

Husker tackler chosen as Lombardi finalist

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska tackle Zach Wiegert's name may be mentioned in the same breath with the best ever.

The 6-foot-5-inch, 300-pound senior from Fremont was named a finalist Thursday for the Lombardi Trophy, to be awarded Dec. 1.

Wiegert is trying to become the fourth Cornhusker to win the award given to the best offensive or defensive lineman in the country. Previous Husker Lombardi winners include Rich Glover, Dave Rimington and Dean Steinkuhler.

"I think I had appreciation for this award before I read the list of past winners," Wiegert said. "There are some great players that have won this.

As far as Nebraska is concerned, those (Glover, Rimington and Steinkuhler) are as good as they get. I would be in some good company."

The other finalists are Derrick Brooks of Florida State, Tedy Bruschi of Arizona and Miami's Warren Sapp.

Wiegert said it would be a nice reward for his effort, but he was more concerned with the team honors.

"I'll still be focusing one game at a time, and I think that's why I'm where I'm at," he said. "I don't look at the personal awards. To win something like this would be a great accomplishment, especially looking at the past winners. It'd be payback for all the time I've put in."

Offensive line coach Mill Tenopir said Wiegert did his talk-

ing on the field, so the coaches wouldn't have to talk for him off the field.

"With those awards, so many times there is politicking," he said. "I know a few years back I thought we had a kid that deserved it, but he didn't get it because people were saying that Nebraska's already had three. Zach is deserving for what he's done on the field and not for campaigning."

Emphasis put on the offensive line after quarterbacks Tommie Frazier and Brook Berringer were injured may have helped him become a finalist, Wiegert said.

"A lot of times, the offensive linemen go by the wayside, and they don't get noticed," Wiegert said. "The things that happened with the inju-

"I would be in some good company."

ZACH WIEGERT

NU tackle

ries put us in the spotlight. I'm sure we got more attention than we would have without the injuries. It's kind of nice to know people are watching you block."

NOTE:

Ed Stewart twisted his knee in practice Thursday but finished practice and should be ready for Saturday's game with Kansas.

Mason

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year, with Preston holding the reins again.

"One word describes Asheiki: consistent," Mason said. "He did a good job last year, but this is this year."

Mason said one help for Kansas was its offensive line. Last year the Kansas line helped June Henley rush for 148 yards against Nebraska.

"Our line's been performing well," Mason said. "This will be our toughest test all year."

Mason said after watching films he could not find many areas where the Jayhawks could exploit the Huskers.

A final problem facing Kansas is they have to play at Memorial Stadium. The Jayhawks haven't won in Lincoln since 1968.

NU primed for 1st hoops game

By Jeff Griesch
Staff Reporter

After beating each other up in practice for three weeks, Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said his team was ready to play.

The Cornhuskers open their exhibition season against Verich Reps at the Bob Devaney Sports Center tonight at 7:30.

"I know that it seems early on the calendar to be playing already," Nee said. "But we have had 17 practices, and I think it is the perfect time for a game to see where we are as a team."

The Verich Reps are a team of former college players, including ex-Husker Dapreis Owens, from Columbus, Ohio. The team is sponsored by Ohio state representative Michael Verich.

Nee said he didn't know much about Verich Reps, but he didn't care.

"I know they are a group of former college players, and that's about it," Nee said. "But that doesn't matter to me, because I am more concerned with judging our progress."

And thus far, Nee said he was happy with what he had seen in practice.

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DANNY NEE

Nebraska men's basketball coach

"All the players are working," Nee said. "The veterans have all improved and are showing good leadership, and everybody is trying to do it as a team."

Although Nee has not officially decided on Nebraska's starting lineup for tonight's game, he said Jaron Boone and Erick Strickland would start at the guard positions.

Terrance Badgett and Melvin Brooks should start at the forward spots, and Mikki Moore may start at center for the Huskers.

Nee said that juniors Jason Glock, Chris Sallee and Tom Wald also would see substantial playing time, along with freshman Chester Surles.

"We will be looking to develop an eight-, nine- or 10-man rotation," Nee said. "And those guys are capable of fitting into that rotation."

Nee said freshmen Leif Nelson, Andy Markowski and Chad Ideus probably would not be factors in the Huskers' rotation, because all three planned to redshirt.

Although he did not make the final decisions for them, Nee said, he was pleased with their decisions.

"It is really a win-win situation for them, because they get to practice for a year and keep four years of eligibility," Nee said.

Kansas

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"They have two backs that are very accomplished," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "They are both tough guys that will run hard at you. Colorado and Kansas are very, very close in terms of overall offensive line talent."

In fact, Osborne said, at the beginning of the season, he thought Kansas had the ability to be one of the top teams in the conference.

"I look for a game that could be much more competitive than many people think it will be," he said. "Our defensive coaches are aware that we've got a very similar task to what we had last week."

Preston, the Jayhawks' starting quarterback, is one reason why Osborne predicts a close game.

The 5-foot-11, 185-pound senior has completed 59 percent of his career passes, the best in school history.

Against Nebraska last year, Preston completed 13 of 19 passes for 118 yards. He also was the only quarterback whom the Husker defense was unable to sack in 1993.

"He ran a lot of three-step drops

PICKS HICKS

Daily Nebraskan staffers (8-2 last week, 60-20 season) pick the winners of the ten major college football games this weekend, with winners in bold:

Iowa State	at Kansas State
Oklahoma State	at Colorado
Missouri	at Oklahoma
Miami	at Syracuse
Texas A&M	at Texas
Alabama	at Louisiana State
Southern Cal	at Washington St.
Penn State	at Indiana
Virginia	at Duke

Pick the score- Kansas 10 at Nebraska 38

last year," Osborne said. "And you're not going to sack him when they do that."

A key to stopping the Kansas offense, he said, is limiting Preston on long-yardage and third-down situations. Last week, Colorado was 0 for 15 on third- and fourth-down attempts.

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