

SPORTS

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McCarney hopes ISU stays with Nebraska

By JOSHUA CAMENZIND
Staff writer

Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney said he knows how tough it is to win at Nebraska.

His Cyclones have lost to the Huskers by a combined score of 150-28 in the teams' past two meetings in Lincoln. Both games have been over by the second quarter, and McCarney said that is embarrassing to his program and players.

"It has been a complete mismatch and domination by Nebraska over us," McCarney said. "Our last two trips over there have been complete misery for this football team."

The previous four meetings of the two teams has NU holding a 241-49 scoring edge.

But this year could be different.

Iowa State is 3-1, with its only loss coming to ninth-ranked Kansas State. The Cyclones led the Wildcats 28-7 at halftime but ended up losing 35-28.

ISU has not opened the season 3-1 since 1986. The start has people in Ames, Iowa, excited about their chances in Lincoln on Saturday night.

"We are 3-1 and there are a lot of teams in the country that would like to have that record," McCarney said. "We have done a lot of good things in the first month of the season, and we are definitely improved over the last four years."

But McCarney said that he guards against such excitement, mostly because of NU's defense.

"Nebraska is deep, talented and physical - all the great things you look for in a great defense," McCarney said.

He is worried about how his offense will be able to move the ball.

"We have to be able to try and run the football," McCarney said. "I don't know if we can have any success, but we have to try. Because our forte is not lighting up the scoreboard throwing the football."

Running the football against the Huskers will be difficult, McCarney said. NU has held opponents to just 67 yards per game on the ground.

But McCarney said his team has a chance to match up better in the trenches than they have in the past.

ISU brings the No. 1 running attack in the nation to Lincoln at 328 yards per game. Running back Darren Davis is the nation's top rusher, averaging 176.5 yards per game.

Davis and ISU have faced a physical defense like NU's before in Kansas State. The Cyclones dominated the Wildcats in the first half, outgaining them 332-102 in total yardage. ISU managed only 74 total yards in the second half.

"Kansas State and Nebraska are two of the best defenses in all of college football," McCarney said. "And we are going to face them back-to-back."

McCarney said he knows it is going to take a total effort to stay close to the Huskers.

"Last time I checked, there were no two-quarter football games," McCarney said. "They are all played four quarters, and until we start learning how to do that, we are going to have trouble having success."

As concerned as McCarney is

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Wistrom scores big for NU

■ The sophomore tight end leads the Huskers in receiving touchdowns through five games.

By SAMUEL MCKEWIN
Senior staff writer

Tracey Wistrom had a hunch that last Saturday might be a good day to be a Nebraska tight end.

The sophomore remembered last season's game against Oklahoma State, when the Cornhuskers were able to take advantage of the Cowboys' speed-oriented defense with long option passes to tight end Sheldon Jackson. And the sophomore knew NU was still in the process of diversifying the offense.

Wistrom's hunch proved to be accurate Saturday, as he had a career-high four catches and 116 yards to go along with a touchdown in Nebraska's 38-14 victory over OSU.

"I was talking to the coaches, and I told them that it seems like when it rains, it pours," a laughing Wistrom said afterward. "I either do nothing or have really big game."

It certainly wasn't nothing. Wistrom was involved from the Huskers' first play of the game, when he made a catch near the sidelines for a 17-yard gain. Later in the first quarter, Wistrom was the beneficiary of an attacking Cowboy defense as he broke open down field.

From the OSU 49-yard line, quarterback Eric Crouch used a play fake to freeze the Oklahoma State secondary, then found Wistrom for a 47-yard completion in the middle of the field. Wistrom was finally hauled down at the 2, and I-back Correll Buckhalter scored on the next play to give NU a 14-0 lead.

The long pass, Wistrom said, was



NEBRASKA TIGHT END Tracey Wistrom brings in a second-quarter touchdown for the Huskers on Saturday against Oklahoma State. Wistrom recorded four catches for 116 yards in NU's win over the Cowboys.

LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

similar to the play that the Huskers used against the Cowboys last year. Jackson had grabs of 30 and 40 yards in that game, both catches setting up Nebraska touchdowns.

While Oklahoma State didn't employ the exact same defensive strategy this year, the play still worked for Wistrom.

"It was exact play that worked for Sheldon last year," Wistrom said. "I think Coach (Frank) Solich thought

that was going to be a play that worked for us, so that's why we ran it."

Solich said OSU's style of defense made it vulnerable to the play action game and reverses, which the Huskers also ran plenty of on Saturday.

"We thought that maybe we have a chance to go deep on some things, so we were hoping we would be able to catch them on some play action

passes," Solich said. "That did occur for us, and it worked out."

Wistrom said he was slightly disappointed with the fact that he didn't score on the 47-yard pass, but he got redemption a few drives later when Crouch found him on another play action pass for a 16-yard touchdown in the corner of the south end zone. It was Wistrom's second touchdown of

Please see **TRACEY** on 11

Defense helps NU to 4-0 league start

By BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

Imagine for a second the dilemma facing goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc of the Nebraska soccer team.

Through 12 games she has allowed only seven goals, has seven shut-outs, and she hasn't been scored upon in the last 437 minutes of action. Yet this Canadian National team goalie most likely won't garner All-American honors or even All-Conference honors.

That's because LeBlanc is the last line of defense on a superb defense, which includes senior All-American's Sharolta Nonen and Isabelle Morneau, along with junior Christine Gluck. The four have clicked this season, their second-straight together, to form an oppressive wall that few opponents have been able to penetrate.

"We dominate defensively pretty much every game we play," LeBlanc said.

Big 12 Conference teams might agree as the Huskers haven't allowed a goal in four conference games en route to a 4-0 conference record, which is good enough for sole possession of first place.

Morneau said all of the defenders believe in one another.

"I'm totally confident and trust the other two defenders and Karina," said Morneau, who is one of 14 finalists for the Missouri Athletic Club's

“
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ISABELLE MORNEAU
NU defender

national player-of-the-year honors. "I know they'll support me and vice versa."

The Husker defenders' jobs are more complicated than many of their counterparts across the country, because unlike most defenses that feature four defenders and a goalkeeper, NU has to get the job done with one less player.

The extra attacker gained creates more scoring opportunities. This is evident in the 40 Husker goals this season - but the strategy can also backfire as errors by defenders can lead to goals.

"Mistakes are much more costly," Morneau said. "Ninety minutes of 1-on-1 comes down to communicating for 90 minutes. We don't have much



AS THE LAST LINE of defense for one of the top units in the country, NU goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc has allowed just seven goals in 12 games.

MATT MILLER/DN

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