



Husker coach denies rivalry with Colorado

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Talk about rivalries all you want, but whatever you do, don't mention them to Tom Osborne.

The Nebraska football coach said earlier this week he did not want to hear another question about whether Colorado was Nebraska's rival.

"Don't ask me about it," Osborne said. "This is a big game, and we are really zeroed in on Colorado, but I don't see why it has to be an issue."

Rivalry or not, Osborne said, the Huskers will need support from the home crowd during Saturday's game at Memorial Stadium against the Buffaloes.

"We certainly have an enthusiastic group of fans," he said. "I think that is going to be important."

But Osborne said he had reason to be worried that Cornhusker fans would not be on their best behavior.

"A couple years ago," he said, "I heard some complaints from people from Colorado saying they had been treated rudely."

Osborne said he spoke to Colorado coach Bill McCartney and some Buffalo fans after Nebraska's 52-7 win over Colorado in 1992.

"In the 30 years I have been here that was the first time I can ever remember (people complaining)."

He said Husker fans had complained in recent years that they had been forced to change their car license plates before making the trip to Boulder.

"If rivalry means what I have been seeing," Osborne said, "I don't want any part of a rivalry. I just want to play football. I don't know where it came from or why it is there. I would just like to see it end."

McCartney said the Huskers always would be a rival for the Buffs, who have beaten the Huskers three times since 1968. However, McCartney said, he didn't intend for the rivalry

to turn ugly.

McCartney is no stranger to rivalries. He spent nine years as an assistant at Michigan, where Ohio State is considered a rival.

When McCartney came to Colorado in 1982, he immediately designated Nebraska as the Buffs' chief rival.

"Nebraska has made it clear that they don't consider us a rival," McCartney said, "but they will always be a red-letter game for us."

Osborne said he wouldn't complain, as long as Colorado fans were treated with respect.

"It doesn't mean we don't look forward to playing them," Osborne said. "We certainly do. We just don't have any rivals."

"Whenever we have, and we've never bought into that kind of thinking. It doesn't mean we don't respect Colorado."

"Nebraska has made it clear that they don't consider us a rival, but they will always be a red-letter game for us."

BILL MCCARTNEY
Colorado football coach

On the field, Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer said, the Huskers will not be thinking about a rivalry. They won't be thinking about anything but winning.

"I think a lot of our guys couldn't care less about this," Berringer said. "We are just going to go out, game by game, and prove what we can do."

Donta Jones, one of 14 senior starters who have never lost to Colorado, said this game was just one more step toward Nebraska's ultimate goal.

"At the beginning of the season," Jones said, "we felt as though we had unfinished business. This is part of the business we have to take care of."

A win against Colorado, Berringer said, may be the only way the Huskers can gain back the national respect they have lost recently.

"People haven't been giving us a chance all season," Berringer said. "I don't know what it's going to take. I suppose winning a national championship is the only way to do it. So I guess that's what we'll have to do."

Game Day '94

Memorial Stadium
Lincoln, Neb.
Saturday, 11:08 a.m.

Nebraska 

Colorado 

OFFENSE

QB 18	Brook Berringer	6-4	210	QB 10	Kordell Stewart	6-3	210
FB 40	Cory Schlesinger	6-0	230	TB 19	Rashaan Salaam	6-1	215
IB 1	Lawrence Phillips	6-0	200	FB 24	Greg Smith	6-0	211
SE 7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	WR 81	Michael Westbrook	6-4	210
WB 27	Abdul Muhammad	5-9	160	WR 21	Rae Carruth	6-0	180
RT 72	Zach Weigert	6-5	300	TE 86	Christian Fauria	6-4	235
LT 56	Rob Zatechka	6-5	315	RT 72	Derek West	6-8	285
RG 55	Brenden Stai	6-4	300	LT 50	Tony Berti	6-6	280
LG 76	Joel Wilks	6-3	280	RG 65	Chris Naeole	6-4	280
C 54	Aaron Graham	6-3	280	LG 63	Heath Irwin	6-5	280
TE 85	Matt Shaw	6-3	235	C 64	Bryan Stoltenberg	6-2	265
PK 31	Darin Erstad	6-2	195	PK 17	Neal Voskeritchian	5-9	165

DEFENSE

LOLB 86	Dwayne Harris	6-2	225	OLB 59	Greg Jones	6-4	230
DT 55	Christian Peter	6-2	285	LT 92	Shannon Clavelle	6-3	275
NT 99	Terry Connealy	6-5	275	NT 94	Kerry Hicks	6-6	260
ROLB 84	Donta Jones	6-2	220	RT 93	Darius Holland	6-5	285
SAM 4	Troy Dumas	6-4	220	OLB 97	Mike Phillips	6-3	210
MIKE 46	Doug Colman	6-3	240	ILB 16	Matt Russell	6-2	235
WILL 32	Ed Stewart	6-1	215	ILB 46	Ted Johnson	6-4	240
LCB 14	Barron Miles	5-8	165	LCB 47	Chris Hudson	5-11	190
RCB 8	Tyrone Williams	6-0	165	RCB 7	Dalton Simmons	6-0	180
ROV 29	Kareem Moss	5-10	190	SS 3	Donnell Leomiti	6-0	205
FS 9	Tony Veland	6-2	200	FS 15	Steve Rosga	6-1	205
P 6	Darin Erstad	6-2	195	P 28	Andy Mitchell	6-2	195

DN graphic

ABC to televise matchup; 'GameDay' live from campus

From Staff Reports

Nebraska has played one ranked team — UCLA — in Lincoln this season, and ESPN was there.

On Saturday, as Nebraska plays Colorado, ESPN will be there, too.

But the cable network is not going to be televising the game, just the pre-game festivities. ESPN College GameDay, which airs on Saturday morning, will be televised live from the east side of Memorial Stadium.

But ESPN will not be televising Saturday's game. The game will be broad-

cast nationally on ABC, which can be seen locally on KETV-Channel 7. Keith Jackson will provide the play-by-play, and Bob Griese will provide color. Lynn Swann will be ABC's sideline reporter for the 11:08 a.m. game.

Nebraska is undefeated on national television this season. The Cornhuskers already have defeated West Virginia, Texas Tech, UCLA and Kansas State on national television.

The Nebraska-Colorado game has been televised for the past five years. Both teams have won twice, with a tie in 1991.

Underdogs speak softly but stay confident before game

Earlier this week, many Nebraska fans were trying to restrain their excitement for Saturday's Nebraska-Colorado game because they were afraid.

Afraid of the 7-0 Colorado team coming into Lincoln on Saturday. Afraid that maybe Nebraska's national title hopes would go up in smoke.

While the media tried to create a fever pitch of expectation across the nation, Nebraska fans remained subdued.

But the intensity is building, and the fear is slowly disappearing.

Remember, these are the same fans that traveled to Miami on New Year's Day proudly displaying "Go Big Red" signs in their cars as they drove through a state that had declared open hunting season on tourists.

And despite the betting lines that had the Huskers as 17-point under-

dogs, Nebraska fans knew their beloved Huskers were going to show the country that they were for real.

Even though Nebraska lost the Orange Bowl to Florida State, many fans saw that as a victory rather than a loss.

In the minds of Big Red fans, Nebraska has won 20 straight games, and they don't want to see that streak end.

But when Tommie Frazier was lost for the season with a blood clot and backup Brook Berringer went out with a collapsed lung, the fans' dreams of a national title vanished.

And after the Buffaloes' miracle wins over Michigan and Texas, Colorado looked like a team of destiny, while Nebraska fans looked to sell their tickets and find a rock under which to watch the game.

Alas, Husker fans don't get to play Saturday, and the mood surrounding



Jeff Griesch

the Cornhuskers on and off the field is one of quiet confidence.

The Huskers have been listed as much as four-point underdogs for the Colorado game, which is fine with the Huskers.

"We love being the underdog," I-back Damon Benning said. "It feels just like the Orange Bowl did last year. There are reporters everywhere, and nobody is giving us a chance. I can't wait."

Benning also said he could sense the difference in the attitudes of Nebraska coaches going into the game,

"T.O. has been the loosest I have ever seen him the week before a game," Benning said. "Usually all the coaches are really tense and seem tight, but this week everybody has been smiling and joking around."

Tom Osborne was cracking jokes and playing for a laugh at his press conference, which was highly uncharacteristic for him.

But he found time to say what any fans or media or gamblers thought didn't matter.

"What difference does it make?" Osborne said. "The only thing that matters is what the players and the coaches think."

All the players have been thinking about is Colorado.

I-back Lawrence Phillips and linebacker Ed Stewart wore Nike Colorado caps to the press conference to help them concentrate on the game.

And the more the players concentrate, the more they are convinced that the Huskers are going to win.

Brook Berringer appeared confident despite widespread criticism of his performance and durability.

"That's to be expected. People haven't been giving me a chance all season," Berringer said. "I don't know what it's going to take. I suppose winning a national championship is the only way to do it. So I guess that's what we'll have to do."

With Berringer at 100 percent for the first time, the Nebraska option game back at full strength and a defense that is ready to prove that it can carry this Cornhusker team, the new Berringer-led Huskers will forever alter the course of Colorado's season of destiny.

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