

SPORTS

Thursday, September 8, 1994

Page 10

No. 1 Huskers face Texas Tech

Nebraska to face veteran defense

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Texas Tech won't have a Bam Morris at I-back, a Robert Hall at quarterback or a Lloyd Hill at split end.

But one thing the top-ranked Cornhuskers can count on seeing tonight in Lubbock, Texas, when they face Texas Tech is an experienced Red Raider defense.

Texas Tech lost three major offensive weapons in Morris, Hall and Hill, but Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he expected to see a much-improved Red Raider defense compared to that of a year ago. He said Texas Tech's defense was better than the one his team saw in last year's 50-27 victory in Lincoln.

Last year, the Huskers racked up 317 yards rushing against the Red Raiders and 534 total yards.

"Going into the season, what I read about them indicated they had more experience on defense," he said. "They had nine original starters returning. We think they'll have a great number of their key (defensive) players back."

But replacing players like last season's Doak Walker Award winner Morris, who rushed for 1,752 yards and 22 touchdowns, isn't easy.

Osborne said Texas Tech's 467 total yards in its 37-31 win over New Mexico on Saturday might have calmed Red Raider coach Spike Dykes' fears about his offense.

"I'm sure they were quite pleased with the way things turned out in that (New Mexico) ballgame, because offensively, they looked good."

TOM OSBORNE
NU Football Coach

"They seemed to be a little bit more concerned about offense because they have new quarterbacks, a new I-back; they lost one of their key receivers and some of their offensive linemen," Osborne said. "I'm sure they were quite pleased with the way things turned out in that (New Mexico) ballgame, because offensively, they looked good."

Like Nebraska's Kickoff Classic opponent, West Virginia, Texas Tech will use two quarterbacks against the Huskers.

Freshman Zebbie Lethridge did not start the New Mexico game but came in for the second quarter and finished with 190 yards after completing 16 of 22 passes.

Game Day '94

Jones Stadium
Lubbock, Texas
Tonight, 7 p.m.

Nebraska

Texas Tech

OFFENSE

QB 15 Tommie Frazier	6-2 205	QB 11 Tony Darden	6-0 180
FB 40 Cory Schlesinger	6-0 230	FB 40 Todd Walker	6-0 211
IB 1 Lawrence Phillips	6-0 200	IB 3 Alton Crain	5-9 191
SE 7 Reggie Baul	5-8 170	SE 87 Field Scovell	5-11 180
WB 27 Abdul Muhammad	5-9 160	FL 24 Matt DuBuc	5-8 163
RT 72 Zach Wiegert	6-5 300	RT 73 Jeff Wood	6-5 291
LT 56 Rob Zatechka	6-5 315	LT 75 Ben Kaufman	6-5 286
RG 66 Brenden Stai	6-4 300	RG 79 Robert Rivera	6-3 280
LG 76 Joel Wilks	6-3 280	LG 65 Casey Jones	6-5 273
C 54 Aaron Graham	6-3 280	C 56 Scott Fitzgerald	6-2 262
TE 85 Matt Shaw	6-3 235	TE 83 Scott Aylor	6-4 230
PK 12 Tom Sieler	6-5 205	PK 16 Jon Davis	5-11 198

DEFENSE

LOLB 86 Dwayne Harris	6-2 225	DE 99 William Ritter	6-2 245
DT 55 Christian Peter	6-2 285	DT 91 Damon Wickware	6-3 279
NT 99 Terry Connealy	6-5 275	NT 76 Chris Ori	6-2 264
ROLB 84 Donta Jones	6-2 220	DE 94 Byron Wright	6-4 245
SAM 4 Troy Dumas	6-4 220	SLB 7 Robert Johnson	5-11 186
MIKE 48 Doug Colman	6-3 240	MLB 35 Zach Thomas	6-0 232
WILL 32 Ed Stewart	6-1 215	WLB 46 Shawn Banks	6-2 224
LCB 14 Barron Miles	5-8 165	LCB 22 Cat Adams	5-8 170
RCB 2 Leslie Dennis	5-8 165	RCB 25 Shawn Hurd	5-8 171
ROV 29 Kareem Moss	5-10 190	R 12 Marcus Coleman	6-2 201
FS 10 Mike Minter	5-10 175	FS 23 Bart Thomas	6-2 189
P 6 Darin Erstad	6-2 195	P 14 Brad Cade	6-2 174

DN graphic

Tony Darden, also a freshman, started the game for the Red Raiders and completed seven of 13 passes for 92 yards.

"Those quarterbacks played very well," Osborne said. "They completed almost 70 percent of their passes. Overall, I thought they executed well. It was an important win for them."

Nebraska hasn't played since Aug.

28, which may give the Huskers an advantage, because Texas Tech had only four days between games to prepare for the Thursday night game.

"A lot depends on the physical status of their team," Osborne said. "If they didn't suffer a lot of injuries, it might not affect them much at all. On the other hand, if you get beat up, it can be a factor."

Coach says Texas Tech offense raw

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

In Nebraska's first game this season, the Cornhuskers faced a team featuring two quarterbacks, neither of whom had ever started a game at the collegiate level.

The Husker defense welcomed West Virginia's Chad Johnston and Eric Boykin to the world of college football by sacking them a total of eight times.

So when Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes watched the film of Nebraska's 31-0 victory, he cringed, because his team isn't much better off than West Virginia.

"We have got our work cut out for us," Dykes said. "I don't know what to expect. They are scary."

Texas Tech also will send two young, inexperienced quarterbacks up against No. 1 Nebraska tonight at 7 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN from Jones Stadium in Lubbock, Texas.

Tony Darden, who started Saturday in the Red Raiders' 37-31 come-from-behind win over New Mexico, and Zebbie Lethridge will share quarterback duties tonight. Both are redshirt freshmen.

Dykes said he was pleased with the play of his two freshman quarterbacks in the Red Raiders' win over New Mexico.

See DYKES on 11

Speedier defense is Cornhuskers' program for success

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Ten years ago, if you asked Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride what the Cornhuskers were looking for when recruiting defensive players, he would have told you size.

But a decadelong trend away from bulk and toward speed and quickness has been adopted by the Nebraska coaching staff during the past five years.

The results have begun to show.

"We have taken a little bit of the size factor out of it," McBride said. "We are going to be outsized by teams, but hopefully the speed factor will make up for it."

McBride hopes top-ranked Nebraska's 31-



Connealy



Dumas



Harris

0 thumping of West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic is just a sample of what is in store for Husker opponents this fall.

"I don't think you ever expect anything like that," McBride said of the defense, which held

the West Virginia offense to only 89 total yards.

West Virginia's eight yards rushing was the lowest total by a Nebraska opponent since South Carolina posted minus 14 yards on Oct.

3, 1987.

Speed, McBride said, has allowed Nebraska to switch from a 3-4 defensive look to its new 4-3 alignment. Prior to last year, the Huskers occasionally used a dime package, similar to the 4-3, in passing situations.

"We felt at one point a few years ago that we didn't have enough speed in our secondary to do a lot of the things that we are doing now," McBride said. "So we have tried to recruit with the idea that we have got to have people at the outside positions that can run."

Speedy secondary starters Mike Minter, Tyrone Williams and Barron Miles are among the fastest players on the entire team.

The emergence of speed has allowed

See DEFENSE on 11

Husker fullback possesses an appetite for destruction

Like a wrecking ball turning a once-proud building into a pile of bricks, boards and garbage, Cory Schlesinger smashes into an opposing linebacker.

The linebacker crumbles at the force of the Nebraska fullback's block and rattles his head to collect his senses before preparing himself for the next Nebraska running play.

The linebacker will remember that Schlesinger block, and the next one, and the next for the rest of the season.

He'll remember what it was like to tangle with "The Demolition Man."

Along with demolishing opposing linebackers for the Cornhuskers, the senior fullback from Duncan loves to demolish cars as a hobby.

Schlesinger picked up the pastime as a young boy while watching his father, Gary, drive in demolition derbies in county fairs.

"My dad's been doing it since I was about 1 year old," Schlesinger said. "Platte County is probably the biggest demo area in the world, so it was just kind of a natural thing for me to get into."

Schlesinger used to cruise the countryside with his dad searching for any car with the potential to be in a demolition derby.

"Sometimes you find cars at junkyards or in an abandoned field," Schlesinger said. "You just never know where you are going to find one. You just keep your eyes open and hope you find a good car."

Once they found a good car, Schlesinger and his dad prepared the car for the derby by taking out all the windows, working on or replacing the engine and making it into a shell of a car ready to be graffiti-marked for may-



Jeff Griesch

hem.

When Schlesinger finally was old enough to drive, he hit the muddy pit on his own.

"I loved it," Schlesinger said. "It was great just to finally get a chance to smash into the cars. The work that goes into the cars was fun, but the crashing and smashing and hitting was definitely the best."

Schlesinger drove in demolition derbies in Duncan, Central City, Dodge and Osceola, but after only three years of driving, he had to quit the summer

after his junior year in high school.

"I just didn't have time anymore," Schlesinger said. "I had to concentrate more on school and football. But I still think about doing it, and I am planning on doing it at least one more time."

So instead of wrecking cars in the summer, Schlesinger lifted weights, which earned him Co-Lifter-of-the-Year honors last year.

He holds the Performance Index record among fullbacks at 2,844 points, and his athletic ability has drawn comparisons to the most famous of Nebraska fullbacks — Tom Rathman.

"It is an honor to be compared with Tom Rathman," Schlesinger said. "But I would rather not be thought of as another Rathman. I would like to think I have my own style."

He averaged four yards per carry diving up the middle five or six times a

game and had a total of 250 yards last season.

This preseason, he was listed as the No. 7 fullback in the nation by The Sporting News, and a chance at the National Football League is sure to be waiting for him at the end of this season.

Although Schlesinger has had to shift his attention from smashing opponents in cars toward smashing opponents in football pads, he has kept the same mentality.

"Playing fullback and driving demo are a lot the same," Schlesinger said. "But instead of running full speed ahead and hitting a car, you run full speed ahead and hit that linebacker."

By the glimmer in his eyes and the smile on his face, it is obvious that he loves both.

Griesch is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter and