

Tuff turf

Memorial Stadium is one of the most intimidating stadiums to play in college football. As a result, Nebraska has not lost its last 40 home games. In those games, Nebraska has:

- Only trailed once going into the 4th quarter.
- Only played three games in which the final score has been decided by fewer than seven points.
- Outscored opponents by an average of 47.8 to 13.2 points per game.
- Had 218 consecutive sellouts.



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

NU crowds legendary

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NU has outscored its opponents 47.8 points per game to 13.2, and going into the fourth quarter, the Huskers have only trailed once, 14-13 to Oklahoma in 1991.

Despite the streak, Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said he doesn't think Memorial Stadium is the loudest stadium he's been to.

"The crowd here at Nebraska isn't particularly hostile or nasty," Osborne said. "Our crowd turns up the volume sometimes when the other team is on the field, but places like Washington are a little louder."

But other Big 12 coaches don't share Osborne's modesty.

"Without question, Nebraska has the best home-field advantage in the Big 12 and probably in the country," Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel said.

"Nebraska's fans are brilliant in the way they can control a game. When Nebraska's offense is on the field, the place is like a mausoleum. But as soon as the opposing offense goes on the field, the place is inaudible. It's incredible."

Missouri has been cursed in Lincoln since 1991. The Tigers have been outscored 220-20 in four contests and were shut out once. Missouri Coach Larry Smith has been present for the last two contests and said Nebraska's crowd can knock the air out of a team quickly.

"That crowd can take you right out of a game and right out of your game plan," Smith said. "It makes it tough to get into the game mentally."

In NU's 56-26 win over Kansas State, Osborne said he noticed the NU crowd was a little louder than it had been in the past. Because the game

was at night, Osborne said, Memorial Stadium may have been a little more inhospitable for the Wildcats.

"There were a couple times when they looked like they were a little out of their game," Osborne said. "The night games are usually a little louder than the day games, because everything is a little stiller at night and the sound carries a little more than usual."

When it comes to playing on the road, Osborne said Washington's Husky Stadium, Arizona State's Sun Devil Stadium and Kansas State's Wagner Field have all recently turned up the volume against the Huskers. But Osborne said the crowd only plays a factor if Nebraska lets them.

"We pride ourselves on being a good road team," Osborne said. "We practice with noise, and we know we can play at those places and be successful."

Jayhawk players suspended

From Staff Reports

Kansas senior outside linebacker Ron Warner, who leads the nation with 10.5 sacks a game, won't get to test his ability against Nebraska.

Warner along with junior linebacker J.J. Johnson and junior cornerback Jamie Harris were all suspended for Saturday's game against No. 1 Nebraska (6-0 overall, 3-0 in the Big 12).

Jayhawk coach Terry Allen said all three were suspended for "a violation of the code of conduct that we have established for every player on this team."

Warner had already established a new single season KU (4-3, 2-2) sack record against Texas Tech in the Jayhawks' sixth game of the season. For the season Warner has 14.5 tackles for 104 yards in losses, has forced two fumbles and has one blocked punt.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Longtime friends verbally commit

By JAY SAUNDERS
Assignment Reporter

Omaha Burke seniors Meghan Anderson and Becky Preston live four houses apart in northwest Omaha. They have known each other since elementary school, and both play club soccer for the Omaha Gladiators. But when the two found out they had both made verbal commitments to play soccer at Nebraska, it came as a complete surprise.

Anderson and Preston have gone to school together since they were 8 years old. Each were contacted by more than 30 colleges and picked Nebraska. For the last few years, they have helped Burke Coach Steve Moore and the Bulldogs on the soccer field. Now, they will continue to play together under a new coach: John Walker.

"We never talked about college or playing past high school," Anderson said. "I was pretty sure she was going to Nebraska, but I didn't think I was going to. Now, we get to keep on going."

Anderson picked Nebraska over Notre Dame and Ohio State. Although she considered traveling far from

home, she said after a trip to Ohio State that Nebraska seemed like a good fit.

"When I came home, I knew this was the place for me," Anderson said. "I'm a Nebraska girl all the way."

Preston, on the other hand, wanted to be close to home. She decided to come to Nebraska after looking at Creighton, Minnesota and Evansville (Indiana).

"I took a trip to Minnesota and it felt weird not knowing anybody," Preston said. "I think (Nebraska) is a first-class program."

Preston plays sweeper for Burke, but said Walker recruited her as an attacking player. Anderson is a central midfielder, a spot that will be vacated next season by senior All-American Kari Uppinghouse. Anderson said she knows a lot of Nebraska's offense goes through the central midfielder, and is hoping to make an impact right away.

When the Bulldogs take the field in the spring, both players will know their senior season won't be their last together.

"Meghan and I complement each other so well," Preston said. "It's just nice to say I've already made a decision."

Golf season pleases coach

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Romjue said. "Usually, it's pretty easy to find balls with a course that has no grass, but Jamie's balls just hit trees and they couldn't find them."

It also helped that New Mexico State was more used to the playing conditions in Texas than Nebraska was, Romjue said.

"Texas courses can take some getting used to," he said. "There's a lot of tight lies with not a lot of grass

under the ball."

Overall, Romjue said he was happy with how the fall season turned out, even though no victory was had. The Huskers participated in five tournaments and did not finish lower than fifth in any with a high of a second-place finish at the Kansas Invitational on Sept. 22-23.

"We improved and we shot some good scores," Romjue said. "We didn't get the win we wanted, but we played well for most of the fall."

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