

Sports Opinion

Sam McKewon

Sunday's outcome a done deal

I can't believe it.

For the 32nd consecutive time, the NFL has decided to subject football fans to the worst sporting event known to man: the Super Bowl, a.k.a. the Super Blowout, on Sunday, in San Diego.

Ah, yes — that annual four-hour torture in a TV box that features the best teams from America's Friendly Conference (AFC) and the Nasty Football Combatants (NFC). The Nasties have won 14 straight Super Blowouts.

Representing the Friendlies this year are the Denver Broncos, who are 0-4 in the game. For the Nasties, it's the Green Bay Packers — who are 3-0 in previous Blowouts. Care to guess who's going to win?

Odds makers already know Green Bay's going to win, and so does the rest of America — but that's not the real question.

The real question lies in *why* millions of households tune in to this slaughter. The NFL hordes in ridiculous amounts of money from advertisers and networks for what is consistently a boring, useless contest between two mismatched teams.

Unless you like to watch a team being pummeled into submission (apparently you enjoy kicking your neighbor's dog as well), or are — God forbid — a Packers fan, there's really no reason to watch the game.

So this year, let's stick it to the NFL and boycott the Super Bowl. Watch something else, or if you like, do something productive with the day.

But in case you really want to know what happens in the game, I've prepared a script of how it's likely to unfold:

First quarter: Denver will score a touchdown. Green Bay will get 10 points and lead 10-7.

Second quarter: This is the quarter where the Broncos lose it. Green Bay gets a couple touchdowns and Packers' quarterback Brett Favre will make at least two plays that cause NBC's Dick Enberg to say, "Oh my!" Score: 24-7, Green Bay.

Halftime: Fireworks. Bad songs. Bathroom breaks.

Third quarter: Denver scores a touchdown before the Pack puts down the hammer with two more TD's.

Fourth quarter: The contest is over, so the game becomes a collage of overhead shots of Qualcomm Stadium and close-ups of Reggie White and John Elway. Final Score: Green Bay 38, Denver 21.

There it is. Another Super Bowl in the books. At least you didn't have to watch it. By the way, if anybody is looking for alternative programs on Sunday, come to my room. I'll have Lord of the Dance cued up on the VCR.

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Kubik conquers role switch

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Senior Reporter

Running the Nebraska women's basketball team's fast-paced offense presented a challenge for Nicole Kubik in the early weeks of November.

Last season, Kubik cracked the Cornhuskers' starting lineup as a shooting guard and expected more of the same in her second year with the Huskers.

But the 5-foot-10 sophomore fell into the point guard role after LaToya Doage completed her eligibility at the end of last season.

The position change led to a whirlwind month for Kubik, who often struggled with the adjustment.

But two months and 13 games later, Kubik feels she has made the position her own.

And her head is no longer spinning. "I'm not nearly as quick or instinctive as LaToya was," Kubik said. "But I'm confident now and more comfortable, which lets me bring different things to the table to help my team."

Kubik, who is averaging 14.2 points per game and ranks second on the team with 18 assists this season, hopes to continue her improved play at point guard tonight at Baylor (10-5 overall and 3-2 in the Big 12 Conference).

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. at the Ferrell Center in Waco, Texas, and NU (14-5 and 3-2) enters the game in search of its third consecutive conference win.

Nebraska Coach Paul Sanderford expects the Bears to apply a full-court press against the Huskers throughout the game.

But Sanderford said Kubik, who has averaged 18.2 points per game in NU's last three contests, has grown comfortable handling opponent's pressure.

"Nicole doesn't get enough credit for everything she has done for us this year," Sanderford said. "People thought we'd be weak there and (they) came out and tried to press us, but she's done a good job of handling it."

Handling pressure is nothing new for Kubik, who followed her older sister,

Women's Basketball Starters

Today, 7:00 p.m.
Ferrell Center in Waco, Texas

Nebraska 14-5, (3-2)

Poss.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Anna DeForge	5-11	Sr.
G	Nicole Kubik	5-10	So.
C	Charlie Rogers	6-2	So.
F	Jami Kubik	5-11	Sr.
F	Cori McDill	6-1	Jr.

Baylor 10-5, (3-2)

Poss.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Lara Webb	5-10	Jr.
G	LaToya Ellis	5-5	Jr.
C	Kacy Moffitt	6-4	Jr.
F	Tasia Wright	6-1	Sr.
F	Amanda Mooney	5-10	Sr.

NU starting forward Jami Kubik, to Nebraska.

The younger Kubik played point guard on three state championship teams at Cambridge High School in central Nebraska.

But Kubik has discovered several differences between the two experiences.

"This year my role is to do anything I can to make the team better," Kubik said.

"I think about things more and I try to keep things a little more controlled. My job is to slow people down when things get out of hand."

With those responsibilities also comes an increased leadership role.

It's a role that Kubik has filled well, said senior Anna DeForge — who shares vocal responsibilities with Kubik on the floor.

"Maybe this isn't the best position for her to play," DeForge said, "but this is where she helps the team the most."

"And it helps me because other teams are starting to key on her a little bit. We both look to each other on the court, communication- and leadership-wise."

NU looks to end Lone Star woes

BY SAM MCKEWIN
Senior Reporter

Texas has not been kind to the Nebraska men's basketball team.

The Cornhuskers have not won a game in the Lone Star state since 1988, when they defeated Texas Tech 71-69 in Lubbock, Texas.

NU has a chance to break that streak tonight when it visits Texas in an 8:05 game at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin, Texas. The game will be televised by KOLN-TV (Channel 10-11) in Lincoln.

The Huskers are coming off a 53-43 win over Oklahoma Sunday, which raised NU's record to 3-1 in the Big 12 Conference and 12-5 overall. Texas enters the matchup at 1-4 and 7-9.

"I think it's a big bonus if you win on the road," NU Coach Danny Nee said. "You say they're struggling, but when the game starts they will be very focused on us."

The Longhorns' record could be a

Men's Basketball Starters

Today, 8:05 p.m.
Frank Erwin Center in Austin, Texas

Nebraska 12-5, (3-1)

Poss.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Tyronn Lue	6-9	Jr.
G	Cookie Belcher	6-3	So.
C	Vernon Henson	6-10	Jr.
F	Andy Markowski	6-8	Jr.
F	Larry Florence	6-6	Jr.

Texas 7-9, (1-4)

Poss.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	DeJuan Vazquez	6-4	Jr.
G	Luke Axtell	6-9	Fr.
C	Chris Martin	7-0	Fr.
F	Gabe Muoneke	6-7	So.
F	Ira Clark	6-8	Sr.

bit misleading because of their nonconference schedule, which included losses to No. 5 Arizona and No. 13 Princeton. In league play, Texas has suffered losses to Baylor (10-5 and 5-0) and Oklahoma (13-5 and 4-1), among others.

Please see TEXAS on 8



MICHAEL WARREN/DN

NU SOPHOMORE NICOLE KUBIK made the transition from shooting guard to point guard earlier this season and has become a Husker leader both on and off the court.

Kubik, while satisfied with her performance in some respects, said she won't feel completely content until she cuts down her turnovers. Kubik owns a one-to-one assist-to-turnover ratio.

Sanderford said that number will improve with time.

"She understands her role and she makes mistakes, but they're the same mistakes any young point guard makes," Sanderford said.

"I'm just happy I have two-and-a-half years left with her because she is going to develop into a very fine player."

Canadian recruit ready to step ahead

BY SAM MCKEWIN
Senior Reporter

In order for Nebraska recruit Dahrnan Diedrick to participate in spring football, he had to go hungry.

Diedrick, a freshman from Scarborough, Ontario, took extra classes at Cedarbrae High School last fall so he could graduate early and enroll at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this semester.

"I had a lot of extra work, so I had to skip my lunch period to take a class," Diedrick said. "I gave lunch up so I could come here as soon as possible."

The move will allow him to take part in winter conditioning and spring practice before his first year of eligibility.

The 6-foot-1, 210-pounder is the first member of NU's 1998 recruiting class to arrive in Lincoln for classes. High school athletes cannot sign letters of intent until Feb. 4.

After rushing for 1,386 yards on 145 carries and 14 touchdowns last year in a Canadian summer league, Diedrick was courted by many major college football programs

before choosing NU over Michigan in the early fall.

Then came the push to graduate early so Diedrick could participate in spring practice and learn the Husker system before next fall.

"The coaches at Nebraska wanted to get me in time for the spring," Diedrick said. "It puts me two steps ahead of all the other freshmen coming in the fall. That's where I want to be."

Diedrick, who runs a 4.48 electronic 40-yard dash, said he would like to see playing time early in his career.

Ahman Green's departure to the NFL will leave the starting I-back slot open. Also fighting for the position will be sophomores DeAngelo Evans, Correll Buckhalter and Dan Alexander.

There's a little extra motivation for Diedrick. The first Husker recruit from Canada, Diedrick said he wants to show college football that there are good players from the North.

"I am playing for my country down here," Diedrick said. "Football is football, no matter where you go, and I want people to know there are

Please see RECRUIT on 8