

Athletic Director Tom Osborne Retiring At Nebraska

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — As Nebraska's coach, Tom Osborne had one of the most successful runs in college football history.

As athletic director, he pulled the football program he and Bob Devaney built out of a nosedive and repaired a fractured department where staff morale had nearly bottomed out.

And now, he's almost done.

The 75-year-old Osborne announced Wednesday that he will retire Jan. 1 after five years on the job. He'll become athletic director emeritus and stay involved in department operations through July 30.

"At some point, whether you're able to function or not, just the perception that you're getting old can get in the way," Osborne said. "I don't want to be one of those guys everybody is walking around wringing their hands trying to figure out what are we going to do with him? That happens sometimes."

Osborne, who had double-bypass heart surgery in 1985, said he has no health issues that led to his decision.

"I'm probably healthier today than when I was a member of Congress," he said. "That takes a big toll on you."

Osborne's first acts as AD were to fire Bill Callahan as football coach and hire Bo Pelini, who has returned the proud program to its winning ways. He shepherded the school's move from the Big 12 to the Big Ten, and initiated building projects including a 16,000-seat downtown basketball arena that opens in 2013, a Memorial Stadium expansion that increases capacity to more than 90,000 and the Hendricks Training Center for basketball and Olympic sports.

This past August, Osborne told chancellor Harvey Perlman that he thought he had done about all he could do to position for the future what traditionally has been one of the nation's most competitive athletic programs.

Perlman agreed, saying the university and the state of Nebraska "are in his debt."

Taking over the 23-sport department was a massive undertaking, and one Osborne wasn't sure he wanted. But the native Nebraskan said he felt a sense of duty when Perlman asked him in 2007 to take over for Steve Pederson, who had been fired a few days earlier.

At the time, Callahan's football team was on its way to a 5-7 season including some of the most embarrassing losses in program history. Former football players spoke publicly about feeling frozen out by Callahan and Pederson. There was a disconnection between donors and the department.

"The first day that I was on the job, it was 8 o'clock in the morning and I walked into a meeting with the executive team and we had maybe two or three mental-health counselors who were talking to them about stress reduction," Osborne said. "I thought, 'This is odd.'"

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Tom Osborne

AGE-BIRTH DATE-LOCATION — 75; Feb. 23, 1937; Hastings, Neb.

EXPERIENCE — University of Nebraska-Lincoln athletic director, 2007-present; U.S. Congress, 3rd District of Nebraska, 2000-06; Nebraska head football coach, 1973-1997; Nebraska assistant head football coach, 1972; Nebraska assistant football coach, 1967-71.

COACHING RECORD: 255-49-3 in 25 years, all at Nebraska; 3 national championships (1994, '95, '97); 255 wins are sixth-most among major-college coaches; .836 winning percentage ranks fifth all-time.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS COACH: College Football Hall of Fame, 1998; 60-3 record from 1993-97 is best five-year run in college football history; all 25 of his teams won at least nine games and played in bowls; won 13 conference championships; coached 65 Academic All-Americans.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Oversaw Nebraska's transition from Big 12 to Big Ten in July 2011; facility upgrades including Memorial Stadium expansion, downtown basketball arena, Hendricks Training Complex for basketball and Olympic sports and indoor baseball-softball practice facility; hired football coach Bo Pelini (2008), baseball coach Darin Erstad (2010) and men's basketball coach Tim Miles (2011).

EDUCATION — Nebraska, Ph.D. in educational psychology, 1965; Nebraska, M.A. in educational psychology, 1963; Hastings College, B.A. in history, 1959.

FAMILY — Wife, Nancy; son Mike; daughters Ann and Suzanne; four grandchildren.

Deduno Exits Early As Twins Fall To Yankees

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Samuel Deduno didn't look right to the Minnesota Twins.

Balls tossed back to him on the mound caused him to flinch away, as if he was seeing double. So despite the 29-year-old rookie's insistence he was able to continue pitching, the Twins pulled him in the second inning and watched the New York Yankees break the game open in the third.

C.C. Sabathia struck out 10 batters over eight innings to help the AL East-leading Yankees beat the Twins 8-2 on Wednesday.

Deduno struck out two without a hit or a run despite two walks. After the second one, manager Ron Gardenhire and assistant athletic trainer Dave Pruemer came to the mound for a long talk. The diagnosis was irritation in his left eye, and Deduno was removed for Brian Duensing.

"As I'm walking out the trainer says, 'There's no way I'm leaving him out there,'" Gardenhire said. "He had his eyes checked over the last couple of days and everything was fine. He says he's fine, but that's not fine. We didn't see fine when he was out there."

Deduno will have an MRI on his eye. He was unavailable for comment, but Gardenhire said Deduno didn't even want to open his glove to let the manager take the ball from him.

"I will never leave a player out there for that situation," Gardenhire said, adding: "Before the game everything was fine. That's what the kid was telling us, and that's all we can go by. It didn't look good to us, so we took him out."

Sabathia (14-6) threw 89 of his 118 pitches for strikes, including three straight to Twins All-Star Joe Mauer for the second of his three strikeouts in the fourth inning. Mauer, who began the day three points in the batting race behind Detroit's Triple Crown chaser Miguel Cabrera with a .326 average, went 0 for 4.

"He's a very powerful guy. He knows what to do with the lead. As soon as he got the lead he was just moving them in there," Gardenhire said.

Robinson Cano hit a two-run double and Curtis Granderson added a two-run triple during the six-run third against Duensing (4-11), and Sabathia took care of the rest. The burly lefty gave up six hits, two runs and one walk to improve to 10-0 with a 1.96 ERA in his last 11 starts against the Twins. Matt Carson and Pedro Florimon had RBI singles, but that was about the only solid contact Sabathia allowed.

"We tried our best to get back in there, but he's a tough pitcher to get around," right fielder Ben Revere said.

Motivated GV Girls Moving Up Ranks



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Megan Hirsch, left, holds up the girls' team plaque at Wednesday's Gayville-Volin Cross Country Invitational, held Wednesday at the HSC Course in Yankton. The Raiderettes, who won Wednesday's meet, are ranked second in this week's SoDack.com coaches poll.

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

A year ago, a group of young, experienced female runners at Gayville-Volin finished fifth at the state meet but had to watch as the top four teams in Class B earned hardware.

That was all the motivation those girls needed.

Eleven months later, Gayville-Volin not only again boasts one of the state's youngest cross country rosters but one of the best in the state. Among its 12 runners are four seventh-graders, four eighth-graders, two freshmen, a sophomore and a junior.

"We were the first team not to get a trophy last year," head coach Larry Buffington said during Wednesday's Gayville-Volin Invitational, held at the Human Services Center course in Yankton.

"That was our goal, from that moment forward," he added. "We call it 'getting to the stage.' Right now, we're on pace for that."

The Raiders — who ran away with the team title Wednesday — are ranked No. 2 in this week's Run-SoDak.com coaches poll, behind only defending state champion Ipswich.

Aiding in that ascent for Gayville-Volin are two of the state's top runners, in freshman Genevieve Clark and eighth-grader Laura Nelson.

"Last year was tough, but we learned we needed to be more mentally ready," said Clark, who finished sixth at last year's state meet.

"We want to do what college teams do and group everyone closer together to help our team score."

If Gayville-Volin is to improve on last year's team state score of 81 points, it'll come down to how runners behind Clark and Nelson fare. Eighth-grader Megan Hirsch has emerged as the No. 3 runner, while sophomore Kelia Barta was the team's fourth runner at Wednesday's meet in Yankton.

Junior Samantha Olson is out with an injury, leaving Alyssa Iiams to fill the No. 5 spot. Though the fourth and fifth runners have shifted, Buffington said he is "really happy with our whole team, from top to bottom."

"In Class B, you're only as good as your third runner," the coach added. "That's why we stress the team aspect, because literally it means everything to you."

For a team that had almost zero varsity experience before 2011, the Raiders are now not afraid of big meets like Region 3B and state, Nelson said.

"There's so much excitement at those meets, and before last year, we hadn't been at a big meet like that," said Nelson, 34th at state a year ago. "Now we're used to it."

Playing an additional sport cer-

Raiderette Girls, Bobcat Boys Win GV Invite

The Gayville-Volin girls and Freeman Academy boys each scored eight points in winning their divisions at the Gayville-Volin Invitational cross country meet on Wednesday. The meet was run at the HSC course in Yankton.

Freeman Academy put four runners in the top six on the way to victory. Mitchell Christian (26) finished second, followed by Centerville (27) and Avon (31).

Irene-Wakonda's Jack Johnson

won the event in 18:44, 10 seconds faster than Freeman Academy's Ben Brockmueller over the 5,000-meter course. Avon's Brant Blaha placed third in 18:59, followed by three Bobcats: Matthew Graber (19:02), Cole Hofer (19:31), Ryan Haggerty (19:41).

Gayville-Volin's Genny Clark and Laura Nelson finished 1-2 to lead the Raiderettes to the team title. Mitchell Christian finished a close second with 14 points, followed by Irene-Wakonda (33),

Avon (52) and Centerville (60).

Clark won the 4,000-meter event in 15:42, with Nelson clocking a 16:29. Freeman's Cailey Roth placed third in 16:54.

BOYS' DIVISION
TEAM SCORES: Freeman Academy 8, Mitchell Christian 26, Centerville 27, Avon 31
TOP 20: 1. Jack Johnson, Irene-Wakonda 18:44; 2. Ben Brockmueller, Freeman Academy 18:54; 3. Brant Blaha, Avon 18:59; 4. Matthew Graber, Freeman Academy 19:02; 5. Cole Hofer, Freeman Academy 19:31; 6. Ryan Haggerty, Freeman Academy 19:41; 7. Cody Roth, Freeman 19:46; 8. Nick Wilson, Centerville 19:53; 9. Kyle Glanzner, Mitchell Christian 20:08; 10. Grant Preheim, Freeman 20:25; 11. Levi Gruschin, Centerville 20:59; 12. Lucas Gustad, Irene-Wakonda 21:13; 13. Coby Lee, Mitchell Christian 21:25; 14. Zach Buche, Mitchell Christian 21:26; 15. Brennan Haggerty, Freeman Academy 21:34; 16.

Isaak Peitz, Mitchell Christian 22:49; 17. Seamus O'Malley, Centerville 23:02; 18. Ashton Liston, Alcester-Hudson 23:14; 19. Liam Swanson, Avon 23:27; 20. Jacob Chak, Avon 24:25.

GIRLS' DIVISION
TEAM SCORES: Gayville-Volin 8, Mitchell Christian 14, Irene-Wakonda 33, Avon 52, Centerville 60
TOP 20: 1. Genny Clark, Gayville-Volin 15:42; 2. Laura Nelson, Gayville-Volin 16:29; 3. Cailey Roth, Freeman 16:54; 4. Becca Glanzner, Mitchell Christian 17:21; 5. Clara Koerner 17:29; 6. Rebecca Ebers, Freeman 17:48; 7. Ashley Glanzner, Mitchell Christian 18:02; 8. Megan Hirsch, Gayville-Volin 18:12; 9. Kelia Barta, Gayville-Volin 18:32; 10. Katie Reynen, Mitchell Christian 18:38; 11. Alyssa Iiams, Gayville-Volin 18:39; 12. Devin Blindauer, Mitchell Christian 18:47; 13. Andrea Sokolowski, Irene-Wakonda 18:47; 13. Autumn Sees, Irene-Wakonda 18:47; 15. Kaven Jensen, Irene-Wakonda 18:49; 16. Adriana McDonald, Irene-Wakonda 18:58; 17. Heidi Cap, Avon 19:06; 18. Rebecca Hybertson, Centerville 19:14; 19. Shannon O'Malley, Centerville 19:26; 20. Lindsey Grassmld, Menno 19:37.

Volleyball: Scotland Battles Past Avon; Panthers Sweep BH

SCOTLAND — Carley Skorepa and Kennidy Asche combined for 27 kills as Scotland beat Avon 25-15, 25-17, 22-25, 25-12 in prep volleyball action from Tuesday night in Scotland.

Skorepa led with 16 kills and three ace serves, while Amber Alvey recorded 35 set assists and 15 digs. Christy Mogck added 33 digs and Sam Gieman had three blocks.

For Avon, Alyson Roth had five kills and five set assists, Ariana Oorlong posted eight kills and Chesney Nagel recorded seven set assists. Amanda Reiff led the defense with 10 digs.

Scotland hosts Parkston tonight (Thursday) while Avon will play in the Marion Tournament on Saturday.

AVON.....15 17 25 12
SCOTLAND (6-5).....25 25 22 25

Dakota Valley 3, Bon Homme 0
NORTH SIOUX CITY — Lindsey Smith recorded eight ace serves and 17 set assists as Dakota Valley rolled past Bon

Homme in straight sets 25-9, 25-6, 25-4 on Tuesday night.

Kylie Martin posted five kills for the Panthers (14-2), while Karissa Jensen added four kills and two blocks. Erica Johnson also had four kills.

In the loss for the Cavaliers (8-9), Jody Kriz posted 11 digs, Alie Adams had eight set assists and Caitlin McLouth had two kills.

Bon Homme visits Menno tonight (Thursday) and Dakota Valley travels to Homer, Neb. next Tuesday.

BON HOMME (8-9).....9 6 4
DAKOTA VALLEY (14-2).....25 25 25

Elk Point-Jefferson 3, Tri-Valley 1
ELK POINT — Keely Bertram recorded 14 kills and nine aces as Elk Point-Jefferson defeated Big Sioux Conference rival Tri-Valley 25-14, 19-25, 25-18, 25-20 on Tuesday night.

Amy Zeller added 11 kills and 18 digs for the Huskies (10-6), while Audrey Truhe posted 22 set assists. Haylee Erickson had

eight kills, Hope Erickson had 18 set assists and Katie Zeller added 10 digs.

In the loss for Tri-Valley (12-3), Allison Cross recorded 13 kills and 15 blocks (10 solo), while Chelsea Amundson had 26 digs and six kills. Olivia Minnaert chipped in with eight kills and eight digs.

Both teams return to action tonight (Thursday), with EPJ hosting Class A rival Sioux Falls Christian and Tri-Valley hosting McCook Central-Montrose in Colton.

TRI-VALLEY (12-3, 3-2).....14 25 18 20
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (10-6, 5-1).....25 19 25 25

Cedar Catholic 3, Battle Creek 0
HARTINGTON, Neb. — Kate-lynn Dickes pounded home 12 kills and Lexi Steffen added 11 as Hartington Cedar Catholic swept Battle Creek 25-12, 25-15, 25-15 on Tuesday night.

Emily Schrempp recorded 38 set assists to key the Trojans (16-4), while Kallie Leise led the defense with 10 digs. Eight different

players had a kill in the victory.

No stats were reported for Battle Creek.

Cedar Catholic plays Guardian Angels Central Catholic in West Point, Neb., on Thursday.

BATTLE CREEK.....12 15 15
HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (16-4).....25 25 25

Ponca Inv.
PONCA, Neb. — The Wynot Lady Blue Devils went 3-0 to win the Ponca Invitational, held Tuesday in Ponca, Neb.

Emerson-Hubbard won two of its three matches, while Allen went 1-2 and Ponca finished 0-3.

No stats were provided for Ponca or Emerson-Hubbard.

WYNOT DEF. PONCA 25-15, 25-18: Maggie Schulte posted eight kills and two blocks for Wynot, while Ashley Heine had four kills and 13 digs. Erica Burbach added 12 set assists and Zoey Heimes was the top defender with 27 digs.

WYNOT DEF. EMERSON-HUBBARD 25-11, 25-14: Sam Wieseler keyed the offense this time with six kills, while Schulte had four blocks and Jenna Heine recorded

11 set assists. Heimes had 25 digs defensively.

WYNOT DEF. ALLEN 26-24, 21-25, 25-16: Ashley Heine and Hochstein each had nine kills for the Lady Blue Devils, while Jenna Heime had 20 set assists and Heimes recorded 56 digs.

Lindsey Jones led Allen with 11 kills, while Rachel Finnegan had 18 digs and Lindsey Sullivan posted 12 set assists.

EMERSON-HUBBARD DEF. ALLEN 25-20, 25-23: Brittany Sullivan had 12 kills in the loss for the Eagles, while Lindsey Sullivan posted 18 set assists.

Finnegan led the defense with 10 digs.

ALLEN DEF. PONCA 25-23, 24-26, 25-15: Brittany Sullivan and Jones combined for 23 kills, while the Eagles overcame 28 attack errors. Lindsey Sullivan had another strong offensive night with 25 set assists.

Niobrara-Verdigre Tourn.
VERDIGRE, Neb. — Clearwater-Orchard topped Niobrara-Verdigre 25-22, 23-25, 25-23 in the

championship of the Niobrara-Verdigre Volleyball Tournament on Tuesday.

For Niobrara-Verdigre, McKayla Eisenbauer had 10 kills and nine digs, and Tessa Ives had seven kills and 19 digs to lead the way. Hannah Cook had seven kills and eight digs. Shelby McCordle posted 15 assists and nine digs. Mackenzie Rettig had 12 digs and Brittany Eisenhauer had seven assists and two ace serves for the Cougars.

Niobrara-Verdigre, 3-9, heads to Clearwater-Orchard (5-8) today (Thursday) for a rematch, part of a triangular with the Cyclones and Wausa.

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE DEF. WEST BOYD 25-16, 25-20: McKayla Eisenbauer had eight kills and Tessa Ives had five kills and two ace serves to lead Niobrara-Verdigre to a semifinal victory.

Brittany Eisenbauer had six assists and nine digs, Shelby McCordle had 17 assists and seven digs, Mackenzie Rettig had eight digs and Reagan Larsen had two ace serves for the Cougars.

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