

Nebraska To Turn Spring Game Over To Young Players

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska fans who want to get a good look at quarterback Taylor Martinez and running back Rex Burkhead better show up on time for Saturday's annual Red-White Game.

The way coach Bo Pelini sounded this week, the Cornhuskers' offensive stars and other top players might have their pads off by the second quarter.

The spring game, according to Pelini, is really about giving second- and third-stringers an opportunity to show what they can do in front of a big crowd. About 70,000 fans are expected.

"You're going to have a lot of young guys out there who haven't been in that situation before," Pelini said. "At the end

of the day, it's about execution. We're not going to be blitzing all over the place and running a bunch of intricate things offensively. We're going to be very nuts and bolts and let our guys play fast and hard and have some fun."

The spring game has evolved into an event where stars of past Huskers teams come back to see old friends and glad-hand fans, and visiting recruiting prospects watch from the sideline and take in a game-day atmosphere.

Special guests are recognized on the field during breaks, and assistant coach Ron Brown leads the annual Drug Free Pledge for kids at halftime.

It's basically a celebration of all things Big Red.

The scrimmage, of course, is at the center of it all. Pelini said he'll figure out

how long it lasts based on how many plays are run in the first half. A running clock will be used at some point in the second half.

The coaching staff will divide the players evenly between the Red and White teams. A few players will rotate in and out for both teams because of personnel shortages at some positions.

"We're looking to be as basic as we possibly can be and still get a good evaluation of the guys and how they execute the base things," Pelini said.

Pelini said he hadn't made a final decision on whether to allow quarterbacks to be tackled to the ground, though he was leaning that way.

Martinez, the starter for two seasons, probably will play about one quarter. Pelini said Martinez's quick exit isn't just

to minimize the risk of injury. The coach said he wants to get a good look at top backup Brion Carnes and reserves Ron Kellogg, Tyson Broekemeier and Bronson Marsh.

The coaching staff already knows what Burkhead can do, so Ameer Abdullah and Aaron Green figure to get most of the carries before less-experienced backs enter the scrimmage.

The Huskers have been decimated by injuries on the line, but first-year coordinator John Papuchis said he's excited to see how his linebackers and secondary perform after strong spring performances.

"I hope you see tremendous effort," Papuchis said. "I hope you see a lot of energy. I hope you see guys flying to the football and trying to create turnovers,

gang tackling. Saturday's going to be a little bit vanilla for us, defensively. We're not going to call a whole bunch of our defenses that we've worked on throughout the course of spring ball. But with that being said, I want to see technique, energy and effort."

Though the players know it's a scrimmage, the atmosphere should get the competitive juices flowing, receiver Tim Marlowe said.

"Having 70,000 fans there to cheer us on and having the Tunnel Walk brings more excitement so guys will be a little more pumped up," he said. "The speed of the game will be a lot faster. It'll be fun to make some plays."

Center Cole Pensick said, "If you're a competitor, you love it."

Judge Approves Reorganization Plan For L.A. Dodgers

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — A bankruptcy court judge in Delaware gave his approval Friday to the Los Angeles Dodgers' plan to sell the team for \$2 billion.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin Gross' approval of the Dodgers' reorganization plan came at the conclusion of a two-part morning and evening hearing he called a "double-header." The decision allows the team to exit bankruptcy.

The reorganization plan is based on Dodgers owner Frank McCourt's agreement to sell the team for \$2 billion to Guggenheim Baseball Management, a group that includes former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson. Mark Walter, chief executive officer of the financial services firm Guggenheim Partners, will become the controlling owner, and the team will be run by former Atlanta Braves president Stan Kasten.

Both Kasten and McCourt were in court Friday. The sale is set to close by April 30, the day McCourt is to make a \$131 million payment to former wife Jamie as part of their divorce.

"All the organization's goals in the reorganization cases have been achieved. We look forward to returning all of our attention to Dodger baseball," the team said in a statement following the hearing.

The Dodgers entered bankruptcy in June 2011 during a bitter dispute with Major League Baseball. At the time, baseball Commissioner Bud Selig refused to approve a new TV deal with Fox Sports that the team was counting on in order to make payroll and keep the franchise solvent.

Gaylord Perry Helps Ex-Teammate With Cancer

Perry last fall reached out to the Baseball Assistance Team to help cover medical costs for Bowman, who played parts of three major league seasons and wound up 27 days shy of earning a full pension. Now, Bowman's monthly co-payments of nearly \$900 are covered for chemotherapy, radiation and other costs. He will have another chemo session later this month and has undergone eight biopsies for his inoperable cancer.

"Gaylord's a good man. He saved my life," said Bowman, who still lives in his native Johnson City, Tenn., about 45 minutes away from Perry's North Carolina home. "They took me on like I was a Hall of Famer. I was important to them."

Bowman is hardly a well-known former Giant like Perry or fellow Hall of Famers Willie Mays, Willie McCovey or Orlando Cepeda. The Giants lost the '62 Series in heartbreaking fashion — in the deciding Game 7 to the New York Yankees.

Bowman played a total of 165 games for the Giants from 1961-63, finishing as a career .190 hitter with one home run, two triples and four doubles, 10 RBIs and 33 strikeouts. He also stole one base. Bowman never earned more than \$12,000 a year as a utility infielder.

Yet Perry is quick to point out, "He stepped so many line drives for me," that this is the least he could do for a longtime friend. Perry has been to visit Bowman, too.

Perry began his efforts in September, then attended the B.A.T. banquet in New York this past January and made sure Bowman was still in the mix for aid.

"We're supposed to help our fellow people out," Perry said. "I was just so blessed I knew the people who could do it. I just called and told them his story. I had to call two or three times, and it got done. This program is to make sure we don't lose anybody in the system."

Softball

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have a lot to offer," Klyse said. "Their mental edge and the energy they bring is what makes them so good."

"That mental game is what separates them from other teams."

Menke was only in trouble one time in the first game, when USD led off the bottom of the sixth inning with a home run by Lindsey Boyd. With two runners on and one out, the Coyotes were unable to edge closer.

the third, Brea Konz hit a 2-run single, pushing the lead to 4-0.

The Coyotes got on the scoreboard in the fourth with a solo homer by Daly, one of five hits Menke surrendered in the second game, three coming to Daly.

NDSU padded its lead with three runs in the sixth inning, all with two outs, and two more runs in the seventh.

Broders brought in a run for USD with an RBI single in the bottom of the seventh, but it wasn't nearly enough to ease the frustrations of a rough day.

"We didn't play too well at all, but we just like to focus on the good things," Broders said. "We just want to come out and win (today)."

While NDSU is ranked No. 11 in the latest mid-major softball poll and is seeking yet another league championship, the Coyotes are still feeling their way through their first year in the Summit League.

"This year, because we're not eligible for anything, we're working on just fighting with each team and trying to win each series," Klyse said. "Right now, we're not looking too much at the big picture."

The two teams conclude the weekend series today (Saturday) at noon.

Boston

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Mount Marty's head track and field coach Randy Fischer competed in the 1984 edition of the race, placing in the top 100 with a clocking of 2:24.

"There was a brutal head wind that day, it was not an enjoyable day to run," the former Olympic Trials qualifier with a 2:19 marathon PR said.

Also competing on Monday will be Elk Point resident Shelia Beermann, as well as former Sioux Falls Lincoln standout, Thomas Madut of Mitchell.

Madut was an All-American in the marathon at the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Championships two years ago while competing for Dakota Wesleyan University.

A total of 30 South Dakota run-

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