

## Hard work lands McDill on Husker's starting lineup

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expects McDill to crash the boards for rebounds, slip the second- and third-chance shots through the net, and spark the Huskers on defense with her physical play in the lane.

Sanderford said he expects McDill to perform the dirty work for Nebraska.

"She's going to do whatever I ask her to do," Sanderford said, "and that's why I have so much confidence in her. She didn't have a great game this Saturday, but she held Kentucky's leading scorer to eight points, and that's what I asked her to do."

After averaging one rebound and 1.6 points per game last year, McDill has taken her game to another level. The Gillette, Wyo., product has averaged 4.9 boards per game while scoring 6.4 points per contest in the Huskers 6-1 nonconference run.

"It helps to be a year older, but I think it's mainly because Coach Sanderford sees things in me that maybe the old coaches didn't," McDill said. "He takes advantage of my strengths and doesn't focus on my weaknesses."

"I'm a strong player. I may not have the greatest outside shot, but he doesn't try to turn me into something

I'm not."

While Sanderford realizes that McDill probably won't become NU's leading scorer, he does want her to accept a greater offensive role for the Huskers. McDill has hit 38 percent of her field goals this season, making 13 of 34 from the field.

"Sometimes I think she slips back into her role-player mentality," Sanderford said. "We can't let her do that because she is a major part of the team this year."

"With Cori, you get 110 percent all of the time. She's a great defensive player, she's very aggressive, we just need her to be confident in her offensive ability, but that will come."

McDill agrees that the scoring will come, and she will continue to build on her early-season success. McDill credits Sanderford as a big factor in her improved attitude.

"Just having new coaches has helped," McDill said. "It's not necessarily that the old ones were bad and now it's better. It's just different. It's a change that I really needed."

But Sanderford said McDill is solely responsible for her success.

"I have not given Cori anything," Sanderford said. "She starts because she earned it. Through four weeks of hard practices, she was our most consistent player day in and day out."

## Peter will play in title game despite nagging back injury

By ANTONE OSEKA  
Senior Reporter

Defensive tackle Jason Peter was held out of football practice Monday, sidelined with a sore back that has been plaguing him for more than two weeks.

Both Peter and Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride described the pain as similar to a severe muscle cramp in the lower back.



Peter, a senior from Locust, N.J., said, however, there is no way this injury could keep him from playing in Saturday's Big 12 Championship game against Texas A&M in San Antonio.

"It was hurting bad," Peter said after missing practice Monday. "After the game, it was tough to even walk."

McBride called Peter's defensive effort in Nebraska's 27-24 win over Colorado last Friday impressive, considering Peter's back tightened up after the inactivity at halftime. Early in the fourth quarter, Peter recorded his only sack, running down CU backup quarterback Jeremy Weisinger for a 5-yard loss.

The 6-foot-5, 285-pounder finished the game with four tackles, including three unassisted.

Peter said the tightness seems to subside with the activity of a game.

However, after a game and during halftime the muscles in his lower back tighten to the point that he can barely move.

Trainers began evaluating Peter's back Monday, but McBride said that there was no disc-type problem in his back; it was mostly a muscular injury.

"The rest will do him some good," McBride said of Peter's day-to-day practice status. "He's been here long enough, he knows what he's doing."

Peter said he couldn't trace the injury to a specific instance, he just remembers waking up one morning with a pain in his back.

His case could be similar to running back Ahman Green's back problems earlier this season. Green's problems stemmed from a very simple problem of sleeping on the wrong type of mattress. Peter said the problem could be something as simple as that.

Traditionally, Peter has been very fortunate in his college career, suffering from few injuries. Last season, Peter played most of the season with a cast on his hand protecting a broken finger.

In his Nebraska career Peter has never missed a game because of an injury.

## Texas begins search for next coach

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sources in 1995, after leading the Wildcats to the first of back-to-back conference titles. He is 27-29-1 in his NU career, after taking over the lifelong doormat of a program in 1993.

Media outlets also have chronicled Barnett's intense desire for a national championship, something he may never have a shot at as long as he resides in Evanston, Ill.

The Missouri native reportedly spent last offseason in Austin, checking out sites to build a future home, and his love of the Southwestern United States has been well documented. Two years ago, just before signing a 10-year contract extension with NU, Barnett was quoted in several papers nationwide as saying Texas was one of the few jobs for which he would consider leaving Northwestern. He was recently offered the head coaching position at Notre Dame, but he turned down the job and Bob Davie was hired instead.

Dodds said Saturday that there is

not yet a No. 1 choice for the job, adding that his list consists of coaches and assistants from both the college and professional ranks.

"We're going to go after the best football coach in America, wherever he is," Dodds said. "Above all, we want somebody who wants to be at Texas."

Dodds refused to profile further the ideal replacement, however, avoiding all questions regarding the role that age, experience and other qualifications will play in the selection process.

The goal is to find someone who will turn the program into a perennial top 15 contender, regardless of biographical information, he said.

"What I want is a top program, and I'd like to have a national championship every once in a while," Dodds said. "We're going to find the best person, but sometimes the best hasn't (won a national title) before. I don't think Darrell Royal had been in the top 10 before he got here, but he was the best person at that time."

Whether or not a coach is currently involved in preparations for a

bowl game will also not be a factor, the athletic director said. The bowl season ends as late as Jan. 2, too late to begin interviewing any given coach, and a bowl-bound coach who will not talk to Texas over the next week or so could be crossed off the list of 30, Dodds said.

"I think the coaches that want this job will talk to us regardless of a bowl," Dodds said. "We just can't wait until after the bowls."

As for perks, the new coach could be paid as much as Mackovic's estimated \$600,000 per year, Dodds said. If the right person is found, he said, the university "could do what it takes to get him here."

The new coach will also have full authority over a new coaching staff, with the power to keep or dismiss any and all of Mackovic's assistants, all of whom are only under contract until Aug. 31, 1998.

"This is a job looked at very positively by a lot of coaches," Dodds said. "Most of the people we're going to look at will have the maturity and background to know who Texas is."

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## Tulsa blows Huskers away in second half of first loss

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points in the first half and finished with a career-high 11 points in his first college road game. True freshman guard Todd Smith and center Brant Harriman also saw action in their first game away from the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"The freshmen came in and played well," Hamilton said. "(Johnson) stepped it up. He came in and played a big role."

Johnson saw time behind forward Andy Markowski, who got into foul trouble early after recording three fouls in the first 14 minutes of the game.

Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said the game gave some of the younger players a good indication of the difficulty of playing in the Big 12 Conference.

"This type of game is like playing at Kansas State or Texas Tech," Nee said. "It's tough, but we need these type of games to be able to compete in the Big 12."

The Huskers were led in points by guard Tyrone Lue, who scored 18. But Lue, Nebraska's leading scorer this season, struggled at times, making five of 16 shots from the floor including one of eight from 3-point range.

"If he doesn't get his 20 for the

game, it's going to be hard on us," Hamilton said.

Cookie Belcher added 11 points before fouling out with 2:58 remaining in the game as the Huskers shot a season-low 33.8 percent from the floor. Tulsa, on the other hand, shot 50 percent from the floor and was 10 of 16 from beyond 3-point range.

"I thought all the Tulsa players played well tonight," Nee said. "We got outplayed and out-hustled in the second half."

The Golden Hurricane, who have qualified for the NCAA Tournament in each of the past three seasons, also made 16 of 28 shots from the floor in the second half.

"They just hit the shots," Hamilton said, "and we didn't hit the shots we were supposed to hit."

Nebraska will return to action Dec. 10, when the Huskers travel to Omaha to face Creighton at 7:05 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium.

Hamilton said he expected the Huskers to rebound from their first loss and learn from the game.

"It's just a reality check," Hamilton said. "We just have to come back and practice hard."

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