PAGE 12 DAILY NEBRASKAN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1999



## **KSU coach: NU duo lethal**

## BY DAVID DIEHL Staff writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. - It's not hard to see where Kansas State Head Coach Bill Snyder puts Nebraska Wingback Bobby Newcombe on his list of dangerous playmakers.

Ask him about Newcombe's natural ability and his potential to do damage to Snyder's Wildcats in Saturday's 2:38 p.m. game, and he'll give you a simple, honest answer.

'Any touch Bobby Newcombe gets against us is one too many," Snyder said.

Newcombe is just one-half of Nebraska's speed-based, multifaceted, unpredictable offense this year. Quarterback Eric Crouch makes up the second half. The two have combined to rack up just under 2000 yards of total

196

219

367

328

offense for the Cornhuskers this year. Crouch is the Big 12 Conference's

top-rated passer, sixth in total offense and 12th in individual rushing.

Newcombe, although he doesn't top any national statistical categories, is just as dangerous running, catching or returning the football.

He leads the Huskers in punt return average (21.4 per attempt), is second in receiving (24.7 yards per game) and is third in scoring.

"We have to play assignment sound across the board," linebacker Ben Lieber said. "Not just with linebackers, defensive line and secondary. Together we have to play assignment sound.

"That's what it's going to take. I'm not saying we have to play perfect. But we have to be on our toes at all times."

Both Newcombe's and Crouch's accomplishments this season have left

an impression on Snyder.

"Bobby Newcombe is a very talented player, and he can get it done in so many ways," Snyder-said, noting Newcombe's ability in running reverses, executing options, receiving and his potential to take part in trick plays.

Coupling Crouch with NU's deep backfield, which Snyder labeled "very proficient," and the Huskers' offense, especially the running attack, becomes lethal, Snyder said.

Last year vs. K-State, Crouch ran for 108 yards, completing 10 of 21 passes for 139 yards and three touchdowns.

'He is a very skilled athlete,' Snyder said. "He can do so many things. He threw the ball well against us last year. He ran the ball well against us last year. He handles the option very well. Together they can create a great deal of diversity in the offense."

## Injury forces problem of depth for Huskers

## BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND Staff writer

As construction crews put the finishing touches on the floor seating of the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the Nebraska basketball team put the finishing touches on its preparation for the first game of the season.

NU will square off tonight against the California South All-Stars at 7:20 at the Devaney Center.

California South, also known as the Double Pump All-Stars, have compiled a 1-2 record against the likes of Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Clemson.

NU fans will recognize one player from California South, Mark Sanford. Sanford played for Washington in 1997 when the Huskies lost to the Huskers 67-63 in the National Invitation Tournament.

Husker Coach Danny Nee said the All-Stars will present a challenge to his team.

"They will be a good test for us," Nee said. "They are a good basketball team. They are competitive, and that's what we want. It will be nice to play someone who does not know us."

One player who will not be suiting up for NU is senior guard Cookie Belcher. He was expected to play but became ill and will now sit out the game.

Starting in his place will be Rodney Fields. Fields redshirted last season due to an injury but is ready to go tonight.

"It will be my first game in over a year," Fields said. "There are some butterflies, but I will be better once I establish a comfort zone."

Fields will be sporting a taped wrist of his own, an injury he sustained two weeks ago during a scrimmage.

"It's been aching for a while now so I just wrapped it up," Fields said. "I can't bend it back far, but it is not serious.'

Nee said the starting lineup will be Danny Walker at the point guard spot, Fields, Larry Florence at small forward, Steffon Bradford at power forward and Kimani Ffriend at center.

The loss of Belcher for the game presents NU with depth problems at the guard position. Cary Cochran is the only guard that has game experience behind Belcher.

Fields said it "doesn't feel good" not having Belcher in the starting lineup.

"With Cookie, we have more depth," Fields said. "But all of our positions are interchangeable. It is a big loss at this point but just gives me added responsibility.'

The game will give the team a chance to see how the newcomers fare in their first game at Devaney.

"I am waiting to see how they approach the game," Fields said. "It will be our first game - our first challenge."

Nee said that despite wanting to see his team compete well, there is still plenty of time in these first couple of weeks for it to get better.

"Tomorrow night is just another step," Nee said. "We're just trying to evaluate our team, and it will be a good experience for the new guys. Other than Cookie, Larry, Cochran and Louis (Truscott), none of these guys have played in Devaney before.'

