

Sports Opinion



Sam McKewon

Give thanks for football's final days

As we enter that period where it seems like every person at the Daily Nebraskan is thankful for something because it's Thanksgiving, I thought I'd get in on the act.

The one main thing I'm thankful for? That this mess of a college football season is almost over, because I'm sick of it.

I'm sick of the game. I'm sick of the wrong teams winning. I'm sick of the fact that the three of the four undefeated teams - Tennessee, UCLA and Kansas State - couldn't hang two quarters with the previous five national champions.

I'm sick of the Big 10 and its ridiculous Rose Bowl selection of a Wisconsin team that hasn't beaten one good team this year. No, worthless Penn State doesn't count.

I'm sick of Bill Snyder, who'd apparently be happier if the media never covered him. Fine, Bill, there's a team in Siberia that's got your name on it. You can play the Red Army of Russia 12 times a year. It fits in with your regular nonconference schedule - the Red Army's never played football before, either.

I'm really sick of the Bowl Championship Series, which isn't going to solve a damn thing. College football's foolproof system is a couple of wins away from being fooled.

I'm sick of John Cooper, coach of Ohio State. He's the worst big-game coach in America. Why doesn't he just stay home on gameday so his team can win the national championship like it ought to?

I'm sick of ABC. Really, truly. I wonder if those folks could cough up a game or two to ESPN so we could ALL watch Florida-Florida State or, maybe, just get rid of the regional broadcast. I'm not using the pay-per-view thing, either, especially when one of the games on it is the one I'm already watching.

I'm sick of Lee Corso. Have been for years.

I'm sick of Lou Holtz. See Lee Corso.

I'm sick of the people in Nebraska dying over a three-loss season for NU. Memo to all those calling for Frank Solich's head: He's human. You're human. Leave him alone.

I'm sick of HuskerVision. Most of the people I talk to are. Hey Bill Byrne, why don't you tone that operation down a little bit for next year?

Most of all, I'm sick of commercialization of football: too many sponsors, too many games, too many gimmicks and not enough real football. I watched Auburn-Alabama on Saturday. Now that game transcends gimmicks. So does Army-Navy. But anymore, few do. College football now ranks second to college basketball for sheer tradition and fun.

And thankfully, college basketball is just starting.

Sam McKewon is junior political science and news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan senior editor.

Buffaloed?

NU looks to extend win streak to seven vs. bewitched Colorado

BY SAM MCKEWON
Senior editor

It started with a 52-7 pasting in 1992. It continued through the Kordell Stewart and Rashaan Salaam days. It survived the Buffaloes' walk through the stands at Folsom Field, with CU pounding on drums and screaming "War time!"

It's Nebraska's six-game winning streak over Colorado. And no matter what the Buffaloes have done or what talent they've had (and there's been plenty of both), CU hasn't been able

to beat the team former Coach Bill McCartney designated the Buffs' rival since 1990.

And it's starting to get to them. "It's an issue of playing a complete game," Colorado offensive coordinator Carl Dorrell said. "Boy, we've had some opportunities to make things happen, and, obviously, we fell short on that every time."

Colorado established what McCartney thought to be a rivalry when CU upset then-No. 3 Nebraska 20-10 in 1986. The Huskers then dropped games in 1989 and 1990 to the Buffs by scores of 27-21 and 27-12. CU's rain-soaked win in 1990 propelled the Buffs to a share of the national title.

After a 19-19 tie in 1991, Nebraska started its streak. In 1992-94, the Huskers preyed on quarterback Stewart, now a starter for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL. NU won all three games by pressuring Stewart into mistakes.

When Coach Rick Neuheisel took over, the streak continued. NU beat Colorado 44-21 in 1995. But the last two seasons have been tight, with NU escaping 17-12 and 27-24.

Neuheisel said the game has changed little in importance over the last six years.

"It's our biggest game of the year, no question," Neuheisel said. "We've had a rough time trying to get over that hump in trying to win that game. It's been tough."

CU has had its problems in the past, NU rush end Chad Kelsay said, but the psychological advantage the Huskers have enjoyed in recent years may be lessened this year, courtesy of a three-

loss season.

"You're used to walking in with a swagger," Kelsay said. "You pound at teams for a couple quarters, and they give up. Three losses takes that fear away from them."

If the fear returns, Kelsay said, the NU defense probably will have something to do with it. In the six-game winning streak, NU has sacked CU 21 times and picked off 11 passes. The Buffs haven't scored more than 24 and have scored under 15 three times.

Kelsay said the key to NU's winning streak was those defensive performances.

"Look at 1994, when Colorado came in here with Kordell Stewart," Kelsay said. "The defense just shut them down. In 1996, we shut them down. We have to go out there and do that again Friday afternoon."

Junior cornerback Ralph Brown added one thing that might be important Friday that Nebraska has an advantage in: heart. Brown said NU hasn't always been the better team in the game, but has always played harder.

"They've had more talent than us a couple of times," Brown said. "But we're just giving everything we have. That's why we're winning these games."



Seniors proud of legacy established in the 1990s

BY DAVID WILSON
Senior staff writer

It's probably not often a 6-foot-3, 290-pound offensive lineman calls home because he's scared.

For Nebraska senior center Josh Heskew, the realization that he will be playing his final game at Memorial Stadium Friday prompted a distress call to Mustang, Okla., on Sunday night.

"This could be it," said Heskew, who will graduate in December. "I've been playing this sport since second grade. I might be done - and then I have to go out into the real world. That scares me to death."

He's not alone. "I try not to think about it as much

Please see SENIORS on 8



Heskew

Football Starters

Nebraska starters

Offense				Defense			
Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.
QB	7	Eric Crouch	6-0	LR	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3
IB	36	Correll Buckhalter	6-2	NT	99	Jason Wiltz	6-4
FB	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	DT	91	Loran Kaiser	6-5
WB	5	Shavin Wiggins	5-11	RR	84	Mike Rucker	6-6
SE	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-0
TE	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	MLB	44	Jay Foreman	6-1
LT	69	Adam Julch	6-5	WLB	27	Eric Johnson	6-1
LG	63	James Sherman	6-2	LCB	16	Erwin Swiney	6-0
C	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	FS	19	Clint Finley	5-11
RG	55	Russ Hochstein	6-3	ROV	21	Mike Brown	5-10
RT	65	Jason Schwab	6-1	RCB	22	Ralph Brown	5-9
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	P	23	Bill Lafleur	5-11

Colorado starters

Offense				Defense			
Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.
QB	4	Mike Moschetti	6-0	DE	13	Fred Jones	6-3
WR	19	Javon Green	6-2	DT	90	Aaron Marshall	6-4
WR	6	Darrin Chiaverini	6-2	DT	97	Justin Bannan	5-10
LT	72	Shane Cook	6-7	DE	82	Brady McDonnell	6-4
LG	76	Brad Bedell	6-5	WLB	8	Hannibal Navies	6-3
C	58	Ryan Johanningmeier	6-7	MLB	66	Brandon Southward	6-4
RG	70	Ben Nichols	6-6	SLB	21	Albus Brooks	6-0
RT	71	Victor Rogers	6-7	LCB	2	Damen Wheeler	5-10
TE	87	Tom Ashworth	6-5	SS	15	Michael Lewis	6-2
WR	2	Marcus Stiggers	5-7	FS	37	Marcus Washington	6-3
TB	9	Marlon Barnes	5-11	RCB	1	Ben Kelly	5-10
FB	42	Marques Spivey	6-3	P	47	Loric Prietsch	6-0

Friday, Nov. 27
1:30 p.m.
Memorial Stadium
TV: ABC
Radio: 1290 AM
90.3 KRNU

JOE FRANK/DN

Women get 23rd place in NCAA meet

BY LISA VONNAHME
Staff writer

For Nebraska Cross Country Coach Jay Dirksen, the NU women's cross country season ended Monday "the best way it possibly could."

The Cornhuskers concluded their season at the NCAA Championships in Lawrence, Kan., with a 23rd-place showing in the 31-team field. Villanova won the women's team title with 106 points.

Dirksen said he was pleased with NU's finish, as it exceeded the expectations of most coaches and competitors at the meet.

"This was a great way for us to salvage our year," Dirksen said. "It has been a disappointing and frustrating season. We just weren't able to get everything together."

NU pulled together during Monday's 5,000-meter race with freshman Jeannette Zimmer and sophomore Amy Wiseman leading the way.

Please see NCAA on 8