

A Shift In Perspectives

By Sawyer Hargrove

6th grade, Clay Middle School

This year in Lincoln, Nebraska has been one for the books. At the beginning of the season, the Cornhuskers had Scott Frost as the coach leading the charge. After a tough loss against Georgia Southern (45-42), Nebraska made the tough decision to let Frost go. After the release of Frost, Mickey Joseph, Associate Coach, took over as interim coach. Joseph played college football for none other than Nebraska between 1988-1991. He was a dual-purpose player. He personally rushed for 1,091 yards and scored 16 touchdowns, while also passing for 909 yards and 14 touchdowns. He acknowledged the personal significance of his appointment, saying, "As a former player, this is a special opportunity for me. The most enjoyable thing has been the kids and the coaches and the joy of coming back to Lincoln and coming back to the University of Nebraska and having this opportunity to lead this program. I wouldn't trade these memories for anything right now."

As of the end of the season, the Nebraska Cornhuskers are 4-8. In this tough season, one of the positives has been the dynamic between Casey Thompson and Trey Palmer. One of the most memorable plays between these two was in the game between Nebraska and Purdue. Trey Palmer had a 72-yard touchdown. For plays like this to happen, football players need to prepare in order to have both stamina and team chemistry. When interviewed, Casey Thompson shared how he planned in the offseason: "Once I knew Nebraska was where I wanted to be, it was all about getting to know my teammates and learning our offense and preparing to be a leader for this team. I spent a lot of time with my new teammates on and off the field just getting to know them and doing my best to become a part of the team and gain my teammates' trust."

I also interviewed Mark Whipple, Offensive Coordinator, about the camaraderie between Casey Thompson and Trey Palmer, as well as their work ethic. He stated, "Casey and Trey are both great players with great natural ability, but they also work hard at their craft. They do a lot of film study and a lot of extra work to develop a connection and trust between them. They prepared very hard and that allowed them to be successful." This commitment was clear throughout the season.

This year, the Cornhuskers fans, staff, and players had to watch the team struggle at different points. But, the Cornhuskers managed to pull an upset against the Iowa Hawkeyes late in the season on November 25, 2022. Again, Casey Thompson threw a dime to Trey Palmer for a 87-yard touchdown- even larger than the Purdue touchdown! In this game, Nebraska was up 24-7 by the end of the third quarter. It was a nailbiter as the game took a sudden turn for the worse when Iowa scored a touchdown and then a field goal. Chris Kolarevic, a linebacker, saved the day for the team with a late-game interception, sealing the deal for Nebraska. This was an amazing win because, for the past 7 years, Nebraska has lost to Iowa; this year, Nebraska fought back with grit and determination and most importantly, stripped the Big Ten West title from Iowa.

A very recent announcement was made on Saturday, November 26th when Nebraska shared that they had found a new head coach in Matt Ruhle. In the days leading up to this hire, there had been rumors about his potential appointment. Most recently, Ruhle was the head coach of the NFL team Carolina Panthers. Ruhle had previously coached college football for both Temple University and Baylor University, making him a good match for the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Many fans are eager and excited for the future of Nebraska football. They have high expectations for the coming years, as the best is yet to come!