

NU coach predicts close Kickoff Classic

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

West Virginia went undefeated in the regular season last year.

But the Mountaineers were ranked third in the bowl coalition poll at the end of the regular season.

The Mountaineers will start this season in the same predicament after being ranked 23rd in the CNN/USA TODAY coaches' preseason poll and 24th in the Associated Press preseason ratings.

But that doesn't make Nebraska coach Tom Osborne any more confident going into Sunday's Kickoff Classic against West Virginia at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

"I think they'll be a very motivated team," Osborne said. "They play a hard-nosed brand of football. They look a lot like we do. They run some option, and they run it at you."

"They send some play action. They play good defense and have good kicking. I think it will be a very close game and a very competitive game."

It will be the first time the teams have ever met, although last year the two teams likely could have been matched up in the Orange Bowl for the national title.

As the only two bowl-eligible teams to complete the regular season undefeated, it looked as if it would be a Nebraska-West Virginia matchup in the Orange Bowl for the national championship.

However, Florida State was ranked ahead of the Mountaineers in the bowl coalition poll, and the Seminoles eventually beat Nebraska for the national title. Meanwhile, Florida defeated the

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Mountaineers in the Sugar Bowl.

"Last year, I thought West Virginia had a great defensive football team," Osborne said. "They had a lot of speed and were a very aggressive team. I know that (Mountaineer coach) Don Nehlen feels they will be as good or better defensively. That concerns me, particularly in an early game."

"If they can play great defense and have great kicking, which they should, I think they should be a very strong football team to deal with."

But this year's version of West Virginia still has some unanswered questions, mainly about the starting quarterback job.

The Mountaineers will apparently use two quarterbacks, Eric Boykin and Chad Johnston, in the Kickoff Classic.

Osborne said West Virginia should be solid with either one.

"My understanding is that physi-

See CLASSIC on 11



Husker cornerback Barron Miles takes a water break after practice. Miles will be going home to New Jersey to play in front of numerous family members and friends at the Kickoff Classic on Sunday.

Mountaineer coach praises NU

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

After listening to West Virginia coach Don Nehlen talk about his team's upcoming game against Nebraska in the Kickoff Classic, you get the feeling that he likes this year's Cornhusker team.

During the past few days, Nehlen has come up with a variety of ways to commend Nebraska.

"Regardless of how you cut it," Nehlen said, "you have to pay (Nebraska) the highest respect. They have the best football program in the nation over the last 10 to 15 years. Nobody, even Notre Dame as good as they are, has matched Nebraska's consistency."

"And this year Nebraska is one of the top one, two or three teams in the nation."

Nehlen not only praised the Cornhuskers but also applauded Nebraska coach Tom Osborne.

"Tom Osborne should be an absolute walking genius and god out there," he said. "When you read their press guide, it's almost unbelievable. My hat's off to their program."

Nehlen isn't too bad of a coach himself. In 14 seasons at West Virginia, the nation's 13th most winning active coach has racked up a record of 103-56-4. He has guided the Mountaineers to eight bowls and two undefeated regular seasons.

Sunday's 1 p.m. game in East Rutherford, N.J., marks the first meeting between No. 3 Nebraska and No. 23

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West Virginia.

Even with all of Nebraska's talent, Nehlen said, the Mountaineers are not intimidated by the Huskers.

"We know that Nebraska is a great team," Nehlen said. "And they could beat any top team, but we never go into a game trying to just match up. We go in trying to win it."

The Mountaineers did a lot of winning a year ago. They went 11-0 in the regular season before losing to Florida 41-7 in the Sugar Bowl.

Nehlen shied away from questions about last season. Despite the fact that many people thought Nebraska and West Virginia should have squared off in a national championship game last year, Nehlen said Sunday's game had nothing to do with 1993.

"This isn't last year's game," he said. "We have a different team, and they have a different team."

However, he said Nebraska's team was not a whole lot different.

"They have most of their key guys back," Nehlen said. "It was obvious from looking at last year's Orange Bowl that Nebraska was a great team. Florida State was supposed to be so much better than everybody else, and Nebraska was every bit as talented as them."

One talented player with whom the Mountaineers will have to contend is Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier, Nehlen said.

Based primarily on film from the Orange Bowl, in which the Huskers lost to the Seminoles 18-16, Nehlen said Frazier was deserving of high praise.

"I see their main strength as they have a third-year quarterback coming back who very well could be the Heisman Trophy winner," Nehlen said. "He's got it all, and he's got a great supporting cast."

Game Day '94

Kickoff Classic
Sunday, 1p.m.
TV: ABC



Nebraska

West Virginia

OFFENSE

QB 15	Tommie Frazier	6-2	205	QB 8	Chad Johnston	6-3	200
FB 40	Cory Schlesinger	6-0	230	FB 29	Jim Freeman	6-0	238
TB 1	Lawrence Phillips	6-0	200	IB 43	Robert Walker	5-11	200
SE 7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	SE 25	Rahsaan Varterpool	5-11	185
FL 27	Abdul Muhammad	5-9	160	WB 47	Zach Abraham	6-0	180
RT 72	Zach Wiegert	6-5	300	RT 70	Chris Klick	6-8	300
LT 56	Rob Zatechka	6-5	315	LT 76	Calvin Edwards	6-4	305
RG 66	Brenden Stal	6-4	300	RG 72	Pete Tirade	6-7	315
LG 76	Joel Wilks	6-3	280	LG 69	Tom Robsack	6-5	275
C 54	Aaron Graham	6-3	280	C 57	Jay Brooks	6-3	265
TE 85	Matt Shaw	6-3	235	TE 82	Lovett Purnell	6-3	230
PK 12	Tom Sieler	6-5	205	PK 16	Todd Sauerbrun	6-0	200

DEFENSE

LOLB 86	Dwayne Harris	6-2	225	DE 97	Steven Perkins	6-3	255
DT 55	Christian Peter	6-2	285	DT 93	John Browning	6-5	260
NT 99	Terry Connealy	6-5	275	NT 99	Barry Hawkins	6-4	295
ROLB 84	Donta Jones	6-2	220	RUSH 42	Canute Curtis	6-2	245
SAM 4	Troy Dumas	6-4	220	SLB 4	Puppy Wright	6-3	230
MIKE 48	Doug Colman	6-3	240	MLB 55	Bo Chatfield	6-3	230
WILL 32	Ed Stewart	6-1	215	WLB 3	Matt Taffoni	6-0	220
LCB 14	Barron Miles	5-8	165	WC 32	Aaron Beasley	6-0	190
RCB 2	Leslie Dennis	5-8	165	SC 23	Mike Logan	6-1	200
ROV 29	Kareem Moss	5-10	190	FS 1	Vann Washington	6-1	195
FS 10	Mike Minter	5-10	175	SS 30	David Mayfield	5-11	195
P 6	Darrin Erstad	6-2	195	P 16	Todd Sauerbrun	6-0	200

DN graphic

Alumnae match to begin season

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska volleyball team begins its 1994 season by playing some past Cornhusker greats in an alumnae match Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

The alumnae team, made up of 14 past Husker players, will have five former All-Americans, including assistant volleyball coaches Val Novak and Cathy Noth.

Last season the Huskers had nine All-Americans return, but this season only Eileen Shannon, Stephanie Thater, Novak, Kathi DeBoer (Wieskamp) and Noth will participate.

Nine other Husker players will join the five All-Americans to help fill out the alumnae roster.

Noth said the alumnae team planned to practice beforehand so it could be better prepared for the match.

Noth, who is in charge of putting together the alumnae team, said this season she had some trouble getting a competitive team together.

"It was a little difficult getting people together," Noth said. "We just hope we can have a team that can give the Huskers a good run."

Noth, who played with the Huskers from 1981-84, said having successful alumnae come back and play showed the quality of the Nebraska volleyball program.

"It's encouraging to our players to know that five to 10 years later, they can still play volleyball," she said. "It gives some idea of how we help make Nebraska volleyball."

NU quarterback transfers

From Staff Reports

The list of scholarship quarterbacks on the Nebraska football team has shrunk to two after Jon Elder transferred to Wayne State on Tuesday.

Wayne State coach Dennis Wagner said Elder, a 6-foot-3, 195-pound freshman from Sioux City, Iowa, called Wagner's home Monday evening and told the coach that he wanted to leave the Cornhuskers.

"I was really surprised and excited when I found out that Jon had called," Wagner said. "He asked if we were still interested in him, and

I told him he was more than welcome here."

Elder didn't feel comfortable with the Husker offense and was having second thoughts about waiting in line for several years to have a shot at the starting job, Wagner said.

Wagner said he expected Elder, who must sit out a year, to adjust quickly to Wayne State's one-back, four-wide receiver offensive set.

"For Jon, I am sure he will be much more comfortable with our offense than he did with Nebraska's, because we run a very similar set to what he did at Sioux City West," Wagner said. "Jon is a great athlete, but he just didn't feel comfortable running the option."