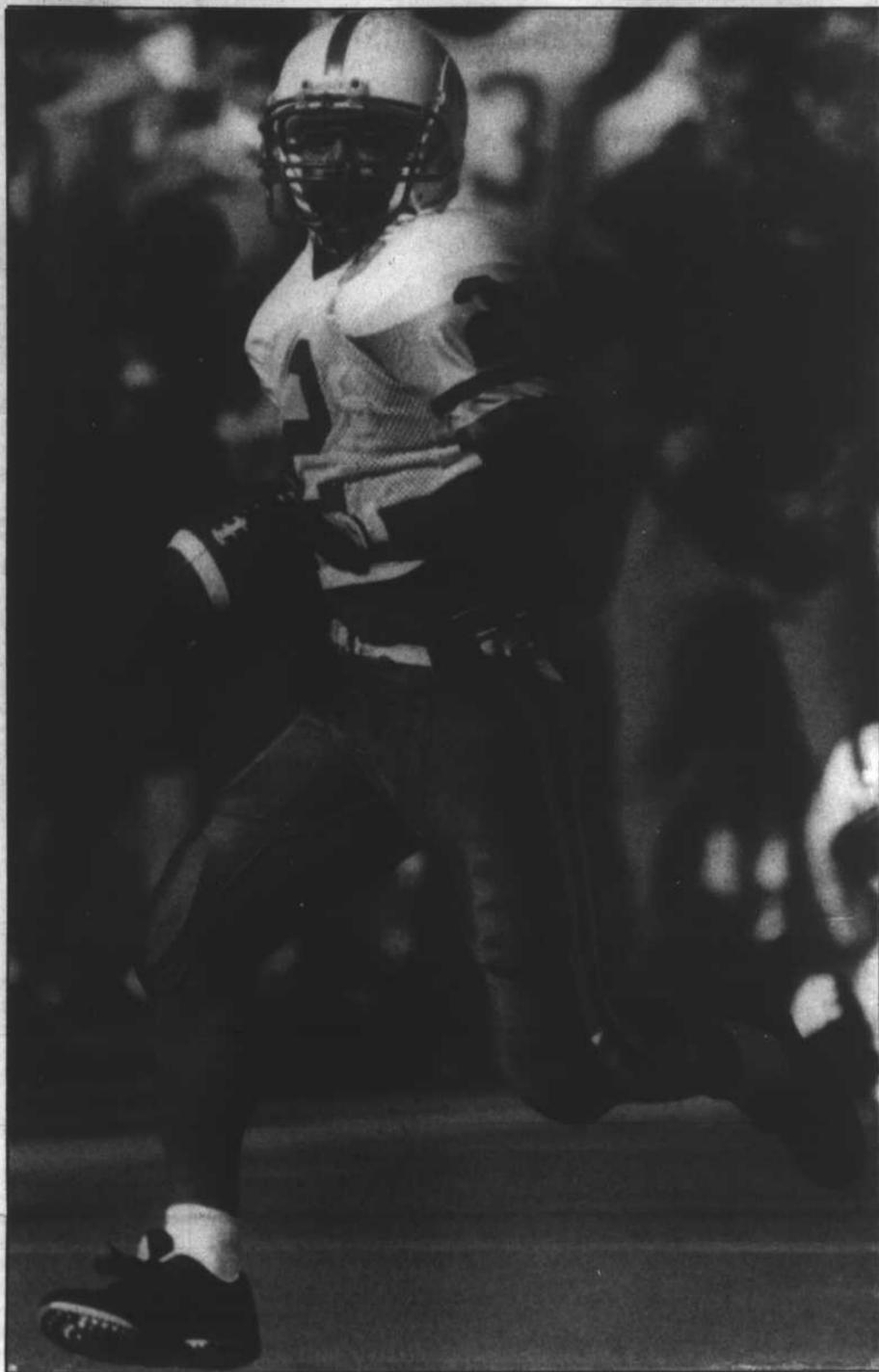
While the injuries at the skilled positions concern Osborne, the biggest injuries are on the offensive line.

Right guard Brenden Stai was lost for the season against Missouri and left guard Rob Zatechka is listed as questionable after injuring an ankle in the first quarter against Colorado.

Stai and Zatechka each weigh in at 300 pounds, but their replacements, Ken Mehlin and Joel Wilks, tip the scales at 275 pounds.

Osborne said Mehlin and Wilks added quickness to the offensive line but their lack of size hurt the Huskers' power rushing game.

"We are not quite as strong on the inside running game as we would like to be," Osborne said.



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska split end Corey Dixon heads upfield during the 68-yard punt return that set up the Cornhuskers' opening touchdown against Colorado. Dixon is fifth in the Big Eight in punt returns, averaging 10 yards per return. Teammate Kareem Moss is third in punt returns, averaging 11.4 yards per return.

sure." But he also cautioned fans that Nebraska still had three games remaining.

"I think we're closer than we've been recently," Osborne said. "But we're not out of the woods yet. We have to avoid the Iowa State syndrome."

Osborne was referring to last year's 19-10 loss to Iowa State after consecutive blowout wins over ranked opponents Colorado and Kansas.

I-back Calvin Jones said the Huskers had to be ready for every game in the remainder of the season to prevent another disaster like last year's Iowa State game.

Nebraska's solid play against Colorado took the heat off the Huskers, quarterback Tommie

See TITLE TALK on 8

Nebraska basketball roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
43	Terrance Badgett	F	6-6	205	So.	Omaha, Neb.
44	Bruce Chubick	F	6-7.5	232	Sr.	Atkinson, Neb.
12	Jamar Johnson	G	5-11.5	180	Sr.	Elkhart, Ind.
52	Eric Piatkowski	G/F	6-7	215	Sr.	Rapid City, S.D.
3	Chad Jaeger	F	6-7	201	So.	Lexington, Neb.
20	Chris Newton	G	6-1	175	So.	Milford, Neb.
21	Erick Strickland	G	6-3.5	210	So.	Bellevue, Neb.
24	Jaron Boone	G	6-6.5	191	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah
30	Jason Glock	G	6-5	197	So.	Wahoo, Neb.
32	Mikki Moore	C	6-11	195	Fr.	Gaffney, S.C.
33	Tom Best	F	6-9	232	Sr.	South Holland, Ill.
34	Melvin Brooks	F	6-8	235	Jr.	Elizabeth City, N.C.

Nee's questions center on lineup

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

While the Nebraska football team is just entering the heart of the Big Eight season, the Cornhusker basketball team has begun preparations for its upcoming season.

While it's still early, Husker coach Danny Nee, entering his eighth season at Nebraska, said he was pleased with the effort the players had put forth in practices so far.

"We went pretty hard on Saturday,

and I was pleased with the way we worked," Nee said. "I think everyone's got a good idea of what we need to get done and they're trying to do it."



Nee

One of the big questions facing the Huskers at the start of the season is how to make up

for the loss of center Derrick Chandler.

Chandler started 29 games for the Huskers last season, led Nebraska in rebounds and blocked shots and was the Huskers' second-leading scorer.

Amos Gregory was expected to fill at least part of the void, but he transferred to Ball State.

Junior college transfer Melvin Brooks, a 6-foot-8 forward who averaged 15.2 points and 7.3 rebounds at Chowan College, could step in and

See HOOPS on 8

National championship legitimately within Huskers' reach

Welcome to the state of tranquility.

Nebraska is 8-0 and in control of the Big Eight.

The last time the Big Red was undefeated eight games into the season was in 1990. They lost that game to No. 9 Colorado, 27-12.

The Huskers should move to 10-0 with wins over Kansas and Iowa State the next two weeks.

To find a 10-0 Nebraska team, you have to look all the way back to 1983. Remember Mike Rozier, Irving Fryar, Turner Gill and company?

Why aren't Husker fans around the state going nuts about Nebraska football?

Maybe it's because Husker fans have been craving a national championship since Nebraska's last in 1972.

Maybe it's because this Husker team doesn't look anything like the Big Red Machine that rolled over

everybody by an average score of 52-16 in its 12 regular season games in 1983 but was stopped by an underdog Miami team in the Orange Bowl.

Husker fans were heartbroken when the David-like Hurricanes beat the Goliath Cornhuskers, and fans have been reluctant to believe in a national championship since that night.

Or maybe it's because every season since the Huskers won their first national championship in 1970, Nebraska has been mentioned in the title hunt, but has fallen short.

Maybe it's because Florida State spends its Saturday afternoon crushing every hapless opponent it faces in a way that reminds Nebraska fans of the '83 Huskers.

While the Sooners look invincible, so did the '83 Huskers. And we now know that even the unbeatable can be beaten.

Unless Florida State trips against a



Jeff Griesch

tough Notre Dame team in South Bend, Ind., on Nov. 13, or against intrastate rival Florida, the Sooners appear destined for a national championship game against the Huskers in the Orange Bowl.

The only thing standing between the Huskers and a national championship game in the Orange Bowl is Oklahoma.

I am sure Husker players and especially Coach Tom Osborne will say Oklahoma is the furthest thing from their minds. They're lying.

But don't worry about Nebraska looking past its next two opponents and focusing on the Sooners. That

won't happen.

The biggest concern for fans and players right now should be Kansas.

Although Kansas is a battered, bruised and beaten group of birds, they are still dangerous, and the Huskers know it.

After an emotional win against Colorado, the Big Red might be a little flat.

They need to realize now, if they don't already, that every game is for the national championship.

Nebraska's 19-10 loss to the Cyclones last season embarrassed the Huskers and cost them a Top 10 ranking.

The Huskers have a big score to settle with Iowa State and won't even consider looking ahead to the Sooners until the Cyclones have been blown out of Memorial Stadium.

The wins will leave the Huskers 10-0 and facing the Sooners on a blustery Friday in late November.

The Sooners looked like the Oklahoma of old until stumbling against Colorado. Last week, they fell to Kansas State 21-7 and will be fighting to stay out of fourth place in the conference.

The Sooners will be motivated but Nebraska has found a way to win this season and will find some way to win the next three games.

Anything can happen when it comes down to one game. It would be nice to be David instead of Goliath in a national championship game.

Don't be afraid to start thinking about a national championship. The Huskers have a legitimate shot. Give them some credit.

Start buzzing about the Huskers. This just might be the season Nebraska has been waiting for since 1972.

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