





Peter will play with broken hand

By Patrick Wyman Staff Reporter

It takes more than a broken hand to keep Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter from starting Saturday against Kansas.

Peter, who was hurt last Saturday against Texas Tech. has been fitted for a cast that will allow him to play in the 6 p.m. game at Memorial Stadium.

"If he feels like he's able to do something then we'll play him and see how he does," Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride said. "But I'll play also play both (Scott) Saltsman and (Jason) Wiltz, so I'm not worried about it.'

Peter's comeback doesn't surprise fellow tackle Saltsman, who is a senior this year.

"He did break his hand, but knowing the kind of person he is, he'll find a way to get on the field," Saltsman said.

However, Peter, who earned honorable-mention All-Big Eight honors last season, could see limited time, creating opportunities for Saltsman and Wiltz, who spell Peter and senior Jeff Ogard.

Wiltz, a 6-foot-3, 285 pound sophomore from New Orleans, will fill in for Ogard, while Saltsman will replace Peter. Depending on how well Peter plays, McBride said, he wouldn't hesitate to rotate Ogard, Saltsman and Wiltz between the two

"Scott's had more experience at playing both positions, so I'd back him up at both positions," McBride said. "But he'll get the same amount of playing time."

Saltsman, a 6-2, 270 pounder from Wichita Falls, Texas, said he will do whatever it takes to help the team. If that means rotating spots, he's all for it.

"That'd be great," Saltsman said. "Wiltz has really stepped it up this year and is playing good. I think there will be a lot of benefits to that. The biggest one is that people will be a little bit more fresh.'

And if Peter, a 6-foot-4, 285 pound junior from Locust, N.J., can't make a big contribution against the Jayhawks, Saltsman is confident the defense will still play

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> SCOTT SALTSMAN NU defensive tackle

"You always miss a guy like Peter," said Saltsman, who has five tackles and one quarterback hurry. "He's a real intense player and he's a really good player, but I don't think that we'll be any less of a defensive unit."

If Peter's injury keeps him off the field, McBride will lean towards giving Wiltz the majority of time at Peter's spot.

That doesn't bother Saltsman, who has battled back from five knee operations since his freshman year.

"He's just a great athlete," Saltsman said of Wiltz. "He's a big kid. He moves really well and he's going to be a really great defensive linemen before he leaves here."

Regardless of who plays when, McBride said, each of the top four tackles know the NU game plan against KU.

"The biggest thing is they've got to stop the run," McBride said. "We have to shut down the running game and make Kansas a one-dimensional team so they have to depend on the pass all the time.

That could be easier said than done. The Huskers, whose rushing defense ranked fourth in the nation allowing 68.3 yards per game, will be facing the nation's seventh-leading rusher in June Henley.

Henley, a senior, is averaging 131.6 yards per game. Henley is also the nation's second-leading scorer with 13 touchdowns.

OSU Coach Ward resigns

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) The most successful baseball coach in the history of the Big Eight is going out with the conference.

Oklahoma State's Gary Ward resigned Wednesday after 19 years, saying his ailing back had become too much of a burden. Ward, 56, compiled a record of 953-313 at Oklahoma State and a 53-24 mark against Nebraska.

His teams won 17 Big Eight titles, including the past 16 in a row, and reached the College World Series 10 times, most recently last sea-

Kansas coach wants a win

MASON from page 9

-tack will be difficult against NU, Mason said.

"It's the best defense I've seen in the (conference) since I have been here," Mason said. "They are awfully aggressive and they play awfully hard. They make things hap-

Offensively, Mason said, the Huskers may be down this year.

"If you are asking me if the offense is as good as it was with Tommie Frazier, the answer is no," Mason said. "I think Scott Frost has stepped into the difficult job of filling someone's shoes, and that's hard to do."

Nebraska ranks third in the nation in rushing yards per game (300.8), but is the 104th best passing team, averaging 114.3 yards per contest.

"It's an opportunity," Mason said. "That's why players want to come to places like the University of Kansas or coach at a place like Kansas, because you want to play

"Right now and for a long time, Nebraska represents the best in col-lege football."

Note:

Former Nebraska quarterback Ben Rutz, now at Kansas, will play behind starter Matt Johner on Saturday, Mason said.

Huskers' Nepo sets her own pace

NEPO from page 9

-ond-guessing what she does," Pettit

"She's made a lot of errors along the way, but nobody's written columns or stories about it, and that's given her a chance to develop."

Husker middle blocker Megan Korver credits her recent success on the court to Nepo's ball distribution.

"Every ball that I hit down I attribute to her," Korver said. "Every kill I get is because of the good sets that she gives me."

Nepo said she's not concerned Pettit said.

about the postseason that Nebraska velop as a leader.

Korver said Nepo has already done tional people.

"When somebody's not playing their game she lets them know about it and that's a positive thing," Korver said. "We need to have somebody take charge on the court, and she does that

Nepo has the ability to follow the long line of great Nebraska setters,

"Fiona certainly has the potential," setters have become accustomed to he said. "She's had the advantage of earning. Her main goal, she said, is to learning from those people, and I'm play consistently and continue to de- sure she'd be the first to tell you that she's better for watching those excep-

Nepo said she agreed.

"Christy Johnson was a great person to learn from," Nepo said. "I watched her on the court - the way she took charge and the presence she had on the court.

"It was amazing to watch her and know that one day, I would be in that same position.'

