

# SPORTS WEEKEND

Friday, September 23, 1994

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## No. 1 Huskers face Pacific



UCLA's Sharmon Shah barely eludes the hands of Nebraska linebacker Donta Jones in Saturday's game at Memorial Stadium. Jones and the Husker defense will defend its No. 1 ranking against Pacific.

## Osborne guarantees fight from Pacific

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

If there is one guarantee from Nebraska coach Tom Osborne about Saturday's game with Pacific, it is that the Tigers will be prepared.

Osborne said he knew Pacific coach Chuck Shelton too well to expect the Tigers to lay down and die after the opening kickoff.

"I've always had a great deal of respect for Chuck Shelton," Osborne said. "Over at Drake, I thought he did a great job. I remember them beating Iowa State a couple times when obviously they were outmanned and outpersonnelled."

"We played him when he was at Utah State, and I thought he got the most out of his players."

Well-coached or not, this is still Pacific — a team whose longest run from scrimmage this season was a 17-yard scramble by quarterback Craig Whelihan.

But Osborne said, other than Whelihan, the strong point of the Tigers' team isn't its offense.

"Defensively, I think they're an experienced football team," Osborne

*"I'm sure we'll be heavily favored, but there are always those times when your opponent plays great and you don't play well."*

**TOM OSBORNE**  
Nebraska coach

said. "Their four secondary players are all three-year starters that have some quickness and are very sound."

The 2-1 Tigers have wins over California-Davis and Southwest Texas State, but their 33-7 loss to Minnesota told Osborne the most about this team.

"I guess the game that I look at this year is Minnesota," he said. "They played at Minnesota, and Min-

See OSBORNE on 10

## Tigers coach hopes to improve

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

Pacific coach Chuck Shelton has a word of warning for people who think the Nebraska football team will walk over his Tigers Saturday at Memorial Stadium.



Shelton

"I think anybody who feels that way has never really competed against anyone," Shelton said. "I call that a civilian mentality that they have, but I consider myself a warrior."

That warrior-like mentality of Shelton may be a major factor in how well his team can perform against the Cornhuskers.

The Tigers are off to their best start since 1986, when they started out 3-1. However, Shelton said, there is room for improvement.

"I'm a little disappointed so far," Shelton said. "We're 2-1 now, and obviously we would like to be 3-0. We haven't beaten anybody yet."

Pacific has defeated two Division I-AA opponents — California-Davis and Southwest Texas State. The only Division I opponent the Tigers have faced this season is Minnesota.

The Gophers beat Pacific 33-7 at Minnesota.

And Shelton is not sure his team is ready for Nebraska, despite its 2-1 record.

"This may not be the best team that we've had since I've been here," Shelton said. "We're still not as mature as I hoped we would be."

Although the Tigers have had a light schedule this season, Shelton said playing two No. 1 teams in the last three years was no accident.

"All that's good to get a high profile," Shelton said. "We want to play against the classiest programs we could, and this one is definitely one of the classiest in all my experiences." Shelton coached at Utah State be-

fore he joined Pacific in 1992, and his Aggies lost to Nebraska 56-12 in 1987, 63-13 in 1988 and 59-28 in 1991.

Although Shelton hasn't had much success coaching against Nebraska, he said he hoped his team wouldn't be intimidated by the atmosphere.

"I don't think we will be physically intimidated," Shelton said. "We might be in awe, but I hope not for too long."

Another problem Shelton will face Saturday is Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier.

"He may be the best quarterback in the country," Shelton said. "He is a young man who has a good shot at the Heisman."

Shelton said he knows things will be stacked against his team in its battle with the No. 1 Huskers.

"I think Nebraska is really the No. 1 team in the country," Shelton said. "They are as awesome as I have ever seen."

## Game Day '94

Memorial Stadium  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Saturday,  
1 p.m.

Nebraska

Pacific

### OFFENSE

|                        |         |                      |          |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------|----------|
| QB 15 Tommie Frazier   | 6-2 205 | QB 5 Craig Whelihan  | 6-5 215  |
| FB 40 Cory Schlesinger | 6-0 230 | TB 33 Joe Abdullah   | 6-0 206  |
| IB 1 Lawrence Phillips | 6-0 200 | FB 26 Kerry Blakney  | 5-11 233 |
| SE 7 Reggie Baul       | 5-8 170 | WR 16 Damon Bowers   | 5-9 183  |
| WB 27 Abdul Muhammad   | 5-9 160 | WR 13 Kerry Brown    | 6-4 193  |
| RT 72 Zach Wiegert     | 6-5 300 | RT 71 Hormaz Jangi   | 6-3 263  |
| LT 56 Rob Zatechka     | 6-5 315 | LT 74 Matt McGinn    | 6-4 277  |
| RG 66 Brenden Stai     | 6-4 300 | RG 56 Justin Werth   | 6-2 281  |
| LG 76 Joel Wilks       | 6-3 280 | LG 62 Bryan Chiu     | 6-2 284  |
| C 54 Aaron Graham      | 6-3 280 | C 61 Aaron McClellan | 6-3 262  |
| TE 85 Matt Shaw        | 6-3 235 | TE 17 Mike Morales   | 6-1 208  |
| PK 12 Tom Sieler       | 6-5 205 | PK 15 Roger Fleenor  | 6-1 177  |

### DEFENSE

|                        |          |                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| LOLB 86 Dwayne Harris  | 6-2 225  | LT 97 Charles Miller   | 6-2 259  |
| DT 55 Christian Peter  | 6-2 285  | NT 54 Brad Stammer     | 6-1 265  |
| NT 99 Terry Connealy   | 6-5 275  | RT 58 Jason Evans      | 6-1 267  |
| ROLB 84 Donta Jones    | 6-2 220  | OLB 50 Ed Tatola       | 5-11 245 |
| SAM 4 Troy Dumas       | 6-4 220  | SILB 10 Bill Denny     | 6-1 224  |
| MIKE 48 Doug Colman    | 6-3 240  | WLB 92 Vince Bruno     | 6-2 226  |
| WILL 32 Ed Stewart     | 6-1 215  | OLB 7 Jami Anderson    | 6-0 218  |
| LCB 14 Barron Miles    | 5-8 165  | LCB 28 Darius Cunnigan | 5-9 180  |
| RCB 29 Tyrone Williams | 6-0 165  | RCB 42 Duane Thomas    | 5-11 183 |
| ROV 29 Kareem Moss     | 5-10 190 | SS 12 Jeff Russell     | 6-0 190  |
| FS 9 Tony Veland       | 6-2 200  | FS 2 Nathan Young      | 6-2 212  |
| P 6 Darin Erstad       | 6-2 195  | P 15 Roger Fleenor     | 6-1 177  |

DN graphic

## Pacific quarterback says win wouldn't take a miracle

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

Pacific quarterback Craig Whelihan believes in miracles — but beating Nebraska would not qualify as one.

"Anything is possible," Whelihan said. "Much greater miracles have happened."

"So far, this season is going great. At 2-1, I'm pretty happy with what's been going on."

Miracle or not, Whelihan and the rest of the 2-1 Tigers will have to play a flawless game to upset No. 1 Nebraska.

"If we play well, that will be great," Whelihan said. "If we don't play well, it will be a reality check and put some things into perspective for us."

Whelihan almost helped pull off a minor miracle last year when Pacific traveled to Tucson, Ariz., to play the 13th-ranked Wildcats.

Whelihan completed 10 of 21 passes for 95 yards, but Arizona prevailed with a 16-13 victory.

Pacific also played then-No. 1 Washington in 1992 and lost 31-7.

"I don't know how many times teams get a chance to play the No. 1 team in the country," Whelihan said. "This is the second time that we've played a No. 1 since I've been here. So we've played teams like that (Nebraska) before."

"We've played the Arizonas, Arizona States and Washingtons. We won't be intimidated. This is a game that every kid dreams about playing in."

The 6-foot-5-inch, 215-pound senior said the Tigers were in a no-lose situation by playing this game.

"They give the University of Pacific \$400,000 to play, and that's great for our football program," he said. "If we play well, it will show people that we can play football here at Pacific. It shows that if we play well against Nebraska, we can play well against anyone."

Whelihan, who has passed for 710 yards and five touchdowns in the Tigers' first three games, knows he will see a different defense from Nebraska compared to the Tigers' first three opponents — California-Davis, Minnesota and Southwest Texas State.

"They (Nebraska) are big and strong, and their team speed is very, very fast," Whelihan said. "They do a lot of their recruiting for team speed. But Nebraska prepares us for our league

*"We've played the Arizonas, Arizona States and Washingtons. We won't be intimidated. This is a game that every kid dreams about playing in."*

**CRAIG WHELIHAN**  
Pacific quarterback

schedule. This is the top competition that we'll face all year. They are No. 1, and they have the top athletes."