

Sports Opinion



Mike Kluck

Nebraska looks for another win at Kansas State

The following are some thoughts and comments leading up to Nebraska's next "biggest game of the season" against Kansas State Saturday.

Oh, wait a minute. Because of the Arizona State loss, I guess it's the Cornhuskers' second biggest game of the year. Now hold on one minute, NU still has to play Colorado. So I guess this is Nebraska's third biggest game of the season.

Darn, I forgot about the Big 12 championship game (if the Huskers make it), so the Wildcats are the fourth most important opponent.

Oh, forget it. No matter how intense Kansas State wants to make this game, it will never be the Huskers' biggest game.

But maybe this game is big for NU. Nebraska has designated KSU as its official "Big 12 rival" this year. Next year, how about Missouri? ...

Pretenders versus contenders.

The Wildcats are pretending they can actually compete with the Cornhuskers. NU usually abuses the Cats like a scratching post.

But at least the past five games have been entertaining. In the 1980s, Nebraska fans spent many a Saturday afternoon napping as the Huskers drubbed the Wildcats. In those 10 meetings, Nebraska outscored KSU 500-79.

Since 1990, Nebraska has only beaten Kansas State by a combined score of 232-122. ...

If you look up the word commitment in Webster's Dictionary, you probably won't see Kansas State in the definition.

But if you are trying to explain what commitment is to your significant other, use what KSU has done as an example (especially if he or she is a college football fan).

Before Wildcat Coach Bill Snyder's arrival in 1989, Kansas State was going through head coaches faster than the UNL Parking Services responds to an expired meter.

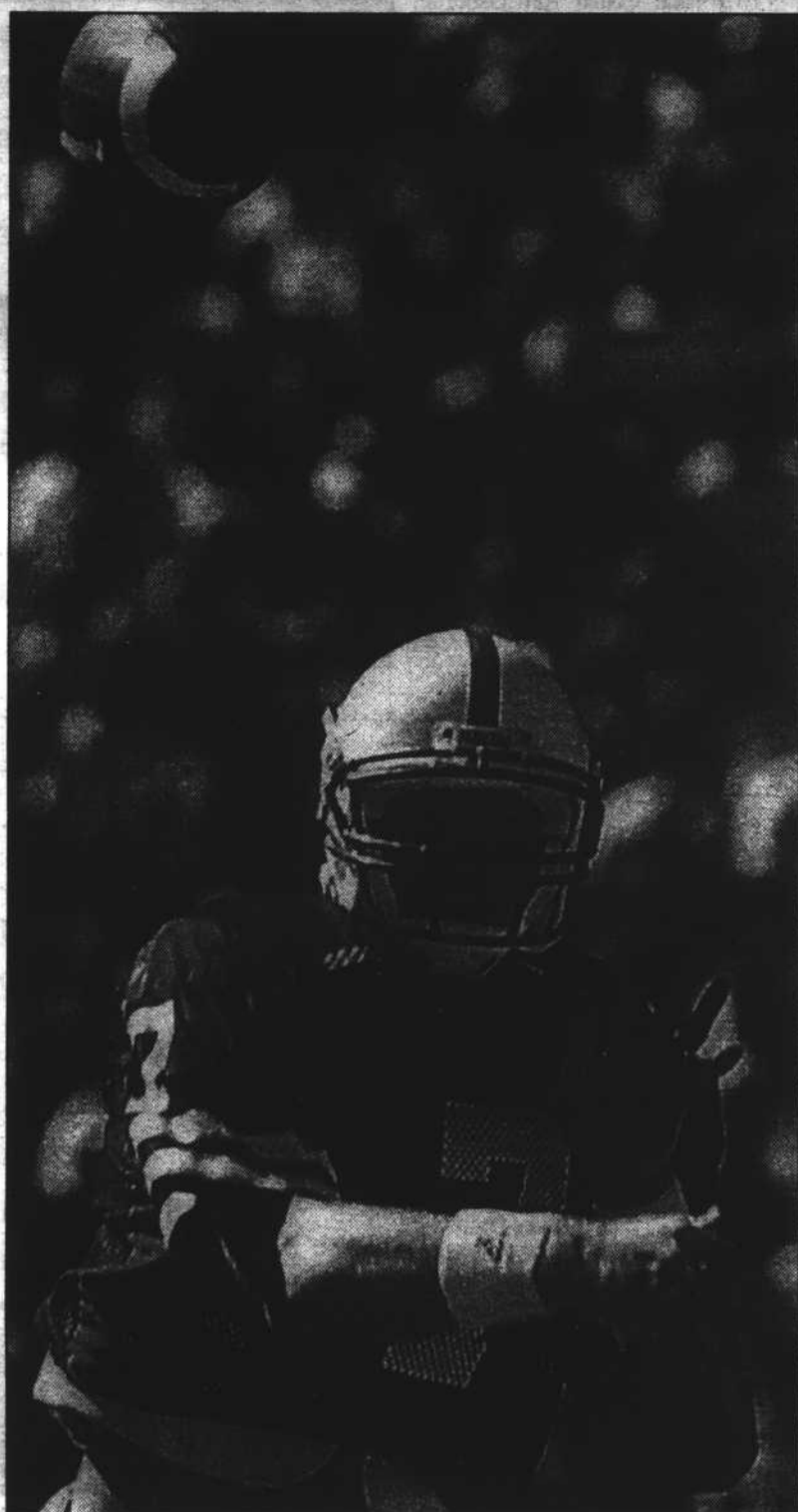
But with Snyder at the helm, Kansas State has made a commitment to upgrade its facilities and the KSU Athletic Department has made sure Snyder will not leave the "Little Apple" with a nice financial package.

With that backing, the Wildcats have responded with one of the best turnarounds in college football history. ...

Talk about turnarounds, check out the Oklahoma Sooners. In three years, the Sooners have gone through three coaches and welcomed new Coach John Blake with an 0-3 record.

With eight games left—including seven games against 1995 bowl teams and a trip to Oklahoma State—Blake may have to wait another year for his first win.

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



SCOTT BRUNN/DN

SCOTT FROST, Nebraska's junior quarterback, will face a Kansas State defense that ranks No. 8 nationally.

NU faces do or die at KSU

Nebraska expects a fired up KSU squad Saturday.

By **TREVOR PARKS**
Senior Reporter

Kansas State enters Saturday's football game against Nebraska with something to prove to the college football world.

The Wildcats (4-0 and 1-0 in the Big 12) want to show the nation they can finally beat the 2-1 Cornhuskers, a team that has beaten KSU 27 straight times.

The problem for 16th-ranked Kansas State—which enters a Nebraska game for the first time since 1961 with a higher winning percentage than NU—is that No. 6 Nebraska is also out to prove something.

One team will answer a lot of questions about what it can accomplish this season when the Huskers and Wildcats meet Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at KSU Stadium in Manhattan, Kan.

"We have to prove to ourselves that we have the team we thought we had at the beginning of the season," NU defensive tackle Jason Peter said. "We need to have a good showing Saturday and show people that we haven't fallen off the face of the planet."

An NU loss will not only end dreams of a third national title, but it will put a serious dent in the Hus-

ers' chances to win the Big 12 North Division title and earn a spot in the league championship game, Dec. 7 in St. Louis.

KSU has had a week off to prepare for the Huskers, while NU recovered from a 19-0 loss to Arizona State with a 65-9 whipping of Colorado State last Saturday.

In four games this season, Kansas State has outscored its opponents 149-21, but games against Indiana State, Cincinnati and Rice have likely done little to prepare KSU for the Big 12.

NU quarterback Scott Frost, whose Huskers are averaging 62 points in their two victories this season, said his confidence has improved after a 13-for-18, 143-yard passing performance that including two touchdowns against CSU.

The Wildcats rank third nationally in scoring defense and No. 8 in total defense.

"We understand they've been focused on this game for a while and they've had two weeks to prepare," Frost said. "Obviously they are going to want to beat Nebraska."

Rush end Grant Wistrom said the Huskers are not treating this as the game of the season.

"A lot of schools have marked our game and said if we can beat Nebraska, that will put us in the next echelon," Wistrom said. "To us, it's just another football game."

Please see **KSU** on 8

No. 6 Nebraska faces Tulsa, Tide

By **VINCE D'ADAMO**
Staff Reporter

The sixth-ranked Nebraska soccer team achieved its biggest triumph in school history last Sunday, blanking Texas A&M 1-0.

Now the Cornhuskers must put that win behind them. Nebraska (9-0) looks to continue its winning ways, playing host to Tulsa and Alabama this weekend at the Abbott Sports Complex.

The Huskers play the Golden Hurricane tonight at 7 and the Crimson Tide Sunday at 1 p.m.

Tulsa (6-3) is ranked eighth in the Central Region.

"They're a very experienced team," NU Coach John Walker said. "After Duke and Texas A&M, they'll probably be our toughest game."

Alabama (4-5-1) started the season 2-0 before hitting the skids, winning one of its last seven matches. Alabama's offense has been dormant lately, scoring four goals in its last five games.

"We have been struggling a bit offensively," Alabama Coach Don Staley said.

"We have to play a consistent

Soccer

Abbott Sports Complex

Tulsa, today, 7 p.m.

schedule against top teams if we want to get back into the national picture."

After Sunday's physical contest against the Aggies, Walker does not expect a letdown from the Huskers.

"They've handled it pretty well," Walker said. "We recognize it was a good win, but we've got to move on."

Midfielder Kari Uppinghouse is just two points shy of breaking the Huskers regular-season scoring record of 26 points set by Danielle Boswell in 1994.

The Huskers, ranked first in NSCAA Central Region, are within reach of their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The region's top two teams at the end of the season will earn automatic bids to the 32-team tournament.

Huskers challenge 'bottom of Big 12'

By **SHANNON HEFFELFINGER**
Staff Reporter

After opening Big 12 Conference action with two victories at home last weekend, the Nebraska volleyball team plays its first-ever Big 12 road matches today and Saturday.

The No. 6 Cornhuskers (10-2 and 2-0 in the league) will face Iowa State (4-10 and 0-2) tonight at 7:30 in Ames and Missouri (0-10 and 0-2) Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Columbia, Mo.

Iowa State, which made its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance last year, is off to a slow start this season. After tying for second in the Big Eight last year, the Cyclones began Big 12 play with a five-game loss to Baylor and was swept by Texas Tech.

"I've seen the match scores," NU Coach Terry Pettit said, "and Iowa State seems to be struggling."

The Cyclones, who in 48 meetings have never beaten Nebraska, are led by senior Rachelle Van Helden. The 6-foot-3 outside hitter leads the team with 4.04 kills per game, and she is hitting .160 on the season.

The last time the Huskers faced Iowa State was in the Big Eight Tournament championship match last November. NU posted a three-game sweep of the Cyclones, who scored

Volleyball

at Iowa St., today, 7:30 p.m.

only 10 points in the match.

Missouri has also been weak this season.

The Tigers, who have won eight games and no matches this year, have eight new scholarship players on their roster. The last time the two teams met, the Huskers swept Missouri, allowing the Tigers only six points. The six points tied a NU school record for fewest allowed in a three-game match.

Jodi Maune, one of five returning starters from last year's 6-25 team, has been the go-to player for MU. Maune is averaging 4.15 kills per game.

No matter how badly Missouri and Iowa State have been playing, Pettit said, his main concern is that the Huskers continue to improve every match.

"These two teams are probably at the bottom of the Big 12," Pettit said. "As evidenced by the match in North Carolina, if we don't play well and play hard, we can make any match interesting."