

# Most Big Eight coaches glad they didn't have games

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Reporter

From the looks of Nebraska's 31-0 win over West Virginia on Sunday, most Big Eight teams probably won't be so excited when it comes time to take on the Cornhuskers, Kansas coach Glen Mason said in Monday's weekly Big Eight coaches' teleconference.

Mason said his team was ready to start the season, but after watching the Kickoff Classic, he said his team wasn't ready for the third- and fourth-ranked Huskers.

"I was busy with practice most of the day," he said, "so I taped the game and got to watch it at night. I was a little bit surprised at the halftime score, but I knew Nebraska was going to be good. And they look awful good to me."

Kansas State coach Bill Snyder, whose team capped off a 9-2-1 season last year with a 52-17 win over Wyoming in the Copper Bowl, agreed with Mason.

"(Nebraska) obviously has proven to the nation that they are going to be very competitive for the No. 1 spot."

As the Huskers head toward Week 2 of the season with one victory under their belt, most Big Eight coaches are pleased their team didn't have to play a game this weekend.

Kansas and Oklahoma State open their seasons Thursday, while the remaining five teams will begin action Saturday.

Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones was among those who thought his team was not ready to hit the field. The Cowboys, who open at Northern Illinois, were picked to finish last in the conference by the Big Eight Skywriters and in the preseason media poll.

"We still are a long way from answering some questions," Jones said. "We have some worries as far as depth goes, but the only way to answer those questions is to play a game."

Jim Walden — who has a 28-47-2 record in seven seasons at Iowa State — said he was expecting to field a competitive team this season, but the Cyclones needed time to heal from preseason injuries.

"It has been the most stressful two-a-days for me ever," Walden said. "We have had some problems off the field. But they have their heads

set on being a very good football team."

Walden said as many as seven Cyclones listed on the two-deep depth chart would see limited or no action against Northern Iowa on Saturday.

"We are starting the season limping," he said. "But we aren't crippled."

Oklahoma offensive coordinator Merv Johnson said the Sooners were anxious to get under way, but injuries also had hampered Oklahoma's fall scrimmages.

"Right now we're kind of walking on egg shells," Johnson said.

Oklahoma begins play Saturday against Syracuse in the Carrier Dome.

First-year Missouri coach Larry Smith, who in 17 years has coached at Tulane, Arizona and Southern California, said the Tigers were hoping to bring a new attitude into the season.

"For the most part, we had a good camp," Smith said. "We're pretty much ready to go. How we will handle adversity will show how our self-esteem has improved. We need a game to get that confidence level up."

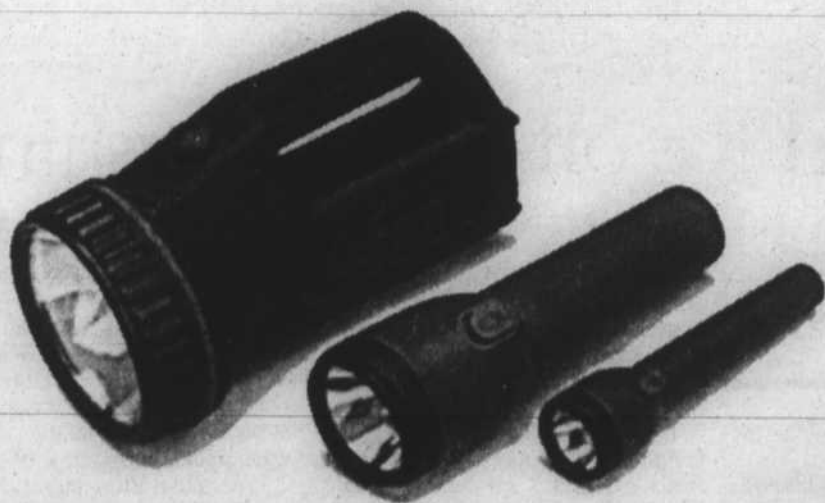
## Big Eight Openers

<b>Thursday, Sept. 1</b>		
Oklahoma State at Northern Illinois	6:35 pm	
Kansas at Houston	7:00 pm	
<b>Saturday, Sept. 3</b>		
SW Louisiana at Kansas State	6:30 pm	
NE Louisiana at Colorado	12:10 pm	
Tulsa at Missouri	6:00 pm	
Oklahoma at Syracuse	7:30 pm	
Northern Iowa at Iowa State	1:00 pm	

DN graphic

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## Husker soccer out for respect

### From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's soccer team will unofficially open its season Tuesday against Bellevue College in a 5:30 p.m. exhibition game at Whittier Field.

And Cornhusker coach John Walker stresses the word "unofficial."

Walker said that although the game was important for the players and for the program, it would not be an accurate portrait of what the season would be like.

This will be the first collegiate game for most of his players, so Walker said there was a lot of room to go upward.

Danielle Boswell, a freshman from Fresno, Calif., agreed with Walker that the game would not tell much about the rest of the season. She said there was still a lot to work on, but the players were ready to play.

Former Lincoln Southeast standout Carrie Strobe, also a freshman, said the game would show the players how well they play together and also what they need to work on before their regular season home opener against Creighton Sept. 6.

Boswell and Strobe both said they had one big goal for the game. They are striving for respect. Winning the game, they said, could go a long way in showing people that the Husker program is for real.

"We want to convince the students that we're out here," Strobe said.



**Practice Begins Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m.**

**Harper Schramm Smith. No Experience Necessary. New players encouraged.**



**Dance Contest Every Tuesday 9 p.m. 1823 "O" Street NO COVER**