







CFU defense prepared to stop Cornhuskers

By JAY SAUNDERS Assignment Reporter

Opportunity is knocking on the door of the Central Florida defense.

That opportunity is disguised as

the Nebraska offense.

the Cornhusker offense Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

"No matter if it is Nebraska, Florida State or whoever, our main job is to stop the offense," Green said. "We feel we haven't accomplished our mission if we haven't won the

Against Nebraska, Green and the Golden Knights defense won't have an easy task. The Huskers rolled up 644 total yards of offense in its sea-Akron, including 472 yards on the ground.

However, the Central Florida rush this season. In the first two games the Golden Knights have only given up 67 yards on the ground, yards.

including just 31 yards to South Carolina.

Central Florida has lost its first two games of the season, including a 24-23 loss to Mississippi in overtime in the season opener and a 33-31 setback to South Carolina last Saturday.

Central Florida's schedule, which Golden Knights senior linebacker includes four of its first five games Emory Green and the UCF defense on the road, has been difficult on are hoping to answer the challenge of first-year defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder.

Green said the defense needs to rise to the occasion to meet its goals.

"Nebraska challenges any defense both mentally and physically," Green said. "They run a bash'em-up, beat'-em-down style of offense. We have to try and run a lot of assignment type football."

The 5-foot-11, 205-pound Green runs a 4.38 40-yard dash, which is the fastest on the team. The senior from son opening 59-14 victory against Sanford, Fla., is tied for fifth on the team with 14 tackles including eight solo tackles.

Senior defensive end Jermaine defense has been stingy against the Benoit, 6-3, 235 pounds, leads the Golden Knights with 27 tackles including three tackles for a loss of 10

For the Golden Knights to win the game, Green said they need to focus on the task at hand, and not worry about anything else but the multipleattacking Husker offense.

Green said he is not intimidated by the Huskers, but is impressed with their different offensive formations.

Saturday's game will be the biggest game in which Green has ever played, he said. He was injured two years ago when the Golden Knights played at Florida State.

But it won't be the most people in front of which Green has ever played. Last Saturday in South Carolina, the Golden Knights played in front of 81,908 fans.

Green said this Saturday is a great opportunity not only for himself but for the entire program at Central Florida. This will be the first time the Golden Knights will have a chance to play a national power in their twoyear stint as a Division 1-A program.

"It is a tremendous opportunity for Central Florida to come into Lincoln and play Nebraska," Green said. "In order to be the best, you must play with the best. That is what Central Florida is trying to do."

Central Florida focuses on establishing program

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east of the Mississippi River," he said. "Right now, there aren't a lot of slots in bowl games for non-confer-

Sloan

ence teams. We want to be in a conference to establish ourselves national-Beyond there,

Sloan said he would like to see Central Florida join Florida, Florida State and Miami as the fourth major college football power in the Sunshine

Once UCF is recognized, they may able to compete in recruiting with the other giants in Florida. Sloan said UCF's location in

Orlando will help to attract the best players out of high school.

This city is a great recruiting tool," he said. "Plus, there are so many good players in this state that there's enough to go around for all of us to be good."

Still, with all that in the future, Central Florida's focus this week is directly on Nebraska. Sloan said UCF jumped at the chance to get the money and play in Lincoln after a number of teams passed on the offer.

Sloan said his decision to play Nebraska stems back to a game he coached against the Huskers, when NU beat Sloan's Texas Tech team 27-24 in the 1976 Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl. Sloan said it was that encounter with Coach Tom Osborne and the rest of the Nebraska program that left an impression on him.

"When I came to Central Florida, one of the first teams I wanted to play was Nebraska," he said. "There is so much class associated with Coach Osborne and their entire team that it is a hard kind of game to pass up.'

Sloan said Central Florida will not embarrass themselves this weekend in Lincoln, and are coming up looking to play well.

"We're better than a lot of people realize," he said. "We're not chopped liver. Our name makes us sound like we're not very good, but we've got some pretty good athletes at this school."

While Sloan won't make any predictions for the game, a UCF win would be a landmark achievement in the school's history.

Words can't describe how important a win like that would be," he said. "It would definitely be the biggest thing that ever happened to this program."

Texas A&M expects to improve against rival Husker soccer team

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The Aggies play the role of the inexperienced team with nothing to lose. A&M lost four starters

from last year's team, and at times have started as many as five freshman this season. Guerreri said

playing the game against Nebraska this early in the season gives the advantage to the

Huskers. Even though the Aggies don't have the experience of this year's Nebraska squad, Guerreri said, his team is not going to give in to the Huskers.

'We are trying to figure ourselves out right now," Guerreri said. "It is a positive because you need to be tested so you canimprove yourselves.

Any time you get two teams that know each other like we do, there is a natural competitive atmosphere."

> G. GUERRERI Texas A&M coach

"Pure and simple, we will try and score more goals than they

The Aggies do have two of their top point-scorers returning. All-American Bryn Blalack scored 69 points last season. She has scored two goals already this season.

Blalack's participation in the Nebraska game is questionable after getting a head cut in a game earlier this season that required 12 stitches. Blalack did not play against Missouri last weekend.

A&M also has Diana Rowe, who scored 29 points last season from midfield. Rowe leads the team so far this season with three goals and an assist.

The Aggies also possess one of the top goalkeepers in the country in Melanie Wilson. Wilson recorded a 0.95 goals against average last season, and has only allowed two goals per game so far this year, giving her a 0.67 GAA.

"We still have marquee players," Guerreri said. "We get the chance to see how we do on our home turf. We don't have much to lose because we aren't expected to win. The shoe is on the other foot."