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Mason says MSU can win

SPARTAN RECEIVER is Big Ten's best kickoff return specialist.

By **MIKE KLUCK**
Senior Reporter

Michigan State wide receiver Derrick Mason will not soon forget last year's Nebraska game.

"It was a very long game and they did a lot of running," the Spartan senior wide receiver and return specialist said about last year's 50-10 loss to the Cornhuskers.



Mason

Nebraska rolled up 552 yards rushing against the Spartans and 666 yards of total offense.

But more disappointing to Mason and the Spartan team was after Michigan State cut Nebraska's lead to 23-10 with six minutes left in the third quarter. The Huskers then went on to score 27 straight points.

"This year, we want to be able to stay in the game with them through four quarters," Mason said. "Last year, we didn't play four quarters, and it hurt us in the end. We have prepared and worked hard to stay in the game for four quarters, and we feel if we do we have a good shot at winning."

The All-America candidate knows that coming into Memorial Stadium and knocking off the two-time defending national champions — who currently hold the nation's longest win streak at 25 games — will not be easy.

"It won't surprise me if we win," Mason said. "We're capable of beating everybody on our schedule if we do all the things we're suppose to do."

"Our goal is just to play to the best of our ability. We're going to come to Lincoln and give it our all."

Last year against the Huskers, Mason had four receptions for 55 yards, but he was not the featured receiver in the Spartan offense.

However, this season with the absence of Muhsin Muhammad, Mason has become the Spartans primary receiver.

Last week in MSU's 52-14 win over Purdue, he had three catches for 62 yards. Mason's yard total included a 45 yard catch in the second quarter.

But Mason — who is questionable for Saturday's game because of a wrist injury — is also known as a dangerous punt- and kickoff-return specialist. Against Purdue, he returned five punts for 48 yards and one kickoff for 14 yards.

He already is the Michigan State and Big Ten leader in career kickoff return yardage, and he needs just 746 yards this season to set a new NCAA mark.

"I just want to go out and play, and the rest will take care of itself," Mason said.

Huskers set to begin title defense

MSU from page 11

first game. Irvin set a Michigan State freshman record by scoring four touchdowns.

The Spartans started a new quarterback, Todd Schultz, against the Boilermakers. Schultz completed 19 of 27 passes for 174 yards Saturday.

The game will also mark the highly anticipated debut of Stanford transfer Scott Frost. This fall, Frost said he has improved his knowledge of the Husker offense.

No matter what happens against Michigan State, Frost said, many will still compare him to Tommie Frazier.

"The last thing I'm going to be thinking about on the field is what Tommie would have done with that situation," Frost said.

In addition to Frost, seven other players are making their first start for NU.

One of those players is freshman right cornerback Ralph Brown. Brown may not be in that position if two members of the Michigan State secondary had chosen Nebraska over MSU.

Spartan cornerback Amp Campbell verbally committed to NU three years before backing out on signing day, and free safety Sorie Kanu wanted to attend Nebraska, but the Huskers didn't offer him a scholarship.

Two Nebraska players will miss the Huskers' first game.

No. 1 Will linebacker Terrell Farley is suspended for at least two games after being ticketed for suspicion of driving while intoxicated on Aug. 30. Ryan Terwilliger, who started six times last season — including the MSU game

Starters

Saturday, 11:10 a.m.
Memorial Stadium



Nebraska Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
SE	5	Brendan Holben	6-0	195	Sr.
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6	305	Sr.
LG	75	Chris Diehman	6-3	310	Sr.
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Jr.
RG	64	Jon Zebzicka	6-2	290	Jr.
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	305	Jr.
TE	90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Jr.
QB	11	Matt Turman	5-11	185	Sr.
FB	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	230	So.
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	220	So.
WB	26	Jon Vedral	5-11	205	Sr.
PK	35	Kris Brown	6-0	102	So.

Michigan St. Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
PL	81	Niese Carter	6-2	181	So.
LT	65	Dave Mudge	6-7	289	Jr.
LG	73	Scott Shaw	6-4	295	Jr.
C	52	Matt Beard	6-8	275	Sr.
RQ	53	Brian McMillan	5-1	274	So.
RT	76	Flozell Adams	6-7	325	Jr.
TE	53	Josh Keur	6-4	260	Jr.
QB	9	Todd Schultz	6-4	217	Jr.
TB	27	Duane Gouibourne	5-9	200	So.
FB	45	Garrett Gould	6-2	230	So.
WB	50	Derrick Mason	6-10	191	So.
PK	14	Chris Gardner	5-9	191	Jr.

Nebraska Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
LB	23	Jared Tomich	6-2	250	Sr.
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	310	Sr.
DT	55	Jason Peter	6-3	285	Jr.
RR	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	Jr.
RAM	28	Jason Williams	6-2	210	So.
MIKE	44	Jon Hesse	6-4	250	Sr.
WILL	31	Ryan Terwilliger	6-4	225	Sr.
LCE	20	Michael Booker	6-2	205	Sr.
FS	18	Eric Stockan	5-11	195	Sr.
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Sr.
RCE	22	Ralph Brown	5-11	180	Jr.
P	19	Jesse Koech	6-0	185	Sr.

Michigan St. Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
DE	26	Dimitrios Underwood	6-7	250	So.
DT	62	Robert Newkirk	6-8	285	Fr.
DT	96	Chris Smith	6-1	269	So.
DE	53	Courtney Ledyard	6-3	237	So.
HLB	44	Tim Rosen	6-3	220	Jr.
MLB	22	Reggie Garnett	6-1	230	Sr.
WLB	35	Mike Austin	6-3	220	Fr.
LCE	3	Amp Campbell	6-0	183	So.
SS	18	Marcin Wright	6-1	205	So.
FS	6	Sorie Kanu	5-11	193	So.
RCE	10	Ray Hill	6-0	180	Jr.
P	1	Paul Edinger	5-10	165	Fr.

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— takes Farley's place.

No. 2 wingback Lance Brown, who missed the spring game and has been suspended for Saturday's contest, will return to the Nebraska lineup Sept. 21 against Arizona State, Osborne said.

For Tomich, this weekend's game

has a special meaning. He grew up in St. John, Ind., Big Ten country, and always had to listen about the Big Ten's prowess.

"I'm getting tired of hearing how good the Big Ten is," Tomich said. "They get too much publicity."

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