

Nebraska's Phillips deserves fair shake

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SPORTSWRITER



First, University of Nebraska running back Lawrence Phillips is dismissed from the football team for assaulting his ex-girlfriend, a fellow Nebraska student. Then, Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne decides "dismissed" really means indefinite suspension, and allows Phillips to stay on the team.

While Osborne keeps flipping on Phillips' eligibility, a court of law has still not

decided if a crime was even committed. If a crime was committed though, why is Osborne and not the Nebraska administration taking action?

It seems Osborne is throwing Phillips off the team for an offense the university has deemed not harsh enough to throw someone out of school for. If anyone should decide the fate of Phillips, it should be the Nebraska administration, not Osborne. When did the football coach get more authority than the college president?

When it comes to the assault of another college student, the university should be the one making the decisions. The football coach should make decisions only when a player has broken a team

rule. A player skipping class is the coach's problem while an assault involving a player is the university's problem.

If Nebraska thinks that Phillips should be kicked out of school for the apparent assault, then he should be off the football team. If the university sees nothing wrong with Phillips' actions, then neither should Osborne.

It's also strange that Osborne decided to kick Phillips off the team when two other Nebraska players have court dates.

Receiver Riley Washington has been charged with attempted murder, yet he still practices with the team. Running back Damon Benning was arrested for assault the same weekend as Phillips,

but he will take Phillips' starting job in this weekend's game.

If the other players are considered innocent until proven guilty, why not Phillips? Does Osborne get to be judge, jury and executioner for all his players?

The truth is the University of Nebraska is acting in its students' best interests if it allows players to assault other students with no penalty. Tom Osborne is not being fair to his players if he kicks them off the team before they go to trial.

Lawrence Phillips should have never been kicked off the team and should be playing this weekend. His fate in an assault case should not be decided by Osborne.

Tulsa needs perfect execution for win

Tulsa is coming off a come-from-behind victory over Oklahoma State.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

To hear Texas A&M Head Football Coach R.C. Slocum tell it, the Aggies are going to be facing one of the top offenses in the country Saturday against Tulsa University.

"They're going to spread out all over the field," Slocum said. "They're going to line up with no backs in the backfield or with backs going in motion out of the backfield."

Those types of plays worry me because you've got to get to the line of scrimmage quickly and read what type of offense they are running."

However, to hear Tulsa's starting quarterback Troy DeGar tell it, the Golden Hurricane will need perfect execution from start to finish to have a shot at defeating the Aggies on Kyle Field.

"When you play A&M, you have to bring all your guns," DeGar said. "We need to get something going early and keep up the momentum."

The Golden Hurricane should have plenty of momentum coming into the game. Last week, Tulsa trailed Oklahoma State 23-3 with 10 minutes left in the game. DeGar, who had

been benched earlier in the game, threw three touchdown passes in the final 10 minutes to lead Tulsa back for a 24-23 win.

DeGar said although the team was thrilled with the victory — after opening the season with a miserable 37-5 loss to Baylor — the players must focus on the task at hand.

"That OSU game was amazing," DeGar said. "But we have to put it behind us now. The guys down here definitely know we have a challenge going up to A&M with the kind of team they've put together this season."

Although Tulsa has enjoyed little success in recent seasons,

many Aggie supporters remember the Golden Hurricane from 1991. That year, A&M went to Tulsa and built up a 28-10 halftime lead before starting quarterback Buckey Richardson got hurt.

In the second half, the Golden Hurricane came alive and ended up defeating the Aggies 35-34, A&M's only regular-season loss that year.


Two years later, A&M beat Tulsa 19-9 at Kyle Field, but the Golden Hurricane led at halftime and stayed in the game until the final moments of the fourth quarter.

"Coach (Dave) Rader really has not harped on the '91 game," DeGar said. "None of the guys that were in that game are still here. In 1993, we played well, but we still got beat. But this is a new team now; it's our time to go after A&M."



"They (Tulsa) are going to spread out all over the field.."

— R.C. Slocum
Head Football Coach



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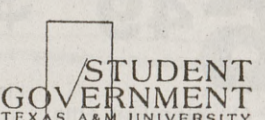
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