

# SPORTS

Friday, October 21, 1994

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## NU defense hopes to cage Tigers' passing



Nebraska's Barron Miles tackles Kansas State's Tyson Schwieger last Saturday. Miles, who recorded a school-record six pass break-ups, will have to step up this week against Jeff Handy and Missouri.

**By Mitch Sherman**  
Senior Reporter

Two weeks ago, the Nebraska defense had taken enough heat.

Following Wyoming's 32-point outburst, the Blackshirts were surrounded by question marks and unsatisfactory reviews.

The Huskers surrendered 344 yards passing to a freshman quarterback, and the defense's pride had been bruised.

"You can only take so much criticism," All-Big Eight cornerback Barron Miles said. "I think our defense had enough, and we were out to prove everybody wrong."

Since the Wyoming game, Nebraska's defense has allowed only nine points and 382 yards in two games, including only 33 yards rushing.

On paper, Saturday's 1:08 p.m. kickoff at Faurot Field in Columbia, Mo., against 2-4 (1-1 in the Big Eight) Missouri, is a matchup of two defenses playing on different levels.

No. 3 Nebraska, 7-0 overall and 2-0 in conference play, ranks first or second in the Big Eight in every defensive category, while Missouri is seventh or eighth on each chart.

But Miles, named the national defensive player of the week by Athlon Sports for his efforts against Kansas State, said he wasn't worried about how the Huskers stacked up to the Tigers' defensive attack. He's concerning himself with Missouri's receivers.

At 5-foot-8-inches and 165 pounds, Miles, an All-Big Eight selection a year ago, does not have a height advantage over too many receivers. But he is able to make up for that with his athletic ability, shown

by his school-record six pass break-ups against Kansas State last week.

Before this year, the school record for pass breakups in a season was six. Miles has nine this season.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said the Huskers would have to once again rely on Miles, along with the rest of the secondary, to stop Missouri's passing game, which is averaging 199.2 yards per game this year.

"Jeff Handy is a really good quarterback," Osborne said. "I think he throws well, and I think they've tried to develop a tougher running game than what they've had in the past."

Osborne said he was impressed with the way Missouri played against No. 2 Colorado on Oct. 8. The Tigers lost 38-23 in Columbia, but Osborne said Missouri had shown quite a bit of improvement since the beginning of the year.

"They are certainly a much better football team than they were four, five, six weeks ago," Osborne said. "Colorado got off to a two-touchdown lead early in the game and then after that, it was an even ballgame."

Osborne said the improvement was a credit to first-year coach Larry Smith, who took over for Bob Stull in the spring.

"There is always an adjustment period when you have a new coaching staff come in," he said.

Things also have fallen into place for the Nebraska defense during conference play, Osborne said. And one person partially responsible is true freshman Grant Wistrom.

Wistrom, one of only three Huskers from Missouri, has played about half of Nebraska's snaps, backing up outside linebacker Donta Jones.

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## Tigers' QB is more than meets the eye

**By Mitch Sherman**  
Senior Reporter

Jeff Handy is not as well known as Kordell Stewart.

He's not as recognizable as Tommie Frazier or Chad May.

He hasn't graced the cover of national magazines, and he hasn't been mentioned in the same sentence as Heisman Trophy or first-round draft pick.

But quietly, Missouri's senior quarterback is creating a list of accomplishments that will be remembered just as long as the marks of the Big Eight's other premiere quarterbacks.

The 6-foot-3-inch, 202-pound Handy, a three-year starter from Blue Springs, Mo., burst onto the scene as a sophomore in 1992. In Handy's first start, he completed 43 of 73 passes for 480 yards against Oklahoma State. He followed that performance with a record-setting day against Nebraska, in which he threw for 424 yards against the Cornhuskers in a 34-24 loss.

That was the last time Nebraska played in Columbia, Mo.

Until Saturday.

Handy said he would like to have just as good a passing day on Saturday, but more importantly, he would like the Tigers to register a victory over Nebraska — something they haven't done since 1978.

"Every team we play, we get up for," Handy said. "But when you go up against a team like Nebraska, it's a little different."

Handy didn't perform as well against Nebraska the second time around last year in Lincoln, but he said he was confident the Tiger offense would be able to move the ball Saturday.

In Missouri's last two games, Handy said the Tigers may have turned the corner after a dismal start. The Tigers stayed within 15 points of No. 2 Colorado two weeks ago and beat Oklahoma State 24-15 on the road last Saturday.

A major reason for the team's turnaround, Handy said, has been the players' acceptance of the new system installed by first-year coach Larry Smith, who took over for Bob Stull last

### Game Day '94

Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field  
Columbia, Mo.  
Saturday, 1:08 p.m.

| Nebraska       |                   |          | Missouri |                  |          |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|
| <b>OFFENSE</b> |                   |          |          |                  |          |
| QB 18          | Brook Berringer   | 6-4 210  | QB 11    | Jeff Handy       | 6-3 202  |
| FB 40          | Cory Schlesinger  | 6-0 230  | RB 1     | Joe Freeman      | 5-1 180  |
| IB 1           | Lawrence Phillips | 6-0 200  | AB 24    | Greg Smith       | 0 211    |
| SE 7           | Reggie Baul       | 5-8 170  | WR 7     | Brian Sallee     | 6-0 195  |
| WB 27          | Abdul Muhammad    | 5-9 160  | WR 2     | Rahsetru Jenkins | 6-3 170  |
| RT 72          | Zach Wiegert      | 6-5 300  | RT 85    | Bill Lingerfelt  | 6-2 240  |
| LT 56          | Rob Zatechka      | 6-5 315  | LT 71    | Chris Buck       | 6-4 305  |
| RG 55          | Brenden Stal      | 6-4 300  | RG 75    | Trey O'Neil      | 6-6 290  |
| LG 76          | Joel Wilks        | 6-3 280  | LG 74    | Rafe Parsons     | 6-5 320  |
| C 54           | Aaron Graham      | 6-3 280  | C 77     | Matt Dowll       | 6-6 272  |
| TE 85          | Matt Shaw         | 6-3 235  | TE 50    | Russ Appel       | 6-3 246  |
| PK 6           | Darin Erstad      | 6-2 195  | PK 19    | Kyle Pooler      | 6-0 193  |
| <b>DEFENSE</b> |                   |          |          |                  |          |
| LOLB 86        | Dwayne Harris     | 6-2 225  | LT 8     | Detrick Wells    | 6-0 226  |
| DT 55          | Christian Peter   | 6-2 285  | DE 98    | Steve Martin     | 6-5 284  |
| NT 99          | Terry Connealy    | 6-5 275  | RT 87    | Matt Murray      | 6-5 284  |
| ROLB 84        | Donta Jones       | 6-2 220  | DE 92    | Damon Simon      | 6-5 250  |
| SAM 4          | Troy Dumas        | 6-4 220  | SILB 47  | Chris Singletary | 6-2 205  |
| MIKE 48        | Doug Colman       | 6-3 240  | WILB 43  | Darryl Chatman   | 6-1 226  |
| WILL 32        | Ed Stewart        | 6-1 215  | MLB 39   | Travis McDonald  | 6-2 225  |
| LCB 14         | Barron Miles      | 5-8 165  | LCB 9    | Percell Gaskins  | 6-1 215  |
| RCB 8          | Tyrone Williams   | 6-0 165  | RCB 26   | Clayton Baker    | 5-10 174 |
| ROV 29         | Kareem Moss       | 5-10 190 | SS 4     | Bo Adams         | 6-0 201  |
| FS 9           | Tony Veland       | 6-2 200  | FS 21    | Andre White      | 6-1 194  |
| P 6            | Darin Erstad      | 6-2 195  | P 19     | Kyle Pooler      | 6-0 193  |

DN graphic

for almost two months, Handy said the Tigers were starting to enjoy the games more.

Handy, Missouri's career and single-season passing-yardage record holder, can pass Cale Gundy to become the Big Eight's fifth all-time leading passer if he throws for 184 yards on Saturday.

"It helps everybody's confidence if we play well against Nebraska," he said.

spring.

"Everybody is now starting to get used to it," he said. "When he came in, there were some changes. Coach Smith runs a system where if you don't give 110 percent, there's going to be another guy right there to replace you."

Now that Smith, who has coached at Tulane, Arizona and USC, has been on the sidelines

## Cyclones aim to get revenge against Huskers

**By Clay Short**  
Staff Reporter

Last Saturday, Iowa State won one game from 18-0 Nebraska.

This Saturday, the Cyclones are aiming for more.

The Cyclones are hoping for a little revenge on the Cornhuskers' home court, the NU Coliseum, in a 7:30 p.m. volleyball match Saturday.

Iowa State is 15-5 overall and 4-2 in the Big Eight, with one of those losses coming against the Huskers.

But Cyclone coach Jackie Nunez said a win at Nebraska would be a tough task.

"When you play a team like Nebraska, everybody has to show up to play; not everybody did (last Saturday)," Cyclone coach Jackie Nunez said. "Some of them did play very well, but a couple of our important positions didn't show."

Iowa State is third in the Big Eight, behind Colorado and Nebraska. A win this weekend would put the Cyclones in the Big Eight title hunt.

However, the Cyclones could be walking into an ambush this weekend. Not only are the Huskers 18-0, but they also have won their last 33 matches in the Coliseum, dating back to their 1992 home opener against New Mexico.

"Nebraska draws a very impressive crowd for every match at home," Nunez said. "The atmosphere isn't hostile, but it is definitely a challenge to go into their homecourt and give them their first loss of the year."

"Hopefully we will play up to it." Nunez is not counting her team out of the Big Eight race, but she admitted

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