

NU seniors prepare for last home game

ISU challenge will be last Memorial Stadium bid for 23

By DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter



Barring an upset, 23 Nebraska seniors will play their final game in Memorial Stadium Saturday without ever experiencing a home loss. The third-ranked Cornhuskers (9-0 overall and 6-0 in the Big 12 Conference) play host to Iowa State (1-8 and 1-5) at 11:30 a.m. The game will be broadcast by the Big 12 Syndication which will be shown locally on CBS (channel 10-11 in Lincoln).

With the help of the veteran Huskers, Nebraska has maintained a 41-home-game winning streak, and with a win Saturday, the Huskers would secure at least a tie for the Big 12 North Division championship.

"It's always a sad time to see those players go," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "Most of them have been with us for five years, sometimes four, and you grow attached to them."

Rush end Grant Wistrom is one of 12 seniors who will likely start against the Cyclones. Though he is not usually too emotional, Wistrom said he will miss playing in Lincoln.

"Memorial Stadium has been home to me for the past four years," Wistrom said. "It's not going to be a place that I'm looking forward to leaving. I have a lot of great memories here. It's going to be really tough for me. Hopefully we can go

out and make the last game for all the seniors a very memorable one."

Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter said he has as much respect for the seniors who don't start as the ones who are applauded every home Saturday.

"How many guys have sucked it up and stayed with the program?" Peter said. "So many of them do what they have to do and they keep going at Nebraska. It is just because the Nebraska tradition is so special that guys want to be part of it whether or not they are starters or second or third team."

"Some of these guys really never get to play, but they still fight it out. Grant and I have been fortunate because we have started here the last three years. The real admiration goes to the guys who have been here four or five years and haven't started a game but still go out and practice two hours every day and they don't get the opportunity to start on Saturday. Those are the guys that you look up to a lot of times."

But the Blackshirts will have to play a better game than they did against Missouri last weekend, Wistrom said. Last week's 45-38 overtime win over the Tigers will be just one of many motivators for the Huskers on Saturday.

"Any time we play in Memorial Stadium, we bring it up a notch

Football Starters

Nebraska Starters

Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
SE	69	Jeff Lake	6-4	210	Sr.
LT	73	Fred Pollack	6-4	305	Sr.
LG	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Sr.
C	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	280	Jr.
RG	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	290	Sr.
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	305	Sr.
TE	90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Sr.
QB	7	Scott Frost	6-3	220	Sr.
FB	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	235	Jr.
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	215	Jr.
WB	14	Lance Brown	5-11	180	So.
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	205	Jr.

Iowa St. Starters

Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
SE	81	Ed Williams	6-3	198	Sr.
LT	51	Oliver Ross	6-4	293	Sr.
LG	75	Matt Rahnfeldt	6-3	286	Sr.
C	79	Charley Bogwill	6-2	295	Jr.
RG	70	Ben Beuadet	6-4	298	Fr.
RT	71	Kurt Levetzow	6-5	269	Sr.
FL	21	Tyrone Watley	5-9	189	Sr.
QB	16	Todd Bandhauer	6-3	226	Jr.
TB	26	Darren Davis	5-8	185	So.
FB	42	Joe Parmentier	5-11	256	Jr.
TE	89	Damian Gibson	6-4	260	Jr.
PK	45	Jamie Kohl	6-0	196	Jr.

Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
LR	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	250	Jr.
DT	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3	310	Jr.
DT	55	Jason Peter	6-5	285	Sr.
RR	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	225	Sr.
SLB	46	Brian Shaw	6-1	215	So.
MLB	44	Jay Foreman	6-1	235	Jr.
WLB	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	200	Sr.
LCB	11	Erwin Swiney	6-1	180	Fr.
FS	3	Eric Warfield	6-0	195	Sr.
ROV	21	Mike Brown	5-11	205	So.
RCB	22	Ralph Brown	5-10	180	So.
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	190	Sr.

Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
OLB	34	Jim Morse	6-2	223	Fr.
DT	52	James Reed	6-1	256	Fr.
NG	90	Greg Schoon	6-3	286	Sr.
END	98	Nigel Tharpe	6-5	258	Fr.
OLB	26	Chin Achebe	6-1	251	Jr.
ILB	48	Dave Brcka	6-2	238	So.
ILB	38	Michael Cooper	6-1	219	Sr.
LCB	20	Breon Ansley	5-8	165	Fr.
RCB	19	Kemp Knighten	6-0	200	Jr.
SS	7	Dustin Avey	6-3	203	Fr.
FS	13	Kevin Hudson	6-0	181	Sr.
P	6	Carl Gomez	6-2	195	Fr.

anyway," Wistrom said.

Nebraska allowed 386 yards of total offense to the Tigers, which was the most it had allowed all season. The Tigers ran for 153 yards and threw for 233.

"Obviously we're not happy with Missouri scoring 38 points against us," Wistrom said. "We basically couldn't stop them. They

did with us whatever they wanted to do. We're not happy with the way we performed."

But the near-loss was a much needed wake-up call for the Huskers, who fell from No. 1 to No. 3 in both The Associated Press poll and the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' poll.

"It's nice to have a close one

every now and then," Wistrom said. "Those kind of games build character and they're needed in the run for the national title. Our egos are officially deflated now."

"We know that to get through these next three or four games, we have to play much better defense. And that's something we're setting our minds to right now."



MATT MILLER/DN

NU'S BECKY HOGAN and the rest of the Husker squad play their last home game of the season 1 p.m. Sunday at the Abbott Sports Complex.

NU, MU face seeding strife

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track for the NCAA Tournament.

"We won't have any problem bouncing back," Walker said. "We'd like to rectify some problems because it's something that can't happen again."

The two teams have met just once before in 1995, with Michigan beating the Huskers 2-0 in a game where current NU defender Stephanie Vacek tore her anterior cruciate ligament.

This season, the Huskers and Wolverines have two common opponents. In the last game of the regular season, NU beat Minnesota 3-1. The Gophers beat UM 4-3 in a Big 12 conference game. Both Michigan and Nebraska beat Missouri.

"We are finding out slowly

"We're a pretty dynamic team. We try to play an attacking style, but we also believe in a total team defense."

DEBBIE BELKIN
Michigan soccer coach

that they are one of the higher scoring teams in the country," Walker said. "In terms of a first-round game, they look like a real good team. They win impressively."

However, the question that remains for both teams is the placement of teams in the NCAA Tournament. In Nebraska and Michigan's quarter of the bracket, the selection committee

placed five of the NSCAA top 15 teams in the bracket. A win in the first round for either the Huskers or the Wolverines may mean a second round trip to play No. 2 Notre Dame.

"I don't know what (the selection committee) was thinking," Belkin said. "There are some potential final four teams in there that aren't going to go."

Huskers delight in tough matchup

From Staff Reports

Reality hits the Nebraska women's basketball team tonight when the Huskers open up their season with Miami (Ohio) in the first round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

First-year NU Coach Paul Sanderford said despite having just 2 1/2 weeks to prepare for the game against the Red Hawks the Huskers will be prepared for the 8:35 p.m. game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Our kids will be ready to play," Sanderford said. "We will come out and battle (Friday) night. My philosophy will be a little different. I won't be quite as passive as I have been. I will be after it (Friday) night and everybody else had better be."

"It's for real. We haven't had enough time but it is for real."

One player who is looking forward to Friday's season opener is Husker senior Anna DeForge.

After being limited in NU's first exhibition game with an ankle injury, DeForge scored 26 points in the Huskers' 82-67 loss to the Victoria All-Stars in an exhibition contest.

"As a player you just want to start playing," DeForge said. "You really don't want to practice the whole month, you just want to play some games."

But fellow NU senior Jami Kubik said opening the season still makes her nervous.

"I think, we feel ready," Kubik said. "We are kind of nervous a little bit but we are playing for real. But because we are playing for real we are going to come out and you are going to see a lot better output than before."

Womens Basketball WNIT First Round
Miami (Ohio) vs. Nebraska
Friday at 8:35 p.m.
Bob Devaney Center

A win against the Red Hawks would most likely put Nebraska in a 6:05 p.m. game against No. 10 Alabama. The preseason WNIT consists of nine teams that were in the NCAA Tournament a year ago.

Opening with a tough schedule might scare a first-year coach, but Sanderford said he wants to play good teams.

Kubik said playing good teams early in the season will help the Huskers in the Big 12 Conference. Last year Nebraska had a perfect 10-0 mark in the nonconference portion of the season.

"I think it's going to be really great to see the level of competition," Kubik said. "In the past our early games have been kind of easier games. It's going to be great to see the level of competition that will impact us right away and later on in the season."

Last season, the Huskers, who lost four of their five final games, failed to qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season.

DeForge said not getting an NCAA bid last year will give the Huskers some momentum in the WNIT. But also a strong showing could give NU national recognition.

Nebraska is ranked No. 27 in The Associate Press preseason poll.

"I think it is a pretty big significance for our program and our team," DeForge said. "It is going to be a measuring stick to see how we can perform against teams that are in the tournament. Unfortunately, we didn't make it last year but we could have done just as well as some teams in there."