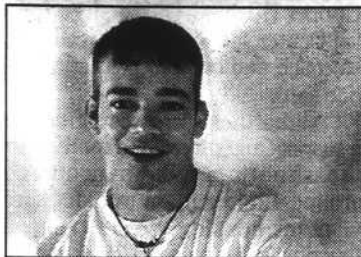


Sports Opinion



Gregg Madsen

Husker offense needs to play in first quarter

There were some livid Oklahoma fans at Memorial Stadium in Norman, Okla., last weekend.

Their claims of Tom Osborne running up the score were amusing, but not as ridiculous as their screams about how officiating lost the game for Oklahoma.

In the second quarter, Nebraska tight end Vershan Jackson fumbled on the Sooner 1-yard line and Oklahoma recovered the ball. But Jackson was ruled down, the Huskers retained possession, and DeAngelo Evans scored on the next play.

Oklahoma fans, players and coaches seemed to think that call could have changed the game's outcome.

Get real.

After scoring 17 points in the last eight minutes of the second quarter, the Huskers exploded for 56 second-half points.

The problem throughout the first half wasn't the officiating, it was the sluggish Husker offense.

So far this season, Nebraska is averaging a paltry 5.1 points in the first quarter. They have scored only twice on the first drive of the game — a 3-yard Scott Frost pass to Jackson against Colorado State and a 45-yard Kris Brown field goal at Kansas State.

Take away Terrell Farley's fumble recovery returned for a touchdown at Texas Tech, and NU has scored only three touchdowns in the first quarter this season.

Last year, Nebraska put up an average of 13.6 points in the first quarter, and it was held to only one touchdown in the opening period four times.

The 1995 Huskers had first-quarter explosions of 35 points against Arizona State, 21 against Pacific and Colorado and 20 against Iowa State.

So what gives? Why is the Husker offensive steam-roller taking so long to hit stride?

For one thing, defenses are coming at Nebraska from angles that don't exist on a protractor, and it's taking time for NU to adjust.

"Sometimes," Osborne said, "somebody else is playing pretty well, and then there have been some times that we've played pretty well. At Oklahoma, we did not play well in the first half."

The only number scarier than the Huskers' first-quarter offensive production is the number of points Husker opponents are averaging in the opening quarter: 0.5.

But as stellar as the Blackshirt defense has been this season, the offense must improve if NU is going to win the first Big 12 title and have a chance at a third-consecutive national title.

Madsen is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

MARIA HEDBECK practices her serving Wednesday at the NU Coliseum. Hedbeck, a senior defensive specialist, has been among Nebraska's most effective servers this season.

Improved serving aids Husker rise

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

Most volleyball players have experienced the all-too-familiar nervous feeling as they step up to the serving line, knowing every pair of eyes in the crowd is focused on them.

Maria Hedbeck has felt the pressure.

Serving is a big part of the 5-foot-10 senior's role for the Cornhuskers, who have improved as an entire team at the serving line this season, helping NU's rise to the top of the Big 12 Conference.

"You stand back there at that line and all of the focus is on you," Hedbeck said. "Everyone on the team and in the crowd is concentrating on you, and it really gives you time to think."

Last Wednesday against conference foe Colorado, the seventh-ranked Huskers (19-3 and 10-1) posted one of their best serving performances of the season.

NU recorded five service aces, driving the ball hard across the net

AVCA Top 25

Volleyball		
Rank	Team	Record
2.	Stanford (15)	19-2
4.	Long Beach St. (14)	25-0
6.	Penn St.	21-2
8.	Loyola Marymount	20-2
10.	Texas A&M	20-3
12.	Southern California	15-5
14.	Washington	20-4
16.	Cal-Santa Barbara	17-7
18.	George Mason	20-2
20.	Kansas St.	20-5
22.	Oral Roberts	21-2
24.	Maryland	20-4

to defeat the Buffaloes in three games. Husker setter Fiona Nepo also brought the crowd to life as she revealed a jump serve for the first time this season.

The Huskers carried that momentum into an important road match two nights later at Okla-

Please see **SERVING** on 9

Foreman emerges as future star

Once too slow, NU
linebacker now fits well
as a Blackshirt.

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Nothing in Jay Foreman's career at Nebraska has followed a logical path, but through it all, the sophomore linebacker has emerged as a future star in the Cornhusker football program.

Not too bad for a player who wasn't even supposed to come to Lincoln. The high school All-American from Eden Prairie, Minn., which is just outside Minneapolis, was supposed to follow his father to Miami.

After all, Jay's dad, Chuck Foreman, enjoyed a stellar career for the Hurricanes and then as a Minnesota Viking in the National Football League.

Jay was such a lock to head to Mi-

ami that the University of Minnesota, which plays its home games less than 20 miles from the Foreman home, didn't recruit him.

"They (Minnesota) didn't think I was good enough," he said. "They didn't offer me a scholarship, and that was telling me they didn't think I was good enough."

Mike Grant, Eden Prairie's head football coach, said Minnesota didn't think Foreman — who played defensive back, wide receiver, running back and quarterback — had enough speed to play collegiately.

"Minnesota had a different agenda than Nebraska," Grant said. "Minnesota wasn't interested, because his 40-speed wasn't what they wanted. But Nebraska saw him play and knew he could play."

Michigan, Wyoming and Miami all thought Foreman was good enough to help their programs, but Foreman chose Nebraska, even after he embarrassed himself in front of NU Coach Tom Osborne.

"Coach Osborne came to my house, and that was the biggest honor because I didn't know what to say to him," Foreman said. "I remember when he came, people called him Dr.

Please see **FOREMAN** on 8

Nee expects Lue to run NU show

By PATRICK WYMAN
Staff Reporter

Tyrone Lue does not fit into the same category as Tim Hardaway and Jacque Vaughn, but according to Nebraska Basketball Coach Danny Nee, he will.

"He's good now, but he'll be a great player come next March," Nee said of his sophomore point guard.

But to reach the level of Vaughn or Hardaway, Lue will have to first prove he can direct an inexperienced NU team that features seven freshmen and sophomores among its nine scholarship players.

Tonight at 7:05, Lue gets his first chance to lead the Huskers in their season-opening exhibition game against Pella Windows at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Pella Windows roster includes former NU players Beau Reid and Keith Moody and three former Iowa State players.

Lue, who averaged 8.5 points and 4.1 assists per game as a true freshman last season, insists he is up to the challenge.

"I'm just going to go out and try to play well every night," Lue said. "If I get 20 points and 10 assists every game, then I do, and if I don't, I'm just going to try to win ballgames."

"If I just keep working hard on my game, then I can become of the premier point guards in the country. But it will take a lot of hard work and dedi-

Basketball Starters

Today, 7:05 p.m.
Devaney Center

No. Name Ht. Wt. Yr.

F 34 Troy Piatkowski 6-5 200 So.

G 30 Cookie Belcher 6-3 200 Fr.

Pella Windows

F 40 Howard Eaton 6-6 215

G 3 Michael Born 6-1 175

cation." While Lue's penetration, quickness and ability to see the open man are up to par, he said, he needs to cut down on his turnovers this season and improve his outside shooting.

Last season, Lue started every game but Senior Day, committing 96 turnovers and 144 assists while shoot-

Please see **LUE** on 8