

Cyclone coach says Huskers should be No. 2

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

Iowa State football coach Jim Walden stuck up for Nebraska on Monday, saying the Cornhuskers deserve a shot at a national championship if they beat Oklahoma.

Walden said the Huskers' 49-17 win over Walden's Cyclones on Saturday, combined with Florida State's 31-24 loss to new No. 1 Notre Dame, should have been enough to move the Huskers to the No. 2 spot in the polls. Nebraska is No. 2 in the

coaches' poll, but is third behind Florida State in both the writers' poll and the coalition poll, which determines bowl matchups and a national title game.

"Nebraska didn't just get off the damn bus," Walden said during the Big Eight coaches' weekly teleconference. "They have been pretty damn good for a long time. Nebraska needs as much respect as Notre Dame and Florida State."

Part of the reason Nebraska is being snubbed by Associated Press voters, Walden said, is because the writers

have a feeling they should give Seminole coach Bobby Bowden every chance to win the national championship.

"I'll be so damn glad when that guy finally wins one so we can get on with doing things the way we have done them for the past 25 years," Walden said. "I think a lot of writers have gotten into this 'let's do it for Bobby' mentality."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne sympathized with Bowden's inability to win a national championship.

Osborne said he thought the

Seminole had been the best team at the end of the season in three of the past five years. And despite the loss Saturday, he said, the Seminoles have proven they are one of the best in the country again.

But Walden showed no sympathy for Bowden's situation.

"He got his butt beat," Walden said. "In fact if it wasn't for a deflected pass in the end zone, it would have been 31-17."

Now that Florida State has stumbled, Walden said, Nebraska deserves a chance.

“**Nebraska needs as much respect as Notre Dame and Florida State.**”

-- Walden
Iowa State coach

“Florida State had their shot, and now Nebraska deserves to be in that No. 2 spot.”

Huskers plan to play season without center

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

Without a true center, the Nebraska basketball team is going to rely on a more wide-open and guard-oriented offensive attack this season, coach Danny Nee said Monday.

The Cornhuskers — which open Tuesday night with an exhibition against Spartak Club, the Ukrainian National basketball team — will not even list a center in the starting lineup. Tipoff is at 7 p.m.

Nee said the Huskers would go with a three-guard and two-forward lineup and planned to play without a center all season.

"We are going to play an open-post type offense where you physically won't see a guy on the box," Nee said. "It's a shotgun type of set."

Nee half-jokingly compared the offense to more of a playground style of basketball and said he thought the players were really going to enjoy the new system.

"I went back to Brooklyn where everyone wants to handle the ball and everyone wants to shoot it and no one wants to play defense," Nee said. "I think that's how you can describe our team."

Nebraska senior point guard Jamar Johnson said the Huskers would live and die by the outside shot this season, both on offense and defense.

"We plan on trying to shoot 25 'threes' a game," Johnson said. "And part of our plan on defense is going to be to make teams beat us from the outside."

Along with Johnson and Piatkowski, Nee said, sophomore Jaron Boone will start at guard tonight. Senior Bruce Chubick and sophomore Terrance Badgett will start at forwards.

NOTE:

— Before the men's game tonight, the women's team will take on the St. Louis Hoopsters in a 4:45 p.m. game. Admission is free for students.

Husker coach Angela Beck said she wouldn't predict a win, but she hopes her young team can learn from the game.

"I want (the Hoopsters) to come in and teach us a few things," she said. "I want to see some different player combinations."

Beck said the Huskers would display a new motion offense against the Hoopsters.

"It's the motion offense of the '90s," she said.

The Huskers return two starters — point guard Meggan Yedsena and forward Nafeesah Brown — from last year's 23-8 team. The other three starters will be sophomore guards Kate Galligan and Lis Brenden and sophomore forward Dina Haselip.



Nebraska's Tyrone Williams, right, battles with Iowa State's Jason Putz for one of the two fumbles he recovered Saturday during the opening kickoff of the Cornhuskers' 49-17 win.

Kiley Timperley/DN

Season in stands motivates cornerback

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

One year ago, Tyrone Williams sat in the stands and watched as the Nebraska Cornhuskers romped through the Big Eight on their way to the Orange Bowl.

How times have changed. The Huskers will once again be playing in the Orange Bowl come New Year's Day. But this time Williams will be playing a big role as Nebraska's starting right cornerback.

The 6-foot, 180-pound sophomore was a casualty of the NCAA's Proposition 48 last year and was forced to sit out the football season.

"It was very hard," Williams said. "I had never sat out a year of football before. There were even a couple of times that I thought about going home — not quitting football — but transferring somewhere else."

Williams said he was glad he stayed.

The sophomore from Palmetto, Fla., has made the most of his opportunities this season. After beginning the year unlisted on the depth chart, he has moved into a starting role.

And he has played a key role in the Huskers' success this season, especially when it comes to making big plays. He intercepted a halfback pass to thwart a Kansas State drive inside the 10-yard line with less than one minute remaining in the first half of Nebraska's 45-28 win.

On Saturday, Williams recovered an Iowa State fumble on the opening kickoff to set up a Husker score. He also recovered a fumble on Iowa State's first play from scrimmage, which led to another Nebraska touchdown.

"The game goes by, and things happen fast," Williams said.

Things almost happened too fast for Williams last year.

While Williams considered leaving, he

had to watch his roommate and high school teammate Tommie Frazier make a quick impact at Nebraska.

Frazier's success "kind of added to" his frustration, he said.

"I had to watch while he's out there starting out at quarterback," he said. "It only added to the rough times."

But in retrospect, Williams said, sitting out made him a better player and a better person.

"It definitely helped me," Williams said. "It made me look at the positive things, not the negative things. I think it helped me grow up. That was something I did a lot last year."

Simply playing has made this season special, Williams said.

"Any time you get to play after sitting out is a huge thing," he said. "Making the big plays just adds on."

Video game can answer national championship question

Enough talk about the coalition and the biased writers' poll.

Think video games and national championships.

They go hand-in-hand. Whatever happens in video games happens in real life. Right?

So with the national title up for grabs, it's time to turn to the almighty Sega Genesis oracle. Add Sega to the list of the great prophets of way back.

Most people think the title race is between Florida State and Notre Dame. The Cornhuskers feel they deserve to be invited into the national championship race. And the Fighting Irish could be their date to the big

dance.

And according to Saint Sega and Bill Walsh's College Football, the Huskers and the Irish would be a match made in heaven.

Saint Sega says the Huskers could put up a better fight against the Irish than Barney did against Big Bird.

Although the teams on Bill Walsh are from last season, let's pretend last year's Husker and Irish teams are similar to this year's.

The Orange Bowl is held in Lincoln for once — at least it was on my screen the other night.

It would be Lou Holtz vs. Tom Osborne. No. 1 against No. 2. Osborne



Tim Pearson

finally gets another chance to quench his thirst for a national championship.

Notre Dame marched down the screen — I mean, the field — on its first drive and quickly put up a field goal to take the lead. After Tommie Frazier threw an interception, the Irish again connected on a 34-yarder to make it 6-0.

The inevitable — Nebraska choking in a bowl game — was happening. It's just like always.

But it didn't happen. The Nebraska players had said all season they'd find a way to win. Frazier had guaranteed that if the national title was on the line and the game was close, the Huskers would pull it out.

Frazier calmly led the Huskers on two drives which resulted in 10 points. The Huskers were up 10-6 at half.

The Irish came back with a touchdown in the third but the extra point attempt was blocked — by Barron Miles.

Frazier again stepped up in the

fourth quarter, moving the ball to the Notre Dame 4. With four seconds left, Byron Bennett entered and drilled a 24-yarder to start the celebration.

The Huskers proved their doubters wrong, at least on the screen. It could happen. They have the will to win and, if given the chance, they can take it all. Wouldn't it be sweet revenge?

It would. And remember, Saint Sega and his video-game angels never lie.

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