

Sports Opinion



David Wilson

## Lue shapes attitude of NU team

The Nebraska men's basketball team has failed to qualify for the NCAA Tournament in each of the last three seasons. Not so much because of a lack of talent, but because of attitude problems.

Not this year. Gone are the days of Jaron Boone not running to the other end of the court to play defense. Gone are the days of players collectively walking out of practice. And gone are the days of players who just don't care.

The new attitude comes thanks to junior point guard Tyrone Lue, who has become the sole leader.

This year, Lue said he hoped to step it up off the court as well.

At the end of last season, Lue went to NU Coach Danny Nee and said he wanted more discipline in practice. Nee responded, and Lue has helped to enforce the new winning attitude.

"The attitude of the team has changed a lot as far as working harder, work ethic and body language," Lue said. "Everybody has good character and that's going to carry over to the games."

And a better attitude, Lue said, makes basketball fun.

"When you know you're doing the right thing and things just fall in place, you have fun," Lue said.

With the arrival of five freshmen to match the departure of one starter and four lettermen, the Cornhuskers won't be as talented. The biggest hole may be filling the shoes of big-man Mikki Moore at center. Of the five newcomers, only one is taller than 6-foot-6: Brant Harriman, a 6-10 center from Mason City, Iowa.

But a lack of talent and experience doesn't bother Lue.

"We had a lot of talent last year, but we didn't win the close games because of character flaws," Lue said. "I just think this year with the right character, that will win games more than the talent would."

The five freshmen all came with the right attitude, Nee said.

"They did a really nice job of coming in and wanting to do things right and wanting to learn and wanting to help us win," Nee said.

Nebraska's goal this year, like every year, is to make the NCAA Tournament.

But this year, Lue said, the goal is realistic.

Win or lose, it's always more fun to watch a team that actually plays hard and wants to win.

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

## Osborne focused for OU

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Assignment Reporter

It may not be No. 1 vs. No. 2, but it is still Nebraska vs. Oklahoma and it is still smash-mouth football.

For the 69th consecutive time, the No. 1 Huskers (7-0 overall, 4-0 in the Big 12 Conference) and the Sooners (3-5 and 1-3) will play Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. The game will be televised regionally by ABC.

The history of Nebraska vs. Oklahoma has produced some of the greatest games in college football history but in the past few years, NU has dominated Oklahoma, winning the last six games by a combined score of 196-47.

Despite the absence of Sooner Magic the last couple of years, NU Coach Tom Osborne said this Oklahoma game is important because it is the next game on the Husker schedule.

"With the possible exception of Washington or Kansas State, they look about as talented of a team as we've played," Osborne said. "It is a big game for them as it is a big game for us."

On Saturday, Nebraska will see a different Oklahoma team than almost every other team that has played the Sooners has seen, but it is nothing new in this rivalry.

For the first eight games of the season, senior quarterback Justin Fuente led an OU drop-back passing offense that got mixed results. Last week against Kansas State, OU Coach John Blake inserted sophomore Brandon Daniels to run an option offense.

In the last game of the rivalry until the year 2000, both teams will be using a run-oriented game like they did in the past great games of the series. Senior defensive tackle Jason Peter said he is kind of upset

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NU I-BACK AHMAN GREEN needs only 41 yards this Saturday against Oklahoma to overtake Ken Clark for third on NU's career-rushing list. The junior has 2,996 yards in his career at Nebraska.

MATT MILLER/DN

## Osborne goes for 250

### 1995 bowl Osborne's best win

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne goes for his 250<sup>th</sup> win this Saturday against Oklahoma. This week the Daily Nebraskan highlights Osborne's five most memorable games.

Osborne's greatest victory happened in the 1995 Orange Bowl.

Once again Osborne took a No. 1 and undefeated team to Miami to face the Hurricanes in their home stadium, but this time the Huskers would score two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to beat Miami 24-17 and give Osborne his first national championship.

"That game down in Miami a couple years ago was pretty meaningful in a lot of different ways," Osborne said. "We had a lot of trouble with those folks, particularly on their home field

and in bowl games. So, it was pretty nice to win that one."

In the second half the Hurricanes built a 10-point lead early in the third quarter but a sack of the Miami quarterback pulled the Huskers within eight.

Then in the fourth quarter NU full-back Cory Schlessinger broke free for a 15-yard touchdown. Osborne again went for two, ironically, in the same end zone that had cost him a national championship in 1984. But this time Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier hit Eric Alford to tie the score. Schlessinger would score on a 14-yard run later in the fourth quarter for the victory.

However, the Husker defense played as great a part in the victory, holding the potent Miami offense to a negative 35 yards in the final period.

## The Ends rivalry

### 'Game of Century' still legendary

After Saturday's game against Oklahoma, the NU/OU rivalry will take a two-year hiatus. This week the Daily Nebraskan reviews the top five games that have made this an intriguing rivalry.

The original 1971 "Game of the Century" pitted the unstoppable force of No. 2 Oklahoma against the immovable object of No. 1 Nebraska in one of the greatest games college football has ever witnessed, a 35-31 NU victory on Thanksgiving Day.

It began in dramatic fashion, with NU wingback and future Heisman Trophy-winner Johnny Rodgers' 72-yard punt return for a touchdown in the first quarter. From that point on, NU and OU waged a back-and-forth battle well into the fourth quarter.

Oklahoma came back from two 11-point deficits behind the arm of quarterback Jack Mildren and the hands of receiver Jon Harrison as they connected on two touchdown passes, the last putting OU ahead 31-28 with 7:10 left in the game. From there, Nebraska drove 74 yards in 12 plays, capping it off with a Jeff Kinney 1-yard touchdown run for the final 35-31 margin.

It wasn't over. Oklahoma had one chance left to win, but Mildren overthrew Harrison for what would have been a sure touchdown as Nebraska won the Battle of the Big Reds and won the national championship.

It was the best game in the Nebraska/Oklahoma series and may go down as the greatest game college football has ever seen.