

SPORTS

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SPORTS OPINION



Todd Walkenhorst

No apologies need be made for scoreboard

As teams climb up the football polls, so do the scores.

This weekend, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne and Florida State coach Bobby Bowden were not criticized as much for running up the score after easy victories last weekend.

But two weeks ago, the story was different.

After defeating Arizona State two Saturdays ago, Osborne apologized to Sun Devil coach Bruce Snyder for scoring late in the game.

Maybe Snyder should have been apologizing to Osborne, the Huskers and all of the fans who paid to see that game for not bringing a team ready to play.

After a week to think about it, good old Dr. Tom agreed and realized that the Huskers could have done much more damage.

"We scored one touchdown offensively in the last half," Osborne said, "and believe me, we could have done a lot more than that."

"When you have your No. 3 quarterback, your No. 4 or No. 5 offensive line, your No. 3 or 4 wingback against the first-team safety," he said, "is that a real apologetic situation?"

The average Joe Blow football fan was not calling for Osborne's head after Saturday's game.

If the Huskers would have scored 70 points against Pacific, Osborne again would be criticized. But why?

College football is the only sport, at any level, that has the dilemma of when the scoring should stop.

You never hear of this phenomenon in other sports. Baseball and basketball blowouts never strike up this conversation. Ask Danny Nee about his trip to Oklahoma State last season, which ended in a 93-53 loss.

Because of this controversy, football teams are forced to play below their top level, making it unfair to the players and fans.

"It's sad to say, but I think Coach Osborne may have limited himself on the play calling this week, with everybody talking about running up the score," senior center Aaron Graham said after last week's Pacific game. "I don't know if that's right or not."

Why is this even a controversy in football? These players should know what they are getting into when they accept a football scholarship to a school such as Arizona State or Pacific.

They are mediocre players going to a mediocre school, and Nebraska is ahead on the schedule as an opponent. If they can't figure out what's going to happen, they should not be in college. If they can't handle what's going to happen, they should not be playing football.

Walkenhorst is a senior broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan sports reporter.

Huskers, Buffs meet tonight

Volleyball team kicks off season with rival CU

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Starting the Big Eight season by playing conference rival Colorado on the road is just fine for the Nebraska volleyball team.

No. 1 Nebraska, 10-1, takes a nine-match winning streak to Boulder, Colo., to take on the 7-4 Buffaloes tonight at 8:30.

Senior Allison Weston wouldn't want to start with anyone else, especially after what happened two years ago. The Buffaloes defeated Nebraska for both the Big Eight conference

championship and the Big Eight Tournament. Now she said she wanted to end her career on top.

"I remember my sophomore year when we didn't win the Big Eight, and that was kind of a disappointment," Weston said. "Being my senior year, it's always nice, plus it's the last Big Eight championship, so that will be kind of an incentive to win it."

Nebraska does find itself defending the Big Eight title, unlike last season when the Huskers were trying to regain the title they had held for 17 previous seasons.

In the year Nebraska lost the Big Eight crown, Colorado beat the Huskers in a five-game match at Boulder Oct. 13, 1993. That was the last conference match Nebraska lost, 20 matches ago.

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CU coach says Huskers spark game excitement

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

The best medicine for the Colorado volleyball team after a weekend hangover would be a victory over Nebraska.

The 7-4 Buffaloes are coming off two losses at No. 7 Notre Dame, where Coach Brad Saindon said his team played some terrible volleyball. Notre Dame swept Colorado in both matches.

"Our team was feeling pretty bad, and we were doubting ourselves after the match," Saindon said. "They made us look foolish, and now we have to

bounce back and play an even greater team."

No. 15 Colorado plays host to No. 1 Nebraska Wednesday night at Boulder, Colo. Saindon said playing the Cornhuskers could help the Buffaloes get back on track.

"Nebraska is a big game no matter what sport," Saindon said. "Every time we play Nebraska, they bring an aura of excitement to the match."

That excitement should bring a good crowd into the Coors Event Center as well. But Saindon said the home-court advantage could have either a positive or a negative effect.

"They could be a factor if we keep them in the match," Saindon said. "If Nebraska comes in and takes the crowd out of the match, that could have a negative effect. For our team to have

See BUFFALOES on 8

Freshman goalkeeper settles into position

By Antone Oseka
Staff Reporter

Nebraska goalkeeper Michelle Denomme had a big adjustment to make when she came to college.

The adjustment wasn't in the classroom, but on the soccer field, where she was named Nebraska's starting goalkeeper at the start of the season. Starting at goalkeeper as a freshman surprised Denomme at first.

"I had to earn the position like everyone else," she said. "I didn't really want to ride the bench my first year."

And Denomme hasn't been on the sidelines much at all this season. Denomme has started six of Nebraska's seven games this season, recording 13 saves and allowing seven goals. She is fourth in the Central Region with a 1.12 goals-against average, and on Sunday against Wyoming, Denomme and sophomore Michelle Hauser combined for Nebraska's first shutout of the season.

After last season's starting goalkeeper, Alison Dudley, didn't come out for the team this year, the spot was open. And Denomme stepped right in.

"I think I've adjusted quickly," Denomme said.

Denomme said she thought the key for her adjustment came through the soccer team. The team really gets along, and everyone on the team knows each other, she said, which contributes to team unity.

Adjusting to the style of her teammates' play was hard, Denomme said.

"You're so used to playing with one team that you know all the other players' strength and weaknesses," she said. "You change your game a little bit to adjust for each team that you play for."

But Husker coach John Walker said Denomme had survived the battle.

"She's come a long way, and she



Angela Heywood/DN

Nebraska goalkeeper Michelle Denomme dives for a ball during practice Tuesday. Denomme is starting as a freshman.

does a very good job," he said.

Denomme, from London, Ontario, said she missed her friends and family from Canada, but she doesn't miss the weather.

"It's a little hot down here, that's

all," Denomme said.

After spending a year and a half playing for the Ontario provincial team, Denomme said she probably would return to Canada to play soccer sometime.

"I'll play for a club team when I head back," she said. "There's also the national team, which I'll try out for. I should get my invitation to it in a couple years. I'd like to get involved with the provincial team again."

I-backs, injuries focus of press conference

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

For the third consecutive week, Tom Osborne spent the majority of his press conference talking about subjects other than football.

Although the barrage of questions subsided in week three of life without Lawrence Phillips, conversation about the Cornhuskers' suspended former Heisman Trophy candidate again dominated the discussion.

Phillips, who was indefinitely suspended from the football team on Sept. 10 after being arrested and charged with third-degree assault, spent three days last week at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan., Osborne said.

"Lawrence is doing fine," Osborne said. "I talked to him a little bit this morning. He is going to class.

He works out in the morning."

Osborne said the report from the renowned psychiatric hospital was due back in Lincoln Tuesday or Wednesday.

"We'll take a look at it and go from there."

Osborne said Monday that if he was satisfied with the results of Phillips' examination in Topeka, the I-back possibly could play as early as Oct. 14, when Nebraska plays host to Missouri.

But Osborne emphasized that no date had been set in stone for the return of Phillips, who gained 359 yards on 34 attempts in two games this year before being suspended.

"Some people will say it's hypocritical because you are supporting him so he can come back and play against Colorado (Oct. 28)," Osborne said. "If he was a fifth-team player, he would be treated the same."

After evaluating the psychiatric report, Osborne said he would take into consideration how his decision might affect Phillips and the team.

"If you kick him off, what is he going to do?" Osborne said. "Does he go back to nothing? What happens to the guy? If you keep him around, is this going to be a real problem for the team? I have never found it real easy to make those decisions."

Other people, however, Osborne said, have had little difficulty passing judgment on his decisions.

"Some people would say a person is innocent until proven guilty," Osborne said. "But I don't want to put a guy out there on the field if I am really convinced that he committed a serious crime."

"You have to make a judgment. That's not

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