

National title hopes on the line for Colorado, Michigan

Buffaloes challenge No. 4 Wolverines

By Tim Pearson
Senior Editor

Colorado coach Bill McCartney is returning to his roots.

The Buffaloes will travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to take on No. 4 Michigan Saturday in a contest of top 10 teams.

McCartney came to Colorado in 1982 after serving as an assistant coach at Michigan for eight years.

"I'm excited to go back," he said. "Really all of my roots are there."

And he is thankful that Bo Schembechler gave him a shot in 1974.

"It really goes back to being selected to coach there," McCartney said. "I was a high school coach, and I think the only one Michigan ever hired. "I wasn't ready when they hired

me, and I probably wasn't ready when I left, but I was honored to be given the opportunity to coach there."

The challenge of playing the Wolverines, who are always a national championship contender, is one McCartney thinks his team is ready for.

"The most significant thing is that I'm going in there with a good team," he said.

Colorado is coming off a 55-17 drubbing of then-No. 10 Wisconsin in Boulder. But McCartney said the large margin of victory doesn't necessarily mean his team is that much better than the Badgers.

"We recognize that the victory over Wisconsin got out of hand with the turnovers they had," he said. "We know there's not that big of a discrepancy between us and Wisconsin."

Colorado's Kordell Stewart was named the Big Eight Player of the Week after his 301-yard passing performance against the Badgers.

But McCartney stopped short of calling that Stewart's best game.

"He's played really good games, but he hasn't gotten the same attention," he said.

Stewart said the win was a big confidence-builder for the Buffaloes.

"It was definitely the best game that we have played as a team since I have been here," Stewart said. "We really were prepared for them, and you can see what happened."

"Our team won't settle for less than a conference title and a national championship this year."

But first the Buffaloes must get by the Wolverines, who may have running back Tyrone Wheatley back in action.

McCartney said the Buffaloes have a tough test ahead of them.

"We've been studying them hard," he said. "They have great players. They, along with Florida State, have done the best job of recruiting the last five years."

Big 8 Roundup

1994 Big Eight Conference Football Standings

Conference Games				All Games			
Team	W	L	T	Pct.	W	L	T
Nebraska	0	0	0	1.000	3	0	0
Kansas St.	0	0	0	1.000	2	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0	1.000	2	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	1.000	2	1	0
Oklahoma	0	0	0	1.000	2	1	0
Oklahoma St.	0	0	0	1.000	1	1	0
Missouri	0	0	0	1.000	1	2	0
Iowa St.	0	0	0	1.000	0	3	0
							Pct.
Nebraska							1.000
Kansas St.							1.000
Colorado							1.000
Kansas							.667
Oklahoma							.667
Oklahoma St.							.500
Missouri							.333
Iowa St.							.000

Weekend Results

Baylor 14	Oklahoma St. 10	Western Michigan 23	Iowa St. 19
Missouri 16	Houston 0	Kansas St. 27	Rice 18
Texas Christian 31	Kansas 21	Colorado 55	Wisconsin 17
Oklahoma 17	Texas Tech 11	Nebraska 49	UCLA 21

DN Graphic

Jayhawk QB out indefinitely

From Staff Reports

Kansas quarterback Asheiki Preston is definitely out for this week's game against Alabama-Birmingham, Jayhawk coach Glen Mason said. Preston suffered a hair-line fracture of one of his ribs and a partial collapse of his lung.

"He's definitely out for an indefinite amount of time," Mason said.

Mark Williams will be pulled out of his redshirt year and will start Saturday, he said.

"He's a good athlete, has a good arm and good running ability," Mason said. "I think he'll do fine."

Kansas is coming off of a 31-21 upset loss to Texas Christian, a game that Mason called "a classic example of a team loss."

Frazier, Veland sustain injuries

From Staff Reports

Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier left practice early Monday after bruising his calf in the UCLA game.

Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said Frazier practiced for about half the practice before leaving.

Osborne said Frazier didn't know how it happened, but he said it's probably not serious.

Behind Frazier, the Huskers have junior Brook Berringer and sophomore walk-on Matt Turman.

Also, linebacker Ed Stewart and free safety Tony Veland both missed practice. Veland, who started his first game at free safety in Saturday's win, had a sore hamstring. Stewart was also sore following the game.

Husker runners try out skills in their first, only home meet

From Staff Reports

In its only home meet of the year, the Nebraska men's and women's cross country teams fared well, Coach Jay Dirksen said.

The Cornhusker women won the Woody Greeno-Nebraska Invitational at Pioneers Park on Saturday. The men finished in second place behind HCA Wesley, a running club from Wichita, Kan.

Senior Julie Mazzitelli helped the women to the team title by placing fourth overall and third in the university division. The Huskers, ranked 12th in the nation, finished ahead of Lincoln Track Club 25-36.

Dirksen said he was pleased with how his top six runners ran Saturday.

"They really ran well as a group," he said. "There was only a 32-second spread between our top six runners."

"I think we really did a pretty darn good job. The nice thing about this team is that if somebody falters, we don't drop off much."

Dirksen was pleased that his top seven runners returning from last year's team all improved.

Two former Husker All-Americans, racing for Lincoln Track Club, finished 1-2 for the individual title.

Theresa Stelling, an All-American last year, won the overall title, and Fran ten Benschel finished second.

On the men's side, Husker co-captain Brady Bonsall won the university division and finished third overall. Right behind Bonsall was teammate Kevin Miller, who finished fifth.

Nebraska's next action will be Saturday in the Doane Invitational in Crete.

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Extra

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win the game. A win, however, isn't the only thing Nebraska is looking to get out of the game, he said.

"Regardless of who comes in," Solich said, "we try to make ourselves better by improving in the areas we need to get better in. If they have intentions of being Big Eight champions and competing for the national championship, they need to improve every week."

Line

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In its first three games, Nebraska has rushed for 1,412 yards, an average of more than 470 yards a game.

But Wiegert said that number could be improved upon.

"Right now, I'm really pleased where we're at, and hopefully we'll improve," Wiegert said. "We've got a lot of tough games left, and I don't know how tough the teams are that we've played already."

"We've got so many guys back with experience, and we've got the size, speed and mobility. I think this is

On the offensive side of the ball, Nebraska has improved every week. The Husker ground attack leads the nation, averaging a record pace of more than 458 yards per game. The current mark, set in 1983, is 401.7 yards per game.

Leading the way is Lawrence Phillips. The sophomore I-back leads the Big Eight and ranks fifth in the nation in rushing yardage per game at 159.7.

But the passing game has lacked firepower. The Huskers are averaging 86.3 yards per game through the air,

which ranks 102nd in the nation.

Solich said Nebraska hadn't been forced to use its passing game because of the team's success rushing the ball.

"We have been able to run the ball against every team we have played this year," Solich said. "People say, 'Yes, but can you throw?'"

"If you look at last year, when we have trouble running the ball, we can have a good passing attack. When you are running the ball as effective as we were, you'll probably run the ball. But there will be a day when the throwing game will be a big factor."

definitely the best line since I've been here."

Left guard Joel Wilks said the key this year was that the offensive line was enjoying its job.

"Today (Saturday) is probably the most fun I've ever had in a game," Wilks said. "So far, this whole year has been fun. It's fun being out there with my four friends, who have been working so hard for four years now, and come out and dominate people like this."

"We've gotten better every week, and hopefully we'll continue that. If we keep improving, we'll be the team we want to be at the end of the season."

Clinton Childs, the No. 2 I-back,

came off the bench to run for 78 yards but still gave credit to the line.

"I had a question asked to me earlier, asking if I was spoiled," he said. "I think we (running backs) are spoiled to a certain extent here. That line is going to open holes for us no matter what defense we're playing against."

Left tackle Rob Zatechka said the early success of the running game was no surprise.

"I was pretty confident we'd have a lot of success with this line," he said. "I thought the rushing game would do really well, and it has. It's kind of hard to tell how good you are going to be, but I think we've played three pretty good opponents, and we've fared pretty well."

Utley

Continued from Page 7

Utley said he chose them as hobbies because other people had told him that he could never do any of them.

"I don't ever let anybody tell me that I can't do something," Utley said. "I think the biggest waste is when someone says 'I can't.' To me, those kind of people are a waste of air."

Utley also said paralysis victims shouldn't feel sorry for themselves. "No matter who you are, life deals you with all kinds of setbacks," Utley said. "The key is to deal with it and work through it. Life doesn't end."

Utley said he lifted his left foot six inches off the ground on Friday. He said it had been more than a

year since he knew he could move the big toe on his left foot and said his progress had been steady but slow.

"It's about goddamn time," Utley said. "I expect things to happen faster than they are. It does get frustrating when everything goes so slow, but you just have to keep working."

"If I want to go to a party, then I go," the former Detroit Lion offensive lineman said. "It just takes me a little longer to get to the party, and I bring my own chair."

If you are interested in helping find a cure for paralysis or would like information about paralysis research, write to:

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