

Tom's eyes tell details of career

MIAMI - An expert poker player, which I don't consider myself to be, is known to be able to win hands without even looking at his cards - but by looking at the eyes of his opponents.

Knowing that and having an idea of what Tom Osborne's responses would be to questions about his final game as Nebraska's football coach, I looked toward his eyes for answers on Jan. 2.

It wasn't the first time I looked to those sunken blue eyes for answers.

Growing up a Nebraska fan all my life, I would look to those eyes when Oklahoma would pull off another victory in the 1970s. But the eyes and Osborne remained a constant.

It was the eyes that for a second in the 1984 Orange Bowl told the disappointment of the dropped twopoint conversion pass - but just for a second - before they went back to searching for a way to win the game.

Over the last few years I've had a chance to see those eyes up close.

They've shown the anger when CBS's Bernie Goldsmith questioned Osborne's integrity on his handling of Lawrence Phillips.

The eyes have shown concern for players - whether it be for one who had a great game or one who has had some trouble following rules.

And those eyes showed the appreciation Osborne had for his players when they won the Orange Bowl in 1995 and gave Osborne his first national championship.

It was those eyes that also were filled with tears when Osborne announced to the media and the state that former NU quarterback Brook Berringer had died in a plane crash.

Those eyes also showed the pain Osborne went through telling his players he wasn't going to be their coach next season.

And at times Osborne let his wit and humor show through those eyes -like when he said to a group of media members after this season's Orange Bowl, "Here we are standing by the (Sears National Championship) Trophy," as if he was showing friends some slides he had taken on his latest vacation.

But more often than not, Osborne's eyes did not give a hint to how he was feeling. Instead, he

left that for us to guess.

Osborne would have made a good poker player.

Kluck is a journalism gradu-te student and Daily Nebraskan pecial projects reporter.

Fans nationwide respond to NU

Robbed of a full share?

I am an alumnus of Michigan. I feel cheap. I can't believe that we have to share a title with your hickaxx school. What a farce! You, and your nefarious program, are a legion of criminals.

I hope it feels good to have stolen a piece of a title you don't deserve. Shams. You had to cheat to beat Missouri. Missouri? Please. The closest game Michigan played was against Iowa - a real program.

We were legitimate. You needed a coach to retire and a lot of bad, lucky, football to capture a nowtarnished title. I hope you're satisfied, corn-hoaxers. You stink, you Manning are bad for collegiate athletics, and you make me sick. I hope Tom, the pale, satanic freak, can sleep tonight. That is, unless he's planning another disgusting plot to disturb what is right in America. Good luck sleeping, idiots.

Thomas Hill alumnus University of Michigan

Not on the field

For the last four years, I have been a student at the University of Michigan and a fan of their football team. I also have grown up in Lincoln and followed the Huskers equally.

In Ann Arbor, Mich., fans are quick to point out that they played a better season and had no Missouri-like close calls. However, they easily concede Michigan would probably lose a head-to-head matchup. Many say Nebraska's option attack would be too much for the Wolverines. After watching both teams for quite a few years, I could not agree more. Nebraska would win by at least 14

Although fans here feel deserving of their share of the title, make no mistake, the last thing anyone in Ann Arbor wanted was a matchup with the Cornhuskers. If a national title goes to the team with the best season, maybe the split is justice. If it should go to the best team, there would be little dispute in Ann Arbor or Lincoln.

Tom Rath University of Michigan

P.S.: You deserved it

From deep within enemy territory, Pennsylvania, I can only say how proud I am of the Huskers. After years of listening to the whining coming out of State College about why Penn State wasn't voted a share of the title in '94. all I can say is "Because you didn't earn it, that's why!".

Nebraska went into the Orange Bowl in the same condition Penn State went into the Rose Bowl in '94: undefeated and No. 2. The only difference is that Nebraska saw the opportunity left by the then No. I team and took advantage of it by destroying their com-

As I start working on creating

the Pennsylvania chapter of the Nebraska Alumni Association, all I can say is that I don't think I'll have much trouble getting folks back here to join. I think the trouble will be in keeping the Penn State fans

Tony Gevo Lockheed-Martin Corp.

Poetry in motion

Twas the night before the Orange Bowl

After the coaches' deadpanning Not a Volunteer was stirring Except the beloved Peyton

He shook and he shivered He lay sprawled on the grass With visions of the Blackshirts Intercepting his pass While back at the hotel With the Huskers asleep Scott Frost was dreaming Of a quarterback sweep

And Fulmer in his suite With game films by his side Knew he couldn't stop the I-

No matter how hard he tried When down on the field He heard such a clatter He woke and cried out, "Y'all, what's the matter?" Phillip pulled on his sweater And saw a magical sight A tall lanky man Dressed in scarlet and white Rubbing the sleep from his

He took a moment to pause For it wasn't jolly Saint Nick, But, Dr. Tom, Coach Oz! "What the heck are you doing? It's two in the morn," Fulmer laughed as he joked, "Are ya huskin' some corn?" The good Husker coach Began to squint with a grin And replied to the Vol, "I'm preparing our win!"

The stars in the sky Began to sparkle and twinkle As they heard the coach cry: "On Green, on Frost, On Mack up the middle." Fulmer rubbed his eyes As he surveyed the riddle 'Cause standing before him On the green, painted-like

Stood the finest coach ever. The one with the class The Vol Coach cursed and cried Threw his headphones depressed

"I've got no more options, Tom's Huskers are best." And as Osborne drifted off The good coach turned and

"A good night to all ... and to all, go big red."

Steve Gomez alumnus



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