

Huskers prepared for defensive battle

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without problems going into Saturday's game. Penalties and turnovers have plagued Nebraska so far this season. The last two games have elicited seven turnovers, 15 penalties for a loss of 122 yards and numerous halted drives because of those mistakes.

"We've had way too many turnovers and way too many penalties," said NU wingback Bobby Newcombe. "We've got to find a way to stop it. Discipline somebody in practice. That has to be cleared up before we play a big-time opponent."

NU's remedy for players who make mistakes during practice is extra running time, Solich said. Crouch said the plan is working so far, and less mistakes are being made.

If NU can solve its own problems, it still has OSU's defense to worry about — especially considering what happened last year — when the Cowboys, who haven't won in the series since 1961, held Nebraska to less than 100 yards rushing and only 205 total yards.

They did it with a gimmick defense, a 5-2 alignment of sorts that clogged up the middle. The defense was never sufficiently solved, but the Huskers did hit a few long option passes to tight end Sheldon Jackson.

Like last year, Oklahoma State (2-1 and 0-0) had two weeks to pre-

pare for this game, which could give Bob Simmons, OSU head coach and defensive specialist, more time to revamp the defense, switch it back to the 5-2, or devise a brand-new defense to stop Nebraska.

It's not a situation Solich loves. "Without question it gives them extra time for preparation," Solich said. "I wouldn't mind having an extra week of preparation for Oklahoma State, but it's not going to happen. Now is the time to make major changes. So they have that advantage."

But OSU has problems of its own. One is injuries — quarterback Tony Lindsay and top linebacker Kenyatta Wright probably won't play, and tailback Nathan Simmons still isn't 100 percent. Another is inexperience, especially at quarterback. The Cowboys have some talented receivers, but quarterbacks B.J. Tiger and Ben Bowling have to find a way to get them the ball.

That's a good sign for the Husker defense, which, to this point, has carried the team. Maybe the scariest element is the defense might be gaining confidence, said Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride.

"They're building," McBride said. "Especially the players that didn't have much experience, like the rush ends. From this time a year ago, we've cut down on the big play. That's the difference right there."

No 'bad blood' between NU, A&M in rematch

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The Aggies (9-1 and 3-0) are known for good passing skills, he said. They have a lot of balance and have several players capable of scoring.

Junior Nicky Thrasher, who has scored 23 points on nine goals and five assists, leads the Aggie attack. She was last week's Big 12 Soccer Player of the Week.

Walker said aggressive play and excellent coaching are also trademarks of A&M.

NU will encounter more familiar coaching when they travel to Austin on Sunday to take on Texas at 1 p.m.

Texas (5-3 and 2-1) is led by first-year Head Coach Chris Petrucelli, formerly from Notre Dame. The Huskers lost to the Irish in each of the past two NCAA tournaments.

Petrucelli, Walker said, brings a good track record and fresh outlook to the Longhorns.

"Most of our games with Texas have come down to one goal," Walker said. "We know they will give us a battle, and there is no way we will take them lightly."

The key to NU's weekend will be playing with composure, Walker said. "Texas A&M will have a crowd of over 2,000 fans, and it will be a boisterous atmosphere," he said. "It is one of the tougher places to play."

While the weekend's games will be important in determining the Big 12 outlook, Walker said, it won't set the final conference standings.

"We beat A&M last season and still didn't win the Big 12 season title," he said. "So to say that this game (A&M) is the only game that matters just isn't true."

Evans granted release, sends one copy to UNI

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charge of compliance, said UNI received a generic letter that released Evans from his NU scholarship.

As of Thursday night, the admissions office at UNI had not received any information on Evans' possible transfer, Williamson said.

Both Papik and Williamson indicated the letter was from NU and titled, "To whom it may concern," showing nothing that would single out Northern Iowa up to this point.

Papik said Evans did not confide in him or NU about which schools he was interested in transferring to.

Attempts by the Daily Nebraskan to reach Evans at his home in Wichita, Kan., were unsuccessful Thursday evening. But his mother, Earnestine Evans, said her son did not want to talk.

"DeAngelo is not at Nebraska anymore, so I don't know why you

keep calling our house," she said. "Listen to the news or watch TV if you want to know what is going on with DeAngelo."

"Please tell this to (Lincoln Journal Star sports writer) Steve Sipple, because he is also continuing to call. DeAngelo is not at Nebraska anymore, and he will not be speaking with anyone from Nebraska from now on."

If Evans was to drop down to UNI's NCAA Division-II level, he would immediately become eligible to play next season. If he were to stay at the Division-I level, NCAA rules dictate, he must sit out a year.

Papik said Evans might not be able to transfer to a Division-I school because of the NCAA's five-year rule. Evans could appeal the rule.

As a fourth-year junior this season, Evans carried the ball 19 times for 74 yards through NU's first two games.

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