

Sports Opinion



Antone Oseka

Big 12 loses its sparkle after losses

Note to Big 12 Commissioner Steve Hatchell: Change your conference's name to the Less Intimidating League (LIL) of XII.

The new LIL XII will have no football powerhouses. Conference rules state that each team must try to lose to, or at least struggle with, every opponent. Even in conference games.

The new name is retroactive to last Saturday.

So much for the powerhouses (or lack thereof): Nebraska barely beats Central Florida. Texas and Colorado combine to score six whole points against teams they were favored to beat. Kansas State wins by three over Ohio.

As for the future powerhouses (we don't want to stunt their potential growth): Iowa State loses by 24 points to former LIL XII Coach Glen Mason's new team, Minnesota. Kansas and Missouri fight to a 15-7 Jayhawk win. KU could face league sanctions for beating another team in the LIL XII. It should at least try to tie.

The only LIL XII team that posted a decent victory was Oklahoma State, which beat Fresno St. 35-0. The Cowboys are under consideration to join a more intimidating league - Conference USA. Texas Tech posted a good win, 59-14 over Southwest Louisiana, and will be reviewed for league eligibility by the LIL XII committee on fairness.

The LIL XII is the conference of the future. The kinder, gentler conference that isn't concerned with winning, but with how the teams feel after the contest. Sure, many of the players will miss out on bowl games and postseason awards, but someone in college football has to sacrifice, and that someone will be the LIL XII.

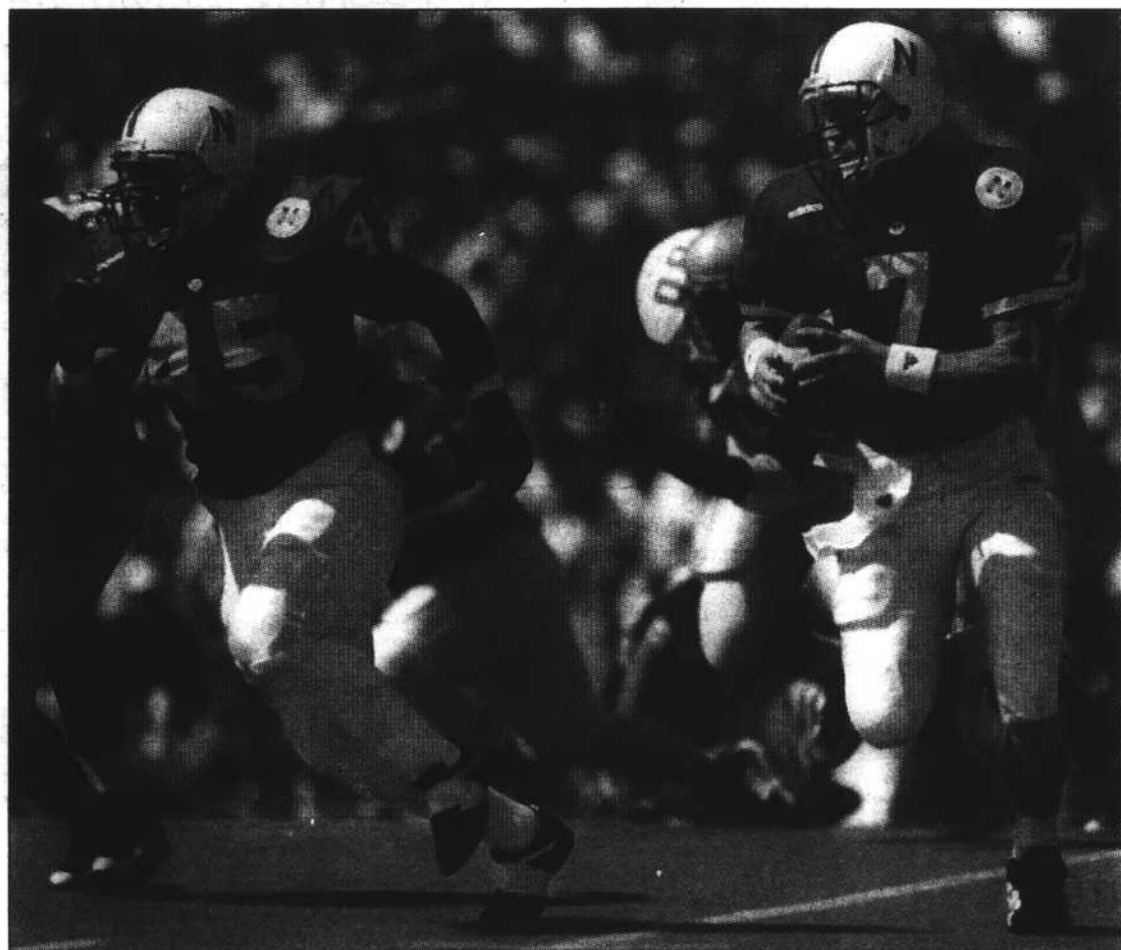
Texas, last year's Big XII champion, will be the role model, showing the other teams in the league (through a clinic in Austin) the proper form for laying down to get stomped by 63 points. For the coaches, CU's Rick Neuheisel will show the proper form for gently prodding a quarterback to get his head into the game.

Further, to ensure the conference stays out of the national spotlight, the two teams with the least number of losses at the end of the year will play each other, keeping at least one, if not both, from a shot at the national title. That way, the other conferences can play for that big, ugly trophy and all that money.

I can see it now ... Games against LIL XII teams will be a guaranteed win for schools from all the other football conferences. No team will jump off a LIL XII schedule for fear of traveling and losing a game.

Wouldn't that be a great conference to play in?

Oseka is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

SCOTT FROST follows the block of fullback Joel Makovicka last Saturday during Nebraska's 38-24 win over Central Florida. Frost will lead Nebraska into Seattle against No. 2 Washington Saturday.

Experience aids Frost

BY DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter

4 Days Until Seattle

Scott Frost vividly remembers his first trip to Husky Stadium.

Filling in for injured Stanford quarterback Steve Stenstrom, Frost helped lead the Cardinal to a 46-28 upset over the Huskies as a freshman in 1993. But the circumstances of Frost's return to Washington will be a little different this Saturday.

"It's a fun stadium to play in," Frost said, "but the crowd is definitely going to be into it. And it's a huge game so we're going to have to be prepared for that."

When the seventh-ranked Cornhuskers travel to Seattle this Saturday to face No. 2 Washington, Frost, Nebraska's senior quarterback, has a good idea of what to expect.

"I think it's just a comfort

thing," Frost said. "I know the settings, and I know the surroundings. It's always good to know where you're going - what the locker room looks like, and what the stadium looks like. I think it will be a little bit of a benefit to me."

In Frost's first road game as a Husker last season, Nebraska was upset 19-0 by Arizona State. The Sun Devils tackled Frost for two safeties, and Frost fumbled a ball out of the end zone for another. But this year's first road game is a much different situation, Frost said.

"It's like night and day," Frost said. "Last year I was still trying to understand things, and get comfortable with things. This year, it's just a matter of getting sharp and understanding what to do with this partic-

ular type of defense."

The Huskies run a 4-4 defense - similar to the defense the Huskers saw last year against the Sun Devils. But Nebraska can deal with any defensive scheme, NU coach Tom Osborne said, it's the athletes that make the difference.

Nebraska handled a similar Arizona State defense in 1992 with a 45-24 victory over the Sun Devils in Lincoln. Last year's Arizona State team had athletes similar to those on the Washington this season, Osborne said.

But senior offensive guard Aaron Taylor said the Huskers learned from their mistakes last season, and will be ready to take on the Huskies.

"A lot of us guys played last year in the Arizona State game, and

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Missouri edges NU in Texas

From Staff Reports

Despite finishing with the low score in the third round, the Nebraska women's golf team still finished second at the Jeannine McHaney Memorial Golf Tournament in Lubbock, Texas, on Tuesday.

The Huskers shot a final round of 299 and finished with a three-round total of 906, 12 strokes behind tournament champion Missouri. The Tigers also beat the Huskers in their first tournament of the season, the Chip-N Club Invitational earlier this month in Lincoln.

NU's 54-hole total of 906 was the Huskers' lowest in school history. Nebraska's previous 54-hole record was 909 set at the Big 12 Fall Preview last fall and at the NCAA Regionals on last spring.

"Overall, I was really pleased with our performance," Nebraska coach Robin Krapfl said. "We could have scored a little better. We still need to get more consistency from all our players."

One of the Huskers, junior Hanne Nyquist, didn't perform consistently but still finished fourth overall in the tournament. Nyquist shot a first- and third-round score of 71, but during the second round Monday afternoon Nyquist became overwhelmed by the heat and shot an 82.

Krapfl said Nyquist suffered wasn't the only member of the team who suffered from heat exhaustion as the Huskers shot 18-over par in the second round.

Senior Shirin Hornecker also didn't perform consistently, shooting a 74 and 73 in the first two rounds. She then shot a 79, her highest round of the year in the third round. After the first two rounds, Hornecker was one shot off the lead but finished the tournament with a 226, tied for eighth place.

Junior Gretchen Doerr struggled the first two rounds of the tournament, shooting an 82 and 83 but shot a 72 on Tuesday to finished tied for 24th. Sophomore Elizabeth Bahensky finished with a three-round total of 230 for 12th place, and senior Rachele Tacha shot a 234 to finish in a tie for 22nd.

Trip home thrills NU freshman

BY ANDREW STRNAD
Staff Reporter

This weekend will be one of the biggest weekends of the year for Cornhusker road trips.

In addition to the Nebraska-Washington football game Saturday in Seattle, the Husker volleyball team travels to Madison, Wis., to compete in the first ever Big Ten-Big 12 Challenge.

One Husker, Katie Jahnke, has been eagerly awaiting the volleyball trip, which will feature three of the top 10 teams in the nation.

The redshirt freshman circled



MATT MILLER/DN

KATIE JAHNKE, a redshirt freshman middle blocker on the Nebraska volleyball team, heads home to Wisconsin this weekend for the Big Ten-Big 12 Challenge in Madison. NU faces No. 1 Penn State and No. 14 Wisconsin.

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