



HUSKER POWER™

The Osborne Complex Years

2003

June 6th - Boyd Epley was promoted to Associate Athletic Director for Performance and Facilities Development to oversee the design and construction of the 10 million dollar Howard and Rhonda Hawks Championship Center and the 46 million dollar Tom and Nancy Osborne Athletic Complex.

Athletic Director Steve Pederson asked Epley to travel to 17 cities in three days with Tommie Frazier in a plane donated by former player Jim Pillen. Frazier was the fund raiser and Epley was along to explain the project features.

Epley didn't realize at first that Pederson wanted him to oversee all athletic department facilities and staff in addition to the new project. Epley wanted to continue providing the structure for the strength program and that is why Performance was included in his new title. One of Epley's first projects was a presentation to the department coaches with a plan to improve recruiting facilities including the creation of a Heisman Room which was made open to the public.



Epley and Frazier hit 17 cities in three days



The Heisman Room is open to the public for tours



Bowden says "Thanks for teaching us."

With Epley still overseeing the Performance budget, facilities, and staff and Mike Arthur promoted to Director of Performance to oversee the lifting programs, Bryan Bailey was promoted to Head Strength Coach for Football. This structure proved very successful as the Huskers had three football players squat over 600 lbs. and won 10 games. Husker Power was also making a great impact with the other sports as well.

Bobby Bowden, who competes with Joe Paterno for the record for most football wins in history, hired three of Epley's assistants at Florida State. The former Nebraska assistants are Jon Jost, Josh Hingst, and Zac Conner.

Boyd Epley and Mike Arthur were inducted into the USA Collegiate Strength Coaches Hall of Fame.

December - Dave Kennedy was hired by Steve Pederson as Head Strength Coach. Dave had been a student strength coach for the Huskers from 1982-1988 before going to Ohio State and Pittsburgh, At both of those schools he was involved only with football but at Nebraska Pederson had him oversee the entire strength program and staff as he moved Mike Arthur to Head Baseball Strength Coach. Dave openly showed no interest in the other sports and he struggled to help football have a winning season. Dave resigned in 2007.



Dave Kennedy returns to Nebraska 2003-2007

2004

National Associate Athletic Director of the Year presented to Boyd Epley by the All-American Football Foundation at a banquet in Chicago, Illinois.

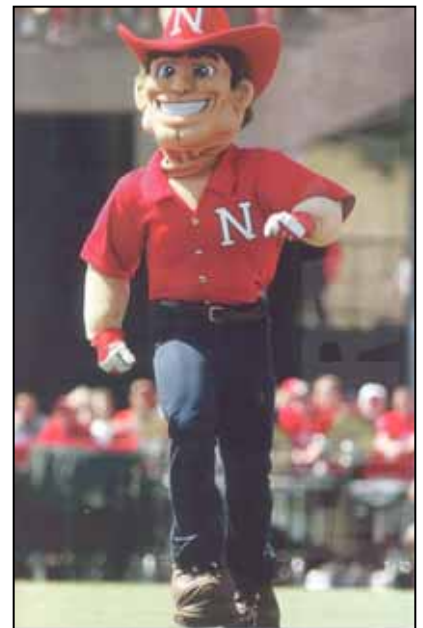
Epley asked his son J.R. to draw a new Herbie. Epley was looking to upgrade the mascot uniform. The old Herbie was patterned after a caricature of Don Bryant. The plump mascot was not conducive to recruiting muscular athletes. During the time when the mascot was being made Epley released announcements that Herbie was in training. This was the brain child of Chris Anderson, the Sports Information Director. Press releases showed Herbie on the Stairmaster, running stadium steps with Mike Arthur, and lifting weights with the football players. He was shown getting a haircut at the Clipper barber shop. Randy Gobel and John Ingram even created a Herbiemobile for him to make his entrance to the field.



Epley selected Associate Athletic Director of the Year



Drawing by J.R. Epley



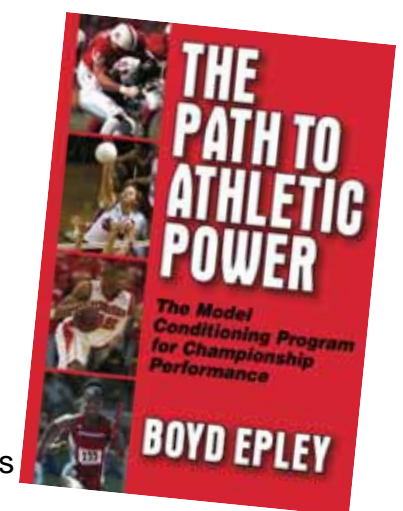
New Herbie



Rimington honored by Academic Hall of Fame

Epley's book **The Path to Athletic Power**, published by *Human Kinetics* explains the principles behind the Nebraska strength program and tells some behind the scenes stories.

July 21st - Dave Rimington is the first Husker named to the Academic Hall of Fame. Nebraska leads the nation in Academic All-Americans but Rimington is the first Nebraska athlete in the Academic Hall of Fame. The award was presented at Bill Walton's home in San Diego.

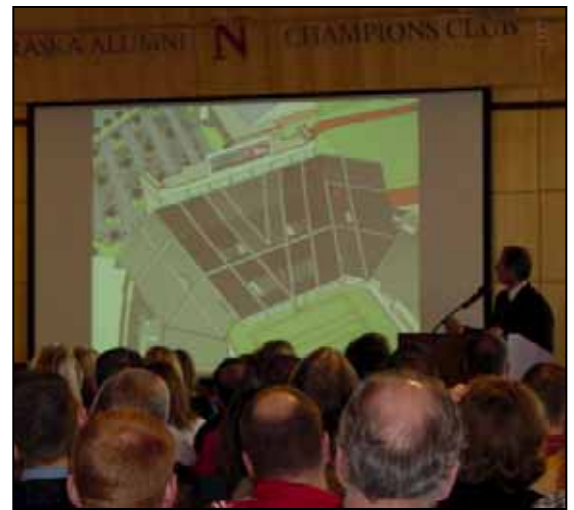




Schulte Field House and Baumann came down to make way for the Osborne Athletic Complex and Hawks Center

Pederson asked Epley to create plans for the new project to show at the Board of Regents meeting. Epley also gave presentations to The Nebraska Foundation staff, the Nebraska Alumni Staff, the Directors Club, and the Husker Power Club. Also included was a presentation to the entire athletic department staff.

August 10th - Ground Breaking ceremonies were held on the exact site where Schulte Field House once stood. Athletic teams had to scramble during the winter months as indoor training facilities were not available during construction. The Hawks Center was planned to be completed first to provide a 120 yard indoor field with lighting up to 100 foot candles.



Epley showing facility plans to the Department Staff



Ground Breaking Ceremonies with Tom and Nancy Osborne present

2005

The Outstanding Contribution to Football Award was presented to Boyd Epley from the All-American Football Foundation at a banquet in Dallas Texas even though he was now developing facilities.



A game ball was presented each month to a member of the construction crew



Epley shares the Plan with Athletic Director and Head Football Coach



Jenna Epley helped dad by giving tours

The 1995 National Championship team and staff are honored on the new Field Turf field.



The 10 million dollar Hawks Center upper level viewing with 100 theater seats



1995 Team is honored in the stadium before the game



L to R Osborne, McBride, Tenopir, Young, and Epley

2006

February 6th - With construction plans well underway on the Osborne Complex and the Hawks Championship Center completed Pederson asked Epley to focus on anything that would make recruits say WOW when they saw the facility for the first time. He changed Epley's title to Creative Director and promoted John Ingram to finish up the remainder of the construction process.



Strength Complex now sits on the footprint of the original Schulte Field House

What makes the Tom and Nancy Osborne Athletic Complex project special is adjacency. Nebraska's weight room moved from the West Stadium Strength Complex to the north end of Memorial Stadium. The 2006 Strength Complex is across the hall from a the new Athletic Medicine Center. Those two along with the Huskers' new locker room make up the Charles and Romona Myers Performance Center on the first floor of the Osborne Athletic Complex.

Pederson scaled down the plans Bill Byrne has proposed but Epley was able to convince Pederson to add a sky bridge connecting the Tom and Nancy Osborne Complex to the Hawks Championship Center so everything would be available indoors for the athletes. The first athlete to see the new indoor center was a recruit from Minnesota and he simply said, "WOW!"



Pederson wanted the largest indoor waterfall



The Video Board is 133' x 33'



Epley convinced Pederson to have a north view in addition to the field view for the main skybox area.



John Ingram and former player Brad Muehling made a tremendous impact in Nebraska facilities.



Maggi Thorne - the hardest worker in the department

More than 6,500 seats were added to the stadium's North end, along with a HuskerVision screen 133 feet by 33 feet. Thirteen Skyline Suites were added atop Nebraska's Osborne Athletic Complex. The additions pushed Nebraska's capacity above 85,800.

When the project was first announced skyboxes were not part of the 50 million dollar plan. For an additional one million the architects felt Nebraska couldn't pass up the opportunity to include rooms with a view to the field. Pederson wanted a super suite with 48 seats in the middle. Epley convinced him to make the center suite have a view to the north as well as the view to the field.

John Sampson Construction and John Sampson himself made the project spectacular. Brad Muehling a former offensive center was the project manager for the university and kept a close eye on the budget and the building regulations. John Ingram, Director of Athletic Facilities, is one of the most valuable employees of the athletic department. John does not receive credit for all he has done in multiple facility projects for the athletic department.

When Epley presented a plan to Pederson for over 200 displays to be in place by August 2006 when the complex was set to open. Pederson chose not to approve the plan and moved forward with only a couple of displays. Fans and former players later complained the building lacked photos of past players, All-Americans, and Championship teams.

Maggi Thorne, a former track star is shown creating a Lifter of the Year graphic. Maggi has repeatedly demonstrated that she is one of the hardest workers in the entire athletic department.

The tunnel walk was moved back to the North end zone and a concrete flat arch created for the entrance to the field. Bronze doors were added featuring great players from the past. Red Field Turf leads from the locker room to the field entrance. Omaha businessmen Tom Egan and Joe Putjenter stepped up and made the arch and red letters happen and Field Turf provided the red turf. The back side of the arch says, "I Play for Nebraska."

Epley left the tunnel walk bricks in the South end but moved the tunnel walk to the North End and created a flat arch entrance with bronze doors.

June 2006 - Kevin Reilly of Uesaka Barbell planted the seed when he asked Epley to consider returning to the strength field. Craig Schinck asked Epley to speak at the Nebraska State NSCA clinic which got him thinking seriously about helping strength coaches again. When NSCA Executive Director Bob Jurnick called and invited Epley come to the NSCA in Colorado Springs and develop Coaching Performance for high schools he said yes.

July 28th - Epley retired from Nebraska and started at the NSCA August 1st.



September 1st, 2007– Callahan leads Huskers out the North end against Nevada



The original tunnel walk came out of the north end zone.



Third National Volleyball title
for the Huskers

After winning a championship in 2000, John Cook left no doubt winning his second Volleyball National Championship in 2006. Terry Petit won one in 1995.



1997 National Championship team and staff are honored in the stadium



Tom Osborne is named
Interim Athletic Director

2007

October 15th - Nebraska's National Championship team from 1997 was honored at homecoming while the current Huskers allowed Oklahoma State to score 38 in the first half.

October 16th - Steve Pederson is fired by Chancellor Pearlman.

October 17th - Dr. Tom Osborne is hired as Interim Athletic Director and the healing begins.

December 2nd - Bo Pelini is named Head Football Coach and a new ERA for Nebraska Football begins.

December 17th - Coach Osborne names Mike Arthur Director of Athletic Performance and Husker Power is getting back on track.

December 22nd - Jenna Epley graduates to close out Forty years where the Epley family had a direct tie to the University of Nebraska.



Pelini Family



Tom and Nancy Osborne with Boyd and Jane Epley



J. R. Epley is hired full-time at the NSCA World headquarters in Colorado Springs



Jenna Epley with mom and dad at Husker game



Chase Beideck is training to be a strength coach



The view of the Tom Osborne Field from Tom Osborne's skybox in Memorial Stadium

2008

January

Bo Pelini hires James Dobson as Head Strength Coach for Football. He works well with Mike Arthur who is Director of Strength Training for the other sports. Husker Power shows signs of coming back.

August 30th - The first game

Tom Osborne is the Athletic Director and invites Boyd and Jane Epley to sit in his skybox to see the first game with Pelini as head coach. Pelini puts together a nine win season and Nebraska is back on track.

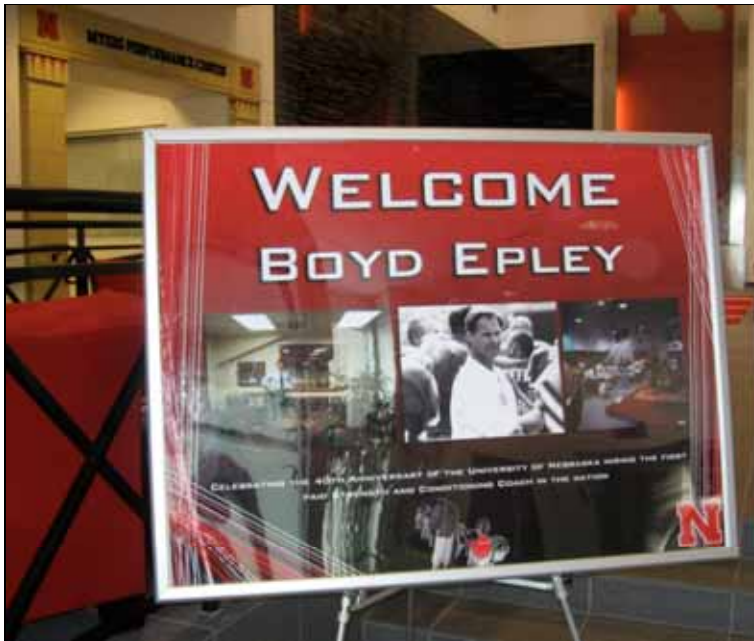
Boyd and Jane are just fans now and don't have much to do with the workings of the athletic department but enjoy getting back for a game. A bonus is seeing daughter Jenna and her fiance Chase Beideck a former Nebraska shot putter from Kearney.



Coach Osborne had Mike Rozier (L) and Irving Fryar (R) in his box for the first game which unities the players with their old strength coach.

November 1st

Oklahoma invited Nebraska players and coaches to celebrate the Game of the Century with them in Norman.



2009 - September 12th - Before the 299th straight sell out game in Memorial stadium got underway Boyd was honored as the University of Nebraska celebrated the 40th anniversary of hiring the first paid strength coach in history. Tom Osborne took time to have a photo taken with Boyd in the actual office where he and Bob Devaney made collegiate history. This office is now Head Volleyball Coach John Cook's office.

Boyd did an interview with Adrian Fiala and had his photo taken with the current Nebraska Strength Staff then was introduced to the Nebraska fans prior to the game.





Maggi Thorne is shown with her old boss. She is responsible for many of the great improvements in Nebraska displays.

November 6th

To repay Oklahoma for treating the 1971 Nebraska players and coaches to such a great event the year before in Oklahoma, Nebraska invited major award winners from both schools to the NU vs OU game in Lincoln. A celebration was held at the Champion's Club the night before the game. Prior to the dinner Maggi Thorne had a ribbon cutting to unveil the new Nebraska Experience Room. Many major award winners from both Nebraska and Oklahoma were on hand for the festivities and the game the next day. Larry the Cable Guy provided some great laughs.



Barry Switzer and Boyd get a chance to catch up at the NU vs OU festivities. Barry has been a good friend to Nebraska over the years.



November 21, 2009

Nebraska is Champion of the Big Twelve North Division in football. Bo Pelini and his staff have done a great job in a short time and the future looks bright for the Huskers again.