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Former NU coach happy in Carolina

PETER MARHOEFER
Staff Reporter

Kevin Steele, a former Nebraska assistant coach now with the Carolina Panthers, is enjoying life in the land of roundball and NASCAR but has never ruled out a return to college football.



"The Carolina Panthers are a class, class organization," said Steele, 39, who coached NU's linebackers from Steele 1989 through 1994. "But the NFL is very interesting. Every day you're learning something new."

The Carolina linebacker's coach has adjusted to life in the National Football League. The second-year Panthers are 5-2 and tied for first place with San Francisco in the NFC West after Sunday's 19-7 win over New Orleans.

As a coach who isn't much older than many of his players, Steele said the NFL is a new experience.

Expecting his players to cover Jerry Rice and blitz Troy Aikman is a big change from college, when he taught defense of the option every day in practice.

"It's a different kind of coaching," Steele said. "Football is a job. You perform or you don't get paid. The teams are so equal, and it's your job as a coach to get your players prepared."

Steele said he is happy as an NFL assistant, but if the right opportunity

comes along, nothing is out of the question.

"I love college football," Steele said. "Looking back, those were the greatest career years I could experience."

Steele still has ties in Lincoln. His brother, Jeff, is an intern in the Athletic Department.

"Kevin misses Nebraska tremendously," Jeff Steele said. "The players, coaches, the city of Lincoln itself. His daughter, Caroline, keeps telling me she's coming back here to live."

Kevin Steele has not seen the Huskers play in person since he left Nebraska. The NFL schedule makes it difficult to get away from the Carolinas. Steele's best chance to see a small piece of Nebraska in action is next year at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, when Lake Speed races in his Nebraska NASCAR.

But even in North Carolina, where Tar Heel and Blue Devil basketball reign supreme, Steele doesn't miss a Husker football game on television.

"There's some hotel rooms that have dents in the walls and furniture," he said.

Carolina has no former NU players on its roster, but Steele meets up with several former Huskers each year on the opposing sidelines.

"I miss Nebraska," Steele said, "and working for Coach Osborne. Nebraska has so many good people, I always miss them."

"We play St. Louis twice a year. Toby Wright, Lawrence Phillips and Zach Wiegert play for the Rams, so I get to talk with those guys. We leave the war on the field."

Huskers leap Lady Lions

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska volleyball team moved up one spot in the newly released AVCA Coaches' Poll to No. 5 after weekend wins over Texas A&M and Texas.

The Cornhuskers jumped Penn State, which lost to sixth-ranked Michigan State.

AVCA Top 25

Volleyball

Rank	Team	Record
1	Florida (59)	21-1
2	Florida	21-1
3	Stanford	19-0
4	Long Beach St.	19-0
5	Nebraska	16-2
6	Michigan St.	14-4
7	Nebraska	16-2
8	Loyola Marymount	16-2
9	Nebraska	16-2
10	Texas A&M	16-3
11	Wisconsin	15-2
12	Southern California	12-5
13	Nebraska	15-2
14	Washington	17-3
15	Nebraska	16-2
16	Pacific	14-4
17	Nebraska	16-2
18	Louisville	15-2
19	Nebraska	16-2
20	Texas Tech	19-2
21	Nebraska	16-2
22	George Mason	15-2
23	Nebraska	16-2
24	Oral Roberts	18-2
25	Nebraska	16-2

Huskers up another spot

From Staff Reports

The undefeated Nebraska soccer team moved up one spot in the NSCAA Coaches' Poll, released Tuesday. The Huskers jumped ahead of Santa Clara, which lost to No. 3 Portland.

NSCAA TOP 25

Soccer

Rank	Team	Record
1	Nebraska	12-0-0
2	North Carolina (4)	12-1-0
3	Portland	11-0-0
4	Connecticut	15-1-0
5	Nebraska	12-0-0
6	Santa Clara	11-3-0
7	Nebraska	12-0-0
8	Texas A&M	15-2-0
9	Nebraska	12-0-0
10	Wisconsin	10-2-3
11	Nebraska	12-0-0
12	Harvard	11-0-0
13	Nebraska	12-0-0
14	Minnesota	12-3-0
15	Nebraska	12-0-0
16	Clemson	11-4-1
17	Nebraska	12-0-0
18	North Carolina St.	10-4-1
19	Nebraska	12-0-0
20	Dartmouth	8-2-0
21	Nebraska	12-0-0
22	San Diego	9-3-1
23	Nebraska	12-0-0
24	Kentucky	10-3-2
25	George Washington	10-3-2

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Huskers can't explain problems

OFFENSE from page 7

Coach Tom Osborne also could not pinpoint the problem.

"The puzzling thing is you never quite know what is going to happen," Osborne said, "and I thought we kind of got beyond our execution problems."

"We had three-straight games with one turnover and basically pretty good execution. Then suddenly the wheels come off. Why that would happen, I have no idea."

If Frost struggles, the statistics show, NU's offense is unproductive.

Frost completed 10 of 32 passes (31 percent) for 121 yards, no touchdowns and one interception in games against Arizona State and Texas Tech.

Against Michigan State, Colorado State, Kansas State and Baylor he is 34-for-61 passing (56 percent).

Overall, the Huskers rank 104th in passing offense.

That isn't all Frost's fault, however. His receivers have had problems catching the football, making some of his stats worse than they appear.

"When you only throw the ball 12 times in a game, and two or three are dropped, and then another two or three are not catchable balls," Frost said, "then that makes your percentage pretty low."

"In order to have a real efficient passing game, we've got to eliminate those things."

Moore wants to be leader

MOORE from page 7

Troy Piatkowski and Larry Florence will be expected to play right away this fall.

"They're coming along," Nee said. "But it takes awhile. We're throwing a lot at them."

Belcher has played exceptionally well for a player with no college experience, Nee said. The 6-3 guard, who averaged 24.2 points and 8.3 rebounds as a senior at Mexico (Mo.) High

School last year, will compete for a starting position this season.

Florence — who along with Mitchell and Piatkowski did not meet academic requirements to play last year — also missed a few days of practice last week because of a knee injury.

Nee said he was glad to have Moore and Florence back in practice. Nebraska has only nine scholarship players this year.

"We need everybody we can get," Nee said.

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