

Pacific coach expects to compete, not win

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Pacific football coach Chuck Shelton is not worried about winning this weekend. Asking his players to defeat the No. 2 team in the nation, Shelton said, would be unrealistic.



Shelton

responsible for being prepared and playing as

"They absolutely are committed to playing," he said. "We hold them responsible for being ready to play. It's a challenge. And certainly I think the kids will accept the challenge."

"If I hold them accountable for beating Nebraska, then we may not see good results. But if I hold them

well as they can, this can be a good game for us."

Pacific, 1-2, is coming into Lincoln off a 56-24 loss to Fresno State, a game in which the Tigers were not prepared to play.

"Fresno State is a good team," Shelton said. "They are probably a better team than Pacific. But we were self-destructive. We didn't play a good football game, and we beat ourselves in many ways."

One week before the Tigers' poor showing against Fresno State, Pacific defeated Oregon State 23-10, the school's first win over a Pac-10 opponent in more than 12 years.

"It was a huge win," Shelton said, "huge because it was local. We played almost mistake-free football and beat a Pac-10 team. That makes it big right there, because we are a Big West team."

Shelton, who coached Utah State from 1986-91, has brought four teams to Lincoln in the

last decade. Including last year's Pacific squad that lost to the Cornhuskers 70-21, his teams have been defeated by an average score of 62-18.

Despite the Tigers' apparent lack of competitiveness, Shelton said he wouldn't pull the Nebraska game from the Pacific schedule if he were presented with the opportunity.

"We are playing as class a program as there is in the U.S.," Shelton said. "In my opinion, they are the best program in the nation. Their program and the atmosphere there is something that you wouldn't be able to duplicate anywhere, and I'd like my players to be a part of it."

Shelton said he had watched film of Nebraska's three offensive outbursts this season, drawing the conclusion that no defense could completely shut down the Husker attack. Nebraska has averaged 63 points and more than 650 yards a game in three wins.

"They are awesome," he said. "I think they have taken college offense to another level. They do what they do so well that there is no answer for it."

After last week's 77-28 win over Arizona State, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne was accused of running up the score by Sun Devil coach Bruce Snyder. Shelton said that issue had become the "topic of the year." But the Pacific coach said he wasn't worried about Osborne exploiting Pacific.

"My stance on it is this: I cannot dictate to a coach what he needs to do," Shelton said. "I think there are some situations where coaches have intentionally run up the score. But in games against Tom Osborne, I certainly don't think that has been the case."

"In fact, they may have hurt themselves just trying not to do that. I don't think Nebraska got a whole lot out of that game against us last year."

Soccer team resists losses, weather

By Todd Walkenhorst
Staff Reporter

It's too early for a must-win situation, but then again, it's much too early for snow as well.

The Nebraska soccer team may face both this weekend as it prepares to battle Kansas and Wyoming at the Ethel S. Abbott Soccer Park Complex.

On Wednesday, the Cornhuskers practiced in less than ideal conditions, Coach John Walker said.

"It was raining, snowing and hailing," Walker said. "Sometimes these type of practices are fun and build morale."

Nebraska is coming off the Adidas Invitational last weekend, where they

dropped a pair of games to ranked opponents.

This weekend the Huskers will play host to two first-year programs.

"I think they are must-win games," Walker said. "Both Kansas and Wyoming will be competitive, and I don't expect easy games."

"Wyoming has not won yet, but every game they have played has been close."

The Huskers first have to play Kansas tonight at 5, moved up from 7 because of the weather. The Jayhawks are in their first year, which gives the Big Eight three schools with soccer as a varsity sport. Next year, the new Big 12 Conference will have seven schools with soccer programs.

"The conference will be good for all of the schools," Walker said.

"There's plans for a postseason tournament, and it will set up some of the natural rivalries you see in other sports."

Despite losing four of their first five games, the Huskers still are gaining confidence, Walker said.

Nebraska has never lost three games in a row, and it had only four losses all of last year.

"They're still playing hard and battling; that's important," Walker said. "We just have to rectify the wrongs, keep up the morale, and make sure there are no cracks in the armor."

Erstad may win award

From Staff Reports

Former Husker Darin Erstad is one of nine finalists for the Golden Spikes Award, given to the top amateur baseball player in the country.

Erstad was the first pick in the Major League Baseball draft in June. For the California Angels' Class A Lake Elsinore team, Erstad hit .363 with five home runs and 24 runs batted in. He will be playing in Tempe, Ariz., in the Arizona Fall League.

Picks from the Hicks

Daily Nebraskan staffers pick the winners of 10 major college football games this weekend, with winners in *italics*:

Texas A&M	at <i>Colorado</i>
UNLV	at <i>Iowa St.</i>
Akron	at <i>Kansas St.</i>
Oklahoma St.	at <i>Wyoming</i>
Houston	at <i>Kansas</i>
Northeast Louisiana	at <i>Missouri</i>
North Texas	at <i>Oklahoma</i>
Texas	at <i>Notre Dame</i>
Southern Cal	at <i>Arizona</i>

Pick the score

Pacific 16 at *Nebraska* 76

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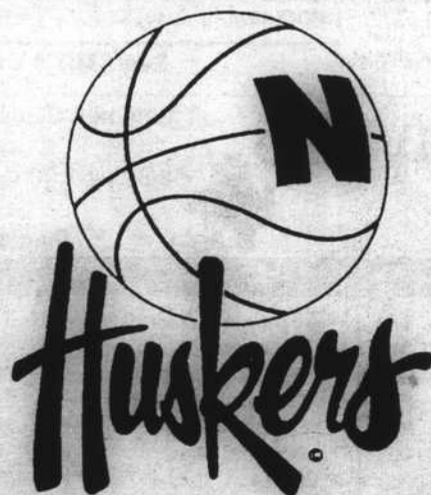
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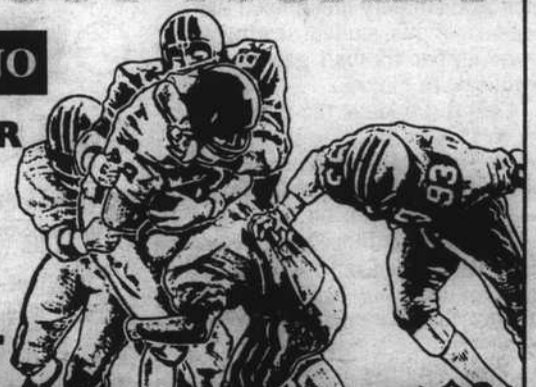
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	Mississippi St. @ Tennessee
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