

NU's Hadenfeldt nets strong start

BY MATTHEW HANSEN
Staff writer

Long punts do not excite Dan Hadenfeldt. That crowd-pleasing 73-yard bomb off his foot against California last Saturday? Nice, but not something to call home about.

It's not that Hadenfeldt is uninterested — the senior punter is enjoying his early-season success for sure. His nonchalance toward the blast against Cal and long punts in general comes because of his knowledge that length is only a small part of a punter's job.

"I have always been able to kick the ball a long ways," Hadenfeldt said. "Punting isn't about how far you can kick it, though. Consistency, hang-time and positioning of the ball are all more important."

So far this season, Hadenfeldt has managed to effectively combine all of these facets of punting. Through two games, the five-year senior has managed a punting average of 47.7 yards.

In addition, he has pinned opposition teams within their 20-yard lines five times. He was chosen as the Cornhuskers' special teams MVP for the California game. All this from a guy who had exactly zero career punts at Nebraska before this year.

Hadenfeldt admitted that he was a little concerned about this lack of experience before the season.

"It helped a lot that this is my fifth year around here," Hadenfeldt said. "I have had opportunities to get out there in front of the crowd before. I didn't quite know how I would react, though."

Following a high school career at Valley High School in Des Moines, in which he earned all-state honors twice, Hadenfeldt walked on to the Huskers and began a long, strange journey to the position of starting punter.

After his redshirt season, Hadenfeldt was exclusively a kicker for two years, appearing in three games. Last season, he began to punt as well and was a backup at place-kicker and punter for seniors Josh Brown and Jessie Kosch, respectively. His game action included several kickoffs but no punts.

This year, Hadenfeldt beat out freshman Josh Brown for the No. 1 punting position, while Brown returned the favor and won place-kicking duties. Despite earning the starting job, Hadenfeldt was not awarded a scholarship.

But through it all, Hadenfeldt has kept improving, according to Special Teams Coach Dan Young.

"Dan always has been able to kick it a long ways," Young said. "He has charted consistently well for us the last several years. With punting, it was just a matter of Dan improving his time from snap to kick. He has done that, and I am very confident in him as our punter."

5 Huskers look to set tone

BY ROB PETZOLD
Staff writer

Five Nebraska men's tennis players will have an opportunity to enhance the entire team's confidence as the Cornhuskers approach their fall season.

The season will begin Saturday, when five Huskers will travel to Baltimore, Md., to compete in the National Clay Tournament.

"If our guys do well down there, it would be a good confidence booster for our team when we start playing together," Nebraska Coach Kerry McDermott said.

Last season, the Huskers finished ranked 58th in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. NU ended up placing fourth in the Big 12 Conference.

McDermott said he hoped his squad would better its finish from a year ago.

The opening tournament this weekend will consist of two doubles matches and three singles matches.

Senior captain Andrew Weiss, who will make the trip to Maryland, also said this tournament could be a good motivational tool for the team.

"My goal is to qualify for the main draw," Weiss said. "This will lead to an individual ranking. The more guys who make it to the main draw, the more confident it will make the rest of our team."

Weiss pointed this out, he said, in part because the talent level of the entire team does not vary much. The only major roster loss the Huskers suffered from last season was that of their star player, Dinko Verzi.

Also competing in the tournament is junior co-captain Lance Mills, who will be playing with Weiss in the doubles matches. He will also be competing in singles matches.

"I feel it is very important for all of our players to play well," Mills said. "The more players who make it to the main draw and achieve individual national ranking, the higher our team ranking will be."

The National Clay Tournament will run through Sept. 25.

Sports Opinion

Chaos may ruin NU's title run



Brandon Schulte

Is this the end of the fireworks? That's the question that continues to meander through my mind when I think about the Nebraska football program.

In past years, the Tuesday press conference was a serene affair. The questions that arose dealt with the games on Saturday and nothing else.

This week's conference provided a scene that is becoming less and less unusual. Questions had little to do with the Southern Mississippi football team that Nebraska will play this weekend and mostly to do with the depth chart handed out prior to Coach Frank Solich's remarks.

The chart showed that Eric Crouch would assume the No. 1 quarterback job and former starting quarterback Bobby Newcombe would move to

wingback. It also showed No. 1 running back DeAngelo Evans wouldn't do any more running for Nebraska.

Instead of questions to Solich like: "What kind of offense do the Golden Hurricanes run?"

The questions were:

"Coach Solich, how would you respond to people who say that you've lost control of your program?"

"Why make the quarterback switch now?"

"Why would your No. 1 I-back quit now?"

These are things that just don't happen to a top-five program three weeks into the season. Quarterback controversies have occurred at most schools at one time or another. But how many times at the major college level does a starting quarterback make a position change on the same day the starting running back quits?

I doubt if it's ever happened. To their credit, players and coaches diffused the bombs fairly well.

"Sometimes decisions can create problems with players," Solich said. "I don't think that if you look at our football team that there is a wholesale problem with unity, chemistry or where this team wants to go."

I hope that's true, but it makes me

wonder why this sort of thing seems to happen every week.

First it was Solich tracking down Crouch, who was upset about losing the quarterback battle to Newcombe in fall camp. Then No. 3 quarterback going into the season, Jay Runty, deciding to transfer.

Last week, it was current No. 2 I-back Correll Buckhalter missing three days of practice because he was frustrated with his playing time.

Things like this just can't continue to happen if Nebraska wants to make a run for the national title.

A model for the Cornhuskers' current struggles could be found in the 1995 team. That year NU battled through adversity from outside factors that threatened to destroy the team. Instead of exploding, the team became a close-knit unit that would go on to win the national title.

Perhaps this year's team will be molded into the same cohesive unit the '95 team became. But if these problems keep popping up every week, the team could implode under the stress of too much discontentment.

Brandon Schulte is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff writer.

No score predictions for Eagles

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element of the unknown. Every Golden Eagle in the front seven is still moving just seconds before the ball is snapped, causing confusion and frustration for the offense and opening up big plays for the defense.

"The offense doesn't really know what we're going to do," said Thomas, who had 71 tackles and 12.5 quarterback sacks last year. "Nobody figures out what we're doing. You never know who's running or who's coming."

Southern Mississippi's offense suffers from inexperience on the line, which lost all but one of its starters from last season's 7-5 squad. It also has a new quarterback in sophomore Jeff Kelly, who beat out junior college transfer Cable Davis for the job just one week before the season began.

Kelly, who has completed 26-of-40 passes for 396 yards and six touchdowns, said the Nebraska's defense will likely be the best they face this year. Kelly liked all the defenders but said NU rover Mike Brown stood out.

"He's just all over the field," Kelly said. "He seems to cover everything."

"But their whole defense is good. Their speed and athleticism is tremendous."

Thomas said Nebraska's offense is also dangerous, and recent changes to the depth chart, including a departure of No. 1 I-back DeAngelo Evans, don't affect USM's approach.

"No matter what guy runs the plays, they're going to run the same plays," Thomas said. "We can't control who's there."

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All students are eligible to apply for a refund of the "A" portion of their student fees beginning August 23 and ending September 17, 1999. Students claiming and receiving a refund will lose benefits provided by Fund "A" users during the fall semester, 1999-2000. (See box at right.)

Application forms are available at the Student Organization Financial Services office, 222 Nebraska Union; the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union; and the East Union Student Involvement office, 300 Nebraska East Union. Applicants should return the form in person to 222 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union.

Students must bring their UNL student ID cards when returning their application. Students who are unable to return their application in person to one of the offices in bold lettering above should contact

Dan Paez, 222 Nebraska Union, 472-2154, on or before September 17, 1999, to make other arrangements.


Students who complete a refund application and return it on or before September 17, 1999, will be mailed a check for the amount of the refund requested. Refund checks will be mailed between September 20-24, 1999.

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Come see MTV's Tom Green in action!

Tailgate on the TURF

A new Homecoming Tradition
October 7, 1999 • Memorial Stadium

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