

**Nebraska Football Weekly Press Conference
Nebraska vs. Kansas State game week
Tuesday, October 19, 2004**

Joe Dailey:

On getting back on the road after Texas Tech:

"We're more excited about just being able to play another team and live another week."

"We're were excited about last week. We thought that we had a good opportunity to exploit their defense because they like to play a lot of man-to-man coverages, and that's what we did. Now this week is going to be an even bigger challenge because they know a big front and big linebackers and they've got a really good secondary. So we're just really excited offensively to be able to exploit their defense as well."

On seeing the offense come together:

"We see this all the time in practice so it was just a matter of time before it happened in a game."

"I believe we have a chance to establish a rhythm. Now we've just got to continue to do that when we get in a game. It started off rocky at first, but after that we went to work and it shows."

On what a win might mean in the Big 12:

"A win every week can give us the inside track. We've put ourselves in position to capture the Big 12 North and that's our biggest goal right now."

On what the past few weeks have shown:

"I've learned that it can get ugly fast for either side of the ball. If the offense doesn't get on top, the defense is going to struggle a little bit. And if the defense doesn't get on top, we may struggle a little bit. It goes hand in hand."

On taking ownership of the offense:

"The senior leaders like Jake Andersen and Mike Erickson and myself, and other core players and we've taken a liking to our play in this offense and how big a role we contribute. It's extremely important for us to get out early and establish a rhythm. That's exactly what we wanted to do last week and that's what exactly what we did and now this week is just going to be a continuation of that."

On his field vision against Baylor:

"We've seen those looks so many times in practice so that once we see these looks out there it's almost like second nature. It's not very difficult. You just know exactly where they're going to be on certain plays."

On Kansas State's victory last year:

"Teams like to stick it to you no matter what. We don't go out there just to win by a touchdown, we go out to win by as many touchdowns as we can. Teams like to stick it to us just like we like to stick it to them. We're going to go about our business this week trying to stick it to everybody."

On comfort with the run-pass balance:

"I don't see any big difference. We can run the ball on teams or we can pass it depending on what kind of defense they're playing and the strengths and weaknesses of the defense."

On playing Kansas State:

"It's just another game that has to be won. That's it. It's just another game."

Jake Andersen:

On playing for payback:

"The past is the past. You can't look back at that kind of stuff. Yeah we want to be able to come out and win this game, but you can't talk about revenge. It doesn't do you any good. What happened, happened last season and we've just got to worry about this season and handle our business."

On the Kansas State defense:

"I think they have got a great defense. They're real good up front. They've got some good linebackers and back there in the secondary they've got some good players too."

"But I think our offense can score points against any defense if we play our game. We've kind of been off and on with that this year and hopefully we're going to start being a little more consistent."

On Kansas State's record vs. actual abilities:

"That's football. They've played some great teams. When you break it down, you'd be surprised at how many games are decided by two plays. You can either win or you can lose by a couple touchdowns depending on those two or three plays."

"They are always just a few plays away in the games they've lost. They've got a good team and we're going to have to go down there ready."

On Kansas State-Nebraska rivalry:

"They are a good football team and we're going to have to go down there and play well to win. We respect them and I hope they respect us because they should."

On offensive progress:

"I think the offense played well. It's kind of hard because it's just one game. You have to put games together if you want to decide if we've turned the corner or not. Hopefully we'll come out and play well this week and come out with a victory."

On importance of the game in the Big 12 North race:

"It's a Big 12 game so it's huge. Every time you play a Big 12 team in your conference and your first in that division you have to win in order to keep that position. Any game is not any bigger than last week's game or the game before that, it's just each week is our biggest game."

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Nebraska at Kansas State Game Week

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Free Safety Josh Bullocks:

On a revenge factor vs. Kansas State:

"They've beat us the last two years and especially this week since we're tied for the Big 12 North lead, it's important that we go out and try and get this victory. That's pretty much the most important thing, trying to stay on top of the Big 12 North."

On making improvements in the secondary:

"They're a good football team and we're a good football team, too. We've just had some mental breakdowns the last two football games against Texas Tech and Baylor. Overall, we're getting better and we're minimizing our mistakes, and players are starting to come around more with the new system. I think we'll come out and do a good job this weekend. We have to come out today and have a great practice and be mentally focused and prepare ourselves better than we have been."

On adjusting to a new defensive system:

"It's pretty much been minor things. You're not going to have a perfect season, and sometimes things are going to go the way you don't want them to go. It's been difficult at times, but we've gotten through it, and we're going through it now. We're just looking to play against Kansas State, and they're going to try and test us. We just have to go out this week and prepare well during practice and hopefully carry it over into the game. Last year was last year. It's a new system, but we all have to go out there and play hard. Fabian (Washington), my brother (Daniel Bullocks) and Lornell (McPherson) are all getting interceptions. Our defense has been playing well, except for the last two games. We're just looking forward to practicing hard today and playing K-State."

On breakdowns vs. Baylor:

"It's a team thing on defense. Sometimes the offense made some adjustments at halftime, like Baylor, and they just completed some passes and we made some mental errors on the back end."

On Kansas State running back Darren Sproles:

"He's a good player. He has good footwork and he's short so it's hard to see him in the hole. He has some pretty good offensive linemen, and some big guys, so it can be pretty hard to spot him in the backfield. We're going to have a great game plan, and coach is going to prepare us well, and it's all about us just going out there and executing. We have a good defense. We have guys up front that get some push and we have a good linebacking corps and a good secondary. We

just need to go out there and outplay them and execute. If we go out there and play our type of game and execute, things will work better for us. He's a versatile guy who will catch passes and is hard to tackle. A good running back is not going to allow a defensive back or a defensive player to get a good lick off of him. He's a good guy, but it's going to take a team (effort). As long as we go out there and play together, it's going to be a good night for us."

On K-State's quarterbacks:

"It boils down to our execution. If we go out and play our best game, then I think things will happen on their own. When we lost these last two games, it's because we didn't go out there and execute and didn't play as well as we have."

On blame being placed on secondary:

"It doesn't bother me because it's a team thing. There are 11 guys on defense working hard, and if one guy doesn't show up it's going to affect the whole team. Everybody just has to go out there and give it their all, minimize mistakes and play a good game."

On Nebraska fans making the trip to Manhattan:

"The fans are going to be there, but we just have to make sure that we're going to be there mentally and physically. We just have to prepare ourselves this week and just start out having a good week and finish the week strong and go down there and take care of business."

On NU's offense and defense:

"Our offense is going to take care of the offense, and the defense is going to take care of the defense. The offense has done a good job and last week they came out and played well against Baylor. We're not worrying about the offense we're just worrying about ourselves. Defensively, we just have to go out there and do our part, and we know the offense will too."

On defensive pride:

"Everybody is not going to have a perfect season. Thankfully we still have this week and we're still in the middle of the season and have games left. We're still in the hunt for the Big 12 North and that's the most important thing. Right now that's more motivation and confidence that we just have to go out there and practice hard and we still have a chance to end up on top."