

# Sports

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1998

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## Sports Opinion



### Adam Klinker Blackshirts ready for OSU's test

Nebraska is back in the classroom Saturday with an interesting lesson in Oklahoma State.

After opening the year with some uncharacteristic "disappointments," the Cornhuskers got back on the bulldozing bandwagon with a pummeling of Washington last Saturday.

After all, what kind of team goes gung ho over opponents like the ones the Huskers faced in their opening games?

It takes a bully like Washington to come in and start pushing people around before the school yard's All-American nice guys get mad.

But the Huskers enroll in the Big 12 this weekend with the equivalent of a psychology placement test — an Oklahoma State team that might get you nervous but has never caused problems in the past.

After the lopsided fight in the yard last week, the nice kids are all studied up for this week's exam. Now it's a question of sharpening the No. 2 pencils and getting to work.

That's the way NU handles opponents like Oklahoma State. The focus is the same as it was against Washington, it's just channeled into a more low-key struggle — the anxiety of a test.

Against Louisiana Tech, Alabama-Birmingham and California, the Huskers passed, but not to the ultimate satisfaction of their teachers across the nation.

The Huskers may have been too busy looking out the window where teams like Washington, Texas, Colorado and Kansas State were waiting on the playground.

They hurried up and finished the test and ran outside to play with the bigger boys.

This week NU can put one of those foes behind them and, as the rest loom farther off, concentrate on the exam at hand, fully gauging its importance in their quest for another national championship degree.

With an ace against the Cowboys, the Huskers can shoot to the top of the class — showing they can mix it up in a brawl and prove their mettle in the classroom atmosphere of the little games.

The atmosphere Saturday should be conducive to a successful performance in this examination.

In a different, more traditional lecture hall Saturday, the natural turf at Arrowhead Stadium, the Huskers should have no problem adjusting quickly to the surroundings.

This is one test they've had before.

School's in session.

Adam Klinker is an English and history major and a Daily Nebraskan staff writer.



RUSH END CHAD KELSAY fights through a Husky offensive lineman in Nebraska's 55-7 win over Washington. Kelsay faces an offense of a different kind Saturday in the option attack of Oklahoma State.

MIKE WARREN/DN

## NU to battle Cowboys' option

By DAVID WILSON  
Senior staff writer

■ Oklahoma State's Tony Lindsay leads a rushing attack that ranks 20th in the nation at 236.3 yards per contest.

An athletic quarterback, an experienced offensive line and an offense that likes to run.

Welcome to the Big 12 Conference season.

Second-ranked Nebraska (4-0) opens up its league schedule Saturday against Oklahoma State (2-1) in a matchup that pits two running offenses at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., at 6:07 p.m.

Though they have yet to face a ground-attack offense this season, NU is no stranger to the option play the Cowboys have incorporated more of this season.

"The option is becoming very big in everyone's thinking," Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said.

"Certainly, we were not the only option team out there. And when you start putting together your package, if you decide you want to really have a fair number of options in your attack, you're going to look somewhat like us.

"It's not a matter of necessarily stealing, but on the other side of it, if I was going to be strictly a passing team, I'd look at the great passing teams around the country. I'd see what they were doing and certainly take things from those teams. That's just the way football is."

Oklahoma State's attack is led by



sophomore quarterback Tony Lindsay, the Big 12 Conference's freshman of the year last season.

The 6-foot-2, 190-pounder has rushed for 171 yards in three games and poses the first real scrambling threat the Huskers have seen this year in game situations.

"He can run, he can pass, he can scramble," NU senior defensive tackle Jason Wiltz said. "We have to keep him contained."

Solich agreed.

"He is excellent," Solich said. "He will cause anybody's defense problems. When he turns it up the field, he does it with a burst. They have a balanced offense, and he's the key to it."

Nebraska has allowed an average of 60.5 yards on the ground per game this season, which ranks fourth nationally. In the last four seasons, the Huskers haven't had a rushing defense that ranked lower than fifth nationally.

Going up against one of the top option teams every day in practice might have something to do with that.

And it could also help NU against the option Saturday.

"Ever since I came here, you go against that kind of quarterback," NU senior rush end Chad Kelsay said. "I think that helps us a little bit because we go against that stuff in prac-

tice everyday. But that kind of quarterback is still dangerous."

Lindsay will be joined by tailbacks Nathan Simmons and Jamaal Fobbs, who, with Lindsay, have combined to run for more than 87 percent of the Cowboys' yards on the ground.

Their 236.3 yards rushing per game ranks 15th nationally — behind Nebraska's 303.3 yards, which ranks second.

"I see a team that is similar to us in a lot of ways," Solich said. "They run a power offense. They run an option offense. They run play-action

passes. They're a team that when you look at them personnel-wise, I think is very good.

"They have a quarterback that is probably as mobile as we've faced up to this point, and maybe as mobile as anybody we've faced all year."

That doesn't worry Kelsay.

"We played against guys like this," Kelsay said. "There's a lot of guys that can get out and run around. It puts a lot more pressure on our front four making sure we keep him contained and don't let him get out of the pocket and run around."

### Football Starters

Saturday 6:07 p.m.  
Kansas City, MO

#### Nebraska Starters

##### Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
QB	12	Bobby Newcombe	6-0	195
IB	4	DeAngelo Evans	5-9	210
FB	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	240
WB	5	Shevin Wiggins	5-11	200
SE	8	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210
TE	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	245
LT	69	Adam Juich	6-5	315
LG	63	James Sherman	6-2	295
C	58	Josh Haskew	6-3	290
RG	72	Ben Gessford	6-2	290
RT	65	Jason Schwab	6-1	300
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	205

##### Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
LR	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	250
NT	96	Steve Warren	6-1	305
DT	91	Loren Kaiser	6-5	280
RR	84	Mike Fucker	6-6	260
SLB	46	Brian Shaw	6-1	215
MLB	44	Jay Foreman	6-1	240
WLB	27	Eric Johnson	6-1	205
LCB	16	Erwin Swiney	6-0	185
FS	21	Mike Brown	5-10	205
ROV	25	Joe Walker	5-10	200
RCB	22	Ralph Brown	5-9	180
P	23	Bill Lafleur	5-11	200

#### Oklahoma St. Starters

##### Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
WR	80	Willie Grissom	5-11	190
LT	75	David Camacho	6-7	300
LG	78	Adam Davis	6-4	275
C	70	Jeremy Offutt	6-5	295
RG	79	Jorge Arceo	6-5	300
RT	73	Josh Lind	6-6	279
TE	86	Garret Stoggs	6-3	235
WR	4	Sean Love	5-9	180
QB	10	Tony Lindsay	6-2	190
FB	48	Jeremy Hallerty	6-0	225
RB	1	Nathan Simmons	5-10	200

##### Defense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
DE	42	Andrel Waddle	6-2	240
DT	92	Cortney Mallory	6-1	290
DT	95	Alton Weaver	6-4	278
DE	66	Taber LeBlanc	6-2	260
SLB	37	Justin Thomas	6-3	240
MLB	7	Kenyatta Wright	6-1	235
WLB	32	Tarrell Knotts	6-1	230
LCB	25	J.B. Flowers	6-0	185
SS	10	Trant Alexander	6-0	185
FS	9	Ricky Thompson	6-1	180
RCB	28	Emitt Howell	6-1	178