

SPORTS

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Walden's suspension frustrates Big 8 coaches

By Todd Walkenhorst
Staff Reporter

Big Eight conference coaches all expressed their frustration Monday about the suspension of Iowa State coach Jim Walden.

The coaches, though, limited their comments and refused to get specific about the incident involving Walden in fear of violating conference rules themselves, Missouri coach Larry Smith said.

"If I say anything, then I'll be under scrutiny," Smith said. "It's sad that a football coach can't say anything."

Walden was suspended for Iowa State's Nov. 19 game against Colorado and fined \$5,000 for his comments about the officiating during the Cyclones' contest against Kansas State Nov. 5.

Iowa State has compiled an 0-9-1 record this season, which led Walden to resign effective at the end of the season.

Walden said that he had his attorney follow up on the suspension because he was not clear on all of the details involved.

Walden's suspension was handed down because it was the coach's second offense, but Walden said he was unsure of the definition of second offense.

"If Tom Osborne said something (about officiating) in 1975, and says something now," he said, "does that mean he cannot coach again?"

Walden said that he was just protecting his quarterback, Todd Doxzon, when he questioned the officials' judgment. If he gets fined, so should the officials, Walden said.

"The guy who criticizes gets fined, and the guy who makes the mistake gets off," Walden said. "I think both should be fined the same."

If the suspension is not overturned by appeal, Iowa State's game against Nebraska will

"If Tom Osborne said something (about officiating) in 1975, and says something now, does that mean he cannot coach again?"

JIM WALDEN

Iowa State coach

be the last that Walden coaches for the Cyclones. However, if Nebraska coach Tom Osborne had his way, Walden would coach one more.

"I think it is not right that they don't let him coach his last game," Osborne said, "and I have mentioned it to the appropriate officials."

"I think not letting him coach is bizarre and not appropriate. I think a fine is an awfully

harsh penalty, and that should be appropriate."

Walden will be putting money into the Big Eight Conference with his \$5,000 fine, but said before he accepted another job, he wanted to know how much money a school was going to put into his football program.

"I wouldn't go to a school, even as an assistant, if I didn't know what the numbers were," Walden said.

Defensive dish serves double trouble to QBs

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Last season, opposing quarterbacks had to worry about Butkus Award winner Trev Alberts.

This year, it's double trouble for quarterbacks facing the Cornhusker defense.

Dwayne Harris and Donta Jones are quietly becoming one of the most feared pass rush duos.

The senior outside linebackers have combined for 81 tackles, including nine sacks and 17 tackles for losses.

Harris said he wasn't concerned with who was going to pick up the slack when Alberts left.

"We both do pretty good rushing the passer," Harris said. "Either one of us could have taken that role on (replacing Alberts). It didn't really matter. I just think that I have to get pressure on the quarterback so the DB's (defensive backs) won't have to cover as long."

Jones, who has more tackles but fewer sacks than Harris, said the Huskers had benefited this year from having two pass rushing threats.

"We're a good combination because we can go out there and put pressure on the quarterback from both sides," Jones said. "It's a great motivation to see him on the other side coming hard, and that motivates me to go hard."

The similarities don't end on the

playing field.

The 6-foot-2, 220-pound Jones played in six games as a redshirt freshman in 1991, was a backup in 1992 and started eight games last season.

The 6-foot-2, 225-pound Harris sat out the 1991 season, played in eight games as a backup in 1992 and was listed as a first-teamer last year, but only started once.

Harris, a native of Bessemer, Ala., said his and Jones' careers at Nebraska had always shadowed each other.

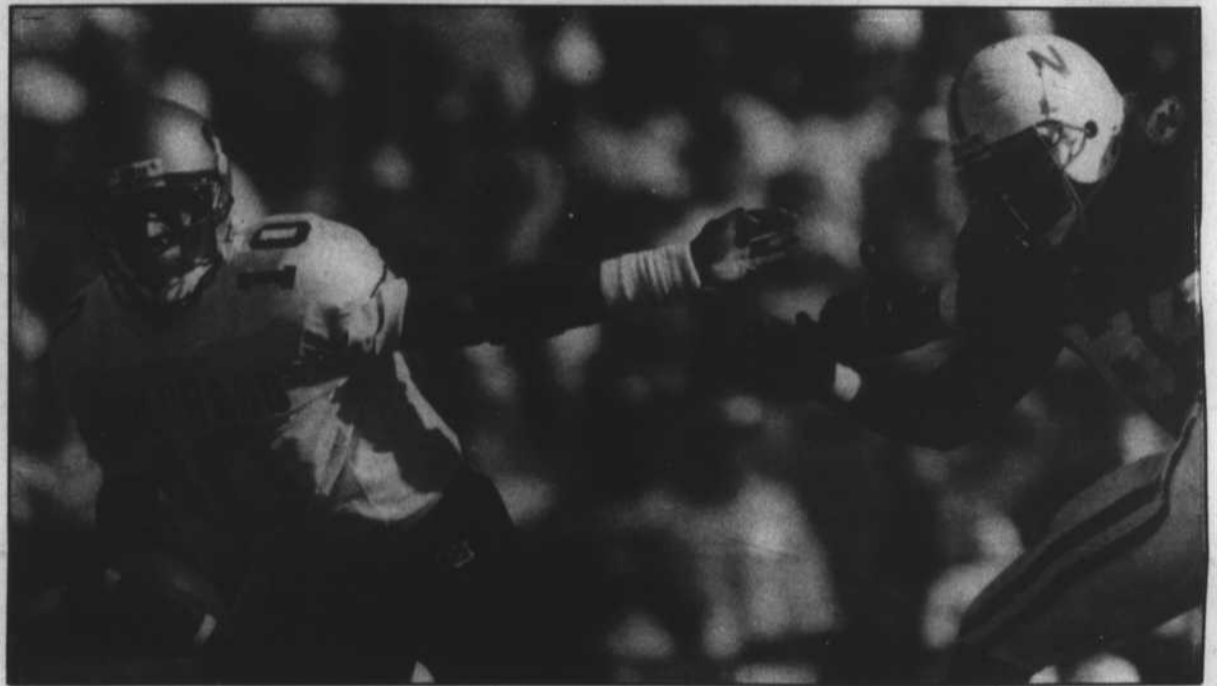
"We always have played together for years, in practice or whatever," Harris said. "Like when Trev and Travis (Hill) were playing, it was always me and Donta behind them. It's always been me and Donta. I think it's great playing with Donta."

Jones, who graduated from Pomfret McDonough High School in La Plata, Md., said the two knew they had to step up their play to live up to tradition.

"Every year, Nebraska produces a lot of great outside linebackers," he said. "We knew we had to step it up to fill the shoes of all the past great linebackers. Trev was in the shadows of Broderick Thomas, Mike Croel and Travis Hill, and he stepped it up. Now we have to step it up."

On the receiving end of Jones' and Harris' "stepping it up" lately are the Big Eight quarterbacks.

"It wouldn't be fun (to go up



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska linebacker Donta Jones reaches for Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart. Jones has 44 tackles and four sacks this season.

against the duo)," Jones said. "We try to go out there and put a lot of pressure on the quarterbacks, and they have a tough job when they get that kind of pressure on them."

"We wanted to be the best pair of outside linebackers in the Big Eight, so we've been really stepping it up lately against the Big Eight teams."

Not only are the outside linebackers rising to the occasion, but so is the entire defense, giving up only 52 points in its six conference games.

"If we get out there and play like we should, no points should go on that board," Harris said. "We're focused on stopping them three plays and getting the offense back on the field."



Jay Calderon/DN

Nebraska linebacker Dwayne Harris goes for the sack of Kansas quarterback Mark Williams. Harris has 37 tackles and five quarterback sacks on the season.

Many college sports succumb to a new opponent: greed

One of the enduring qualities of sports is that it can go beyond the boundaries of the field of competition and teach its participants lessons about real life.

Sports teach athletes how to work as members of a team striving for a common goal.

They teach pride, humility, responsibility, discipline and self-sacrifice.

Sports are supposed to help student-athletes become mature, productive members of the community. These lessons are being learned by many athletes.

Kirby Puckett, Kevin Johnson and Boomer Esiason are just a few examples of professional athletes who learned their lessons well while in school. Now, they are giving back to their communities.

Nebraska student-athletes also participate in numerous activities designed to get the Huskers involved in the lives of other youth as positive

role models.

But increasingly, sports are teaching athletes some far more disturbing lessons.

On Saturday night, I turned on the Auburn-Georgia football game on ESPN just in time for the kickoff.

Before the opening kick, field announcer Mike Adamle appeared from the sidelines to analyze the 102-year rivalry between the Tigers and the Bulldogs.

ESPN used the miracles of technology to create a black and white reenactment of two good old boy professors, one from Auburn and one from Georgia, counting the gate receipts from the football game.

The two professors collected all the money in a couple of cigar boxes and then divided it up at one of their homes after the game.

The money went to buy a couple of leather helmets for each team for future games.

Adamle returned in color to re-



Jeff Griesch

mark how amazed the two professors would have been if they could have been alive to see the 85,000 fans that gathered for the 1994 game and the millions of dollars taken in from gate receipts.

However, Adamle failed to mention the amazement the professors would have had at the additional millions of dollars in concessions, merchandise and radio and television revenue.

Then Adamle remarked about how proud the professors would be if they could only see their beloved alma maters now.

If the two good old professors are

close to the men I hope they would be, both would have been disgusted at the exploitation of the game they loved.

For ESPN to glorify the amount of money the game makes was sickening, especially when one of the participants — Auburn — is on NCAA probation for rules violations.

These violations stem directly from the desire to win more football games and make more money for the Auburn athletic department.

Despite Auburn's punishment for cheating, the team and school have been glorified for winning 20 straight games over the past two seasons.

After beating Florida, Coach Terry Bowden even cried for some national championship consideration, a slap in the face to fair competition, justice and the essence of sports.

But the hypocrisy of the lessons taught by college football go far beyond Auburn.

The fact that college football coaches and athletic directors continually shy away from a national championship playoff is based entirely on the quest for bowl money.

Claims by coaches and athletic directors that a playoff would be too demanding are excuses.

The bottom line is the dollar sign. Ironically, dollar signs are not lauded as a crucial lesson taught by athletics.

Fans are sick of reading, watching and hearing about free agency, strikes, salary caps, revenue sharing, lock-outs, signing bonuses, television contracts and everything else to do with money in professional sports.

Don't make me listen to the same crap in college sports.

Forget the money and let them play.

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