

SPORTS

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SPORTS OPINION



Trevor Parks

Huskers face tough challenge against Devils

Does anybody in Nebraska know that there is a Cornhusker football game Saturday?

Last time I looked on the schedule, there was a game against Arizona State, and with the way things have gone this week in Huskerland, don't be surprised if the Sun Devils are hell for Nebraska.

With all the off-the-field incidents, the situation reminds me of last year.

The Huskers played host to a Wyoming team that everyone thought Nebraska would walk over. But the week of the game, all of the attention was thrust upon the status of quarterback Tommie Frazier, who was suffering from a blood clot.

Frazier was released from the hospital Sept. 28 and didn't play in the game, but the effect he had on the team that weekend was prevalent. The Huskers were sluggish, Brook Berringer put in a gutty performance playing with a collapsed lung and the Nebraska defense was ripped apart, giving up 344 passing yards.

Nebraska barely won 42-32. But the Cowboys had a shot to tie or beat the Huskers, but with the score 35-32, Je'Ney Johnson fumbled a punt at the Wyoming 8-yard line with 5:32 remaining. The Huskers recovered and scored on the next play to seal the tough victory.

This week a similar scenario has come up. A star player is gone from the team; another might play hurt. A pass-happy team comes to Lincoln, but still everyone thinks Nebraska will walk over the Sun Devils.

Not so. I don't know what the players think because they are not talking to the media this week, but if Saturday is anything like last year, hold on to your hats Husker fans.

Coach Tom Osborne, who spends at least half of his weekly press conferences talking about the opposition, spoke about the Sun Devils for just one minute, and no one asked Osborne any questions about Arizona State.

"We'll probably have to work awfully hard to get our yards on Saturday," Osborne said during his minute of reflection on the Sun Devils. "I expect a very tough game, and we'll have to be ready to play."

Osborne stressed that his team needed to keep a good attitude during this time, and I guess last year they stayed focused against the Cowboys, but just barely.

After the Wyoming game, Nebraska settled down and adapted to the loss of a big-time player. But you won't know what happens this year until Saturday.

There's no question that the Huskers are ripe for an upset or at least a major scare like they received last year.

This game truly could be the turning point of Nebraska's season.

Giant Zatechka



Travis Heying/DN

Rob Zatechka, not Zatecha, a former Nebraska offensive lineman, is adjusting to professional football as a rookie with the New York Giants.

Former Husker thinks back, looks forward

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The night of Aug. 31 was difficult for Rob Zatechka.

Zatechka was sitting at his home in New Jersey preparing to watch Nebraska play Oklahoma State on television, when something occurred to him.

Zatechka said it was then he realized he was no longer a college player, but was now a professional athlete preparing for his first game on a new team, the New York Giants.

A former Nebraska All-Big Eight selection and the 128th selection in this past National Football League draft, Zatechka said the realization of no longer playing college football surprised him.

"I sat there and watched it and said, 'Wait a minute there's a bunch of kids out there,'" Zatechka said. "It kind of sneaked up on me because I really never thought about it much before that moment. It's a weird feeling to just not be there."

But Zatechka is not sitting back and reminiscing on his playing days at Nebraska; instead he is concentrating on his career with

the Giants.

Zatechka impressed the Giant coaches enough at the training camp at Fairleigh-Dickinson in Florham Park, N.J. to earn him a spot on the 53-member roster. Because of injuries to the offensive line, Zatechka started the Giants' final preseason game against the Carolina Panthers on Aug. 26.

Since the season started, however, Zatechka has been limited to playing time only on kickoffs and special teams. Even though the Giants are 0-2, Zatechka said he had not been surprised by his lack of playing time.

"Actually I think the offensive line is doing a good job," Zatechka said. "Overall it's a great experience; I've had a blast since I been here. I'm really thankful for the opportunity the Giants gave me."

Giants' offensive line coach Pete Mangurian said it was difficult for any rookie player in the NFL to step into a starting position. Mangurian was the offensive line coach at Louisiana State University from 1984-87. The Cornhuskers defeated LSU 28-10 in the 1985 Sugar Bowl.

See ZATECHKA on 10

Nee happy with schedule; seven games to broadcast

From Staff Reports

Seven Nebraska basketball games are scheduled to be televised during the upcoming season.

Five of those games will be broadcast by Creative Sports Marketing. The Cornhuskers' game against Kansas at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Jan. 28 will be shown on CBS, and a Feb. 19 game against the Jayhawks in Lawrence, Kan., will be shown on ESPN's Big Monday.

The Nebraska schedule also features 17 home games, including the Ameritas Classic on Dec. 1-2. The Huskers will play in two other tournaments before beginning conference action against Colorado on Jan. 10 at the Devaney Center.

From Nov. 25-27, Nebraska will open the season by taking part in the Big Island Invitational in Hilo, Hawaii. The Huskers also will play in the Far West Classic in Portland, Ore., on Dec. 29-30.

"Overall, it's one of the best schedules we've had since I've been here."

DANNY NEE

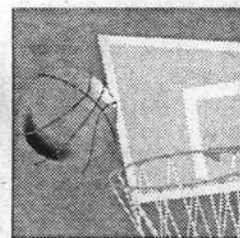
Nebraska basketball Coach

"I feel it's a quality schedule and one that will prepare us for the Big Eight," Nebraska coach Danny Nee said. "The extra games in Hawaii will also be of benefit to our team. Overall, it's one of the best schedules we've had since I've been here."

The Huskers, who begin practicing next month, open their preseason schedule on Nov. 8 at the Devaney Center against Spalding Americas.

Season ticket applications are available at the ticket office at Memorial Stadium.

1995 Husker men's basketball schedule



Date	Opponent	Date	Opponent
Nov. 8	Spalding Americas	Jan. 10	Colorado
Nov. 16	Team Pella	Jan. 13	at Oklahoma
Big Island Invitational at Hilo, Hawaii		Jan. 17	Missouri-Kansas City
Nov. 25-27	Toledo/TBA	Jan. 20	at Oklahoma State
Ameritas Classic		Jan. 24	Missouri
Dec. 1	Georgia Southern	Jan. 28	Kansas
Dec. 2	Consolation/Championship	Jan. 31	at Kansas State
Dec. 6	at Creighton	Feb. 3	Iowa State
Dec. 9	at Minnesota	Feb. 7	at Missouri
Dec. 16	Northern Iowa	Feb. 10	at Iowa State
Dec. 18	Northeastern Illinois	Feb. 17	Oklahoma State
Dec. 21	Delaware State	Feb. 19	at Kansas
Far West Classic at Portland, Ore.		Feb. 25	Oklahoma
Dec. 29	Oregon	Feb. 28	at Colorado
Dec. 30	Consolation/Championship	March 3	Kansas State
Jan. 3	Texas	March 8	Big Eight Tournament in Kansas City
Jan. 6	Long Beach State		