

## Sports Opinion



**Mike Kluck**

### Need a new foe? bring on UNLV, Hastings, Wayne

There's a huge concern growing in the South Stadium football offices: Who will Nebraska play next season?

Just a few months ago, that was just a joke. But with Northern Illinois backing out of its contract two months ago and Arkansas State also canceling its deal to come to Lincoln, Nebraska now has just one nonconference opponent scheduled for the 1997 season.

The problem with schedules has become so serious that Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said he has almost had to resort to bribery in order to fill out the Husker schedule.

Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne has been aggressively looking for future sacrifices — I mean opponents — but somehow when you win two straight national titles, people don't want to play you.

With the severity of the problem, Osborne said Monday that Nebraska may play next August in the Pigskin Classic. That is if NU can find an opponent.

A Pigskin Classic clash would leave the football team practicing in July.

Now I know many Husker fans would like the season to last almost six months, but we are forgetting that the players are here for educational purposes.

I have some ideas to help NU fill its schedule.

When you're making a schedule, it is good to play a team with a direction in its name. For example, North Texas dots the schedules of Arizona State and Texas A&M.

Better yet, NU should schedule a team with two directions in its name. The ever-powerful Southwest Louisiana gets to play Florida and Texas A&M.

The next problem: Many teams want a home game in return for their trip to Memorial Stadium. Since Nebraska played at Michigan State last year, the Spartans had to come to Lincoln this year.

This is a good scheduling device. Nebraska could schedule Kentucky at Memorial Stadium, and then to return the favor in December, the Huskers could send the basketball team to Lexington, Ky.

Or maybe the Huskers should schedule Nevada-Las Vegas, which played Tennessee two weeks ago. I, for one, would like to travel to that road game every other season.

Finally, Nebraska should schedule as many in-state schools as possible. Since the Oklahoma rivalry appears headed down the drain, NU needs natural rivals — like Hastings College (Osborne's alma mater), UNO or Wayne State.

If they're good enough for the baseball team, why not the football team?

Kluck is a graduate student in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

# No. 12 NU begins homestand

**HUSKERS PLAY host to ORU in first of 10 straight home games.**

By **VINCE D'ADAMO**  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska soccer team begins a stretch of 10 straight home games tonight at the Abbott Sports Complex.

The Cornhuskers play host to Oral Roberts at 7. Both the Golden Eagles and Nebraska are unbeaten at 3-0. The Oral Roberts matchup is followed by a 1 p.m. contest Sunday against 1-2-1 Loyola Marymount.

The Huskers are looking to ride the

momentum of last Sunday's 3-1 victory over previously sixth-ranked Duke on the road. That victory enabled Nebraska to leap from 25th to No. 12 in the USA Today/Coaches poll.

Coach John Walker said that because of NU's newly found national recognition, every opponent will now have its calendar marked when it plays Nebraska.

"We now have become a big game for other people," Walker said. "Last year, we were the reverse. Now we know people will be up for us."

Oral Roberts might have an incentive this weekend. Despite its 3-0 record, the Golden Eagles are not ranked. They have displayed Husker-like domination, outscoring their op-

position 13-0. Nebraska beat Oral Roberts 2-0 in 1994 and 3-0 last season.

The Huskers have a 17-1 advantage over their opponents. Leading the way for Oral Roberts is freshman Heidi Kubes, who has six goals and 13 points. Oral Roberts defeated NU's Big 12 rival Kansas 2-0 earlier this season.

Walker said the Golden Eagles and Loyola Marymount figure to give his squad all it can handle.

"We know Oral Roberts is a decent team, and they're very physical," Walker said. "There's so much parity that I don't think anyone can relax."

Loyola Marymount's lone victory was a 3-0 shutout over Arizona State. The Lions played to a 1-1 tie against California-Irvine. Heather Farr leads

## Soccer

Abbott Sports Complex

Oral Roberts, today, 7 p.m.

Loyola Marymount, Sunday, 7 p.m.

Loyola Marymount with five points and two goals.

The Huskers have made a habit of breaking games open in the second half this season. Walker and sophomore striker Kristen Gay said the turn-

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## Fatigued NU to face Duke, N. Carolina

By **JAY SAUNDERS**  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team heads to the East Coast this weekend to play a pair of Atlantic Coast Conference teams.

The fourth-ranked Cornhuskers (5-1) travel to Chapel Hill, N.C., to play North Carolina tonight at 5. The match at Carmichael Auditorium is a part of the Triangle Classic, which also includes Wisconsin and Duke.

Nebraska will head down Tobacco Road to play Duke Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at Cameron Indoor Arena.

Nebraska will not play Wisconsin. Duke (2-2) lost to No. 7 Florida in

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## Volleyball

Triangle Classic

at N. Carolina, today, 5 p.m.

at Duke, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

## Pettit hurt jogging; Noth takes control

By **TREVOR PARKS**  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit suffered a serious knee injury while jogging Thursday morning and did not travel with the No. 4 Cornhuskers to North Carolina.

Assistant coach Cathy Noth, who will assume command of the team this weekend, said Thursday afternoon from Chapel Hill, N.C., that she is ready to fill in.

"I didn't want it this way," Noth said. "I've been here eight years, and I've had a good role model. So I'm ready."

The Cornhuskers are scheduled to play North Carolina tonight and Duke on Saturday.

Pettit hurt his knee early Thursday and entered Saint Elizabeth Hospital

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**JASON PETER** (left) helps anchor Nebraska's four-man defensive front line.

SCOTT BRUHN/DN

## Peter tackles leadership role

**NU'S JUNIOR defensive tackle aspires to reach the playing level of his brother.**

By **ANTONE OSEKA**  
Senior Editor

Last season Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter was content to let brother Christian stand alone in the spotlight, even though at times the spotlight wasn't good.

"He got most of the spotlight, and that's all right by me," Jason Peter said.

This year, Jason, a junior, is ready to move into his new role as a leader on the defensive line, while remembering his brother's legacy.

Jason gave up his number, 95, to wear Christian's former number, 55.

"Ever since I got here, Christian helped me on and off the field," Peter said. "It's kind of my way of letting him know that his work here hasn't gone unnoticed."

Jason said although he admired the way Christian played on the field, their techniques differ.

"We're different players, and I don't have to play a certain style like him," Jason said.

One thing Jason said he would take from his brother is work ethic, but he wouldn't want to copy it exactly.

"You take some bits and pieces of his work ethic and his leadership," Jason said. "You try to follow that and pass it off to the other guys."

And though Jason said he is ready to step into the spotlight, he doesn't feel like he has to fill Christian's role.

This year's role for the 6-foot-4, 285-pounder is one of importance. Along with 6-6, 300-pound Jeff Ogard, Peter anchors a defensive line featuring two of the best rush ends in the nation, Grant Wistrom and Jared Tomich.

Peter and defensive line teammates have built a rivalry among themselves this season.

"I wonder when Tomich is actually going to get a tackle?" Peter said.

After Tuesday's practice free safety Eric Stokes was running a drill when he sailed headfirst into the back of Peter. Stokes strained

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