

Linebackers coach praises NU's perseverance, spirit

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

Nebraska linebackers coach Kevin Steele saw something Saturday against Oklahoma State that has helped Nebraska be successful for the last 32 years.

"That true Nebraska spirit seems to rise in the Cornhuskers when it needs to," Steele said Monday at the Extra Point Club Luncheon. "The Nebraska Cornhuskers just don't quit; they just get it done."

On Saturday, that was the case. No. 2 Nebraska led the Cowboys 9-3 in the third quarter, and backup Matt Turman was in for injured Brook Berringer at quarterback.

The Husker defense stood firm while the 6-0 Huskers scored 18 points in the third quarter to coast to the 32-3 win.

Steele said he was happy with the way the defense rebounded after giving up 32 points to Wyoming the week before.

Also Steele said he was glad to see that linebacker Ed Stewart was named the Big Eight Defensive Player of the Week.

Stewart had 10 tackles, including three solo. Stewart also recorded one tackle for a loss against the Cowboys.

"He's kind of on a mission," Steele said. "We have a private meeting before the ballgame, and he's intent about getting things done."

Stewart and the defense have another mission to tackle Saturday when the Huskers travel to Manhattan, Kan., to face No. 11 Kansas State.

This weekend will present the Nebraska defense with a big test. The Husker defense will be tested by a very talented football team, Steele

said. Steele said when he was an assistant at Oklahoma State in 1983, he wouldn't have foreseen this weekend's game as being of national importance.

"If Nebraska and Kansas State was as big a game as there is in the country, I'd have really thought you were crazy," Steele said.

In 1991, Nebraska had to rally to beat the Wildcats 38-31. Nebraska trailed by seven in the fourth quarter before Derek Brown scored two touchdowns late in the game.

At the Coca-Cola Bowl in Tokyo in 1992, Nebraska won 38-24.

Last season, Kansas State tallied 565 yards in a losing effort against Nebraska.

In that game Tommie Frazier was a big factor, rushing for 158 yards and throwing for 154.

Another big factor last season was Chad May, who passed for 489 yards and has thrown 138 consecutive passes — 166 including last year's Copper Bowl win — without an interception.

May's performance last year against Nebraska scares Steele.

"He directs the team very well," Steele said. "When you have thrown as many times as he has without interceptions, that shows that he makes good decisions."

Although Steele said the Wildcats would be ready Saturday at Manhattan, he said the Nebraska spirit would also be there.

"This is a real football game," Steele said. "It's not somebody's fault these two teams are playing. There is something special about the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Hopefully, you'll see that Saturday."

Snyder

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responding to a question about whether it was better to play Nebraska without Tommie Frazier. "I don't think there is a particular scenario that's to your advantage unless you score more points than they do."

Kansas State was propelled to a 21-13 victory over Kansas last Thursday by senior quarterback Chad May, who completed 33 of 44 passes for 379 yards and one touchdown. May was named Big Eight Offensive Player of the Week for his performance against the Jayhawks.

Snyder said facing Kansas, whose ground attack, prior to this week, ranked second in the nation to Nebraska, was a good test going into this week.

"Both (Nebraska and Kansas) are excellent," Snyder said. "It's a feather in the cap of our defense that we were able to play as well as we did."

The Huskers are averaging 430 yards per game rushing. Wisconsin, ranked No. 2 in rushing this week, averages 323.2 yards per game on the ground.

"Nebraska's running game takes it to another level. Not only are they No. 1, but they are No. 1 by a mile," Snyder said.

Running the ball is something the Wildcats have not done so well this year. Primarily led by running back J.J. Smith, Kansas State has averaged only 106.5 yards rushing per game, which ranks it seventh in the conference and 91st in the nation.

Snyder said the Wildcats needed a strong running game to compliment May's throwing to give them a chance to beat Nebraska.

Last season in Lincoln, May threw for a conference-record 489 yards, but Kansas State ran for only 76 yards and lost 45-28.

"Nebraska, besides being a great football team," Snyder said, "has a great deal of pride."

He said he thought Nebraska may have been embarrassed by May's performance a year ago.

"I wouldn't want our football players to take for granted that they can walk onto the field and throw for 500 yards," Snyder said. "Because they probably can't do that. Nebraska is a truly great football team. We're going to have to play with great emotion and be extremely sound."

Although Snyder had plenty of good things to say about Nebraska, he did mention that the Huskers are probably not as effective without Frazier.

"Tommie Frazier is a tremendous quarterback," he said, "one of the finest in the country. There's always going to be a drop-off if you lose your No. 1 guy. They have the weapons to circumvent any situation."

Berringer remains questionable

From Staff Reports

Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer practiced Monday but wasn't allowed any contact.

Berringer, who left Saturday's game against Oklahoma State with a partially collapsed lung, is still questionable for the Kansas State game.

Taking snaps at quarterback Monday were wingback Clester Johnson and cornerback Barron Miles. Johnson was an All-State quarterback at Bellevue West, and Miles was an

option quarterback in high school.

Free safety Tony Veland, who has taken snaps the past two weeks, didn't take any Monday.

Osborne said it was the coaches' decision, not Veland's, to not have him take snaps.

"We will decide who will play the position, and we'll go from there," he said.

No matter who the Huskers put at quarterback, Osborne said he didn't expect any major changes.

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Classic

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After another sub-.500 season last year, Revelle said the strong fall was even more important.

"It's a great feeling," Revelle said. "The first two years here have been long."

Nebraska earned its way into the finals when Karla Knicecy was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to score Ali Viola and give the Huskers a 1-0 win against Kansas.

Stacie Stafford picked up both pitching victories for the Huskers.

Revelle said Stafford's performance this fall had given the Huskers a legitimate ace on the pitching staff.

"When we recruited her, I told her that she was the one, she was going to get the ball," Revelle said. "She's done

everything we thought she could do.

"Stacie brings a leadership to the team, a fierce, competitive nature. I think she can be the top pitcher in the Big Eight during the spring season."

On Saturday, the Huskers rolled past Iowa State 14-1 and avenged their only loss of the fall season by beating Oklahoma State 6-1.

Despite Nebraska's successful fall, Revelle said she wasn't giving the Huskers any time to celebrate.

Instead of giving the Huskers the day off after officially ending the fall season, Nebraska began conditioning for the spring.

"The thing we lack is maturity with the game. We want to keep them confident but humble with their eyes focused on their goal," Revelle said.

"That's one reason we started conditioning right away and didn't take a day off."

Lawrence

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contact was made, and that's what the coaches wanted from us."

"We've got a passing game," he said. "I think Brook (Berringer) can make the plays passing the ball. Obviously, people are kind of not worrying about the quarterback position, but Brook can turn it up on them."

"You saw that in this (OSU) game. He did a little pitch fake and turned it up. He can get the job done running the option also."

Not only is the quarterback doing the job, but so is the rest of the offense.

But going over 1,000 yards in only his first six games told Phillips something about his running this season.

"It shows the linemen are blocking and the receivers are blocking also," Phillips said.

HUSKER FOOTBALL

Men's Softball	
1. Farmhouse	4-0
2. Alpha Tau Omega	3-0
3. Harper	4-0
4. Gators	5-0
5. Islanders	4-0
Women's Softball	
1. Delta Gamma	3-0
2. Smith 3	3-0
3. Tappa Tappa Kegga	3-0
4. Phi Mu	2-1
5. Smith 4	2-1
Co-Rec Football	
1. Delta Tau Delta	
Alpha Omicron Pi	8-0
2. Sigma Nu	7-3
3. Prairie Dog Killers	6-2
4. Delta Tau Delta	
Alpha Phi	4-2
5. Sigma Alpha Epsilon	
Kappa Kappa Gamma	5-2