

# Technology Helps Coaches, Players Connect

By Sarah Sherman, Nebraska Media Relations

The brand new Tom and Nancy Osborne Athletic Complex's beautiful brick exterior lends a familiar feeling as it holds similarities to the historic features of Schulte Fieldhouse, its predecessor that sat on the same spot for decades. However, fans can rest assured that inside the new complex lies an epicenter inconceivable to the athletic department's wildest imagination until its creation.

Nebraska's recent additions have combined the familiar with the newest technology that can be offered to athletes today. A brilliant statue of Tom Osborne with a Nebraska football player greets fans near the main entrance of the Osborne Complex, while inside athletes are truly taking advantage of the latest tools that allow the fine-tuning that builds championship teams, bridging Nebraska's famous history and the newest generation of the Husker football team.

Immediately, entrants are met with a magnificent main lobby built as an atrium with a 30-foot waterfall. Beyond the initial appearance are the building blocks that allow the football staff to make the best use of their valuable time.

Administrative Assistant of Technology Tim McFadden painted a picture of the old way of watching game film, where football players would file into coaches' offices and roll through tape during meetings. The new facility includes football offices and meeting areas on the second floor of the complex that are the most advanced and complete in the nation.

Nebraska's space more than doubled with a primary team meeting room on the football floor in addition to a meeting room directly across the hall from each position coach's office. Players and coaches have more space to view game or practice video, giving them a greater edge in preparing for competition.

"Really, the biggest thing that this space can offer these players is the constant option to go watch film whenever they want, expanding their ability to learn on their own and allow their team meetings to be more efficient as a result," McFadden said. "Players can truly be at class, lunch in the Hewit (adjacent academic building) and be watching film in under an hour."

The large team room provides space for about 160 people and allows coaches to utilize the most advanced technology, as it is equipped with theatre-quality sound and video systems.

"The next step for us is going to be making the entire floor wireless, and it will give this staff the tools to be the most proficient team that they can be, and make the best use of the time that we have with these student-athletes," McFadden said. "With the meeting rooms in the new Hawks Championship Center and the flow from the locker rooms to the meeting rooms to the Hawks, it has made it so easy on our athletes."

McFadden added that the additions have gone beyond good organization and truly provide an easier way of learning. The Osborne Athletic Complex gives Husker student-athletes a tremendous advantage as everything they need to prepare for competition is all in one area. Athletes have easy access to the football offices, including position and video rooms, which are one floor above the strength complex, athletic medicine area and locker room.

"The new XOs video systems are more player-friendly, and the accessibility the new meeting and position meeting rooms offer are unmatched anywhere else in the country," McFadden said. "The separate meeting rooms from coaches' offices combined with the XOs system allows players to watch more film in less time, enhances the learning process and gives us an edge in an area that can't be matched many places."

Husker coaches have a tremendous view of Nebraska's new weight room, which is 40 percent larger than the one that set the standard around the nation in the 1980s and 1990s. Each coach's office overlooks the strength complex, giving them a birds-eye-view of the work being done every day during the season.

"This is a perfect example of our constant flow of information and connection that the players have with the coaches," McFadden said. "They can be available to these players with this addition as well as with the department-wide messaging system, which includes two plasma televisions used as message boards in the locker room to post information."

Nebraska has captured five national titles in football since 1970 and is the winningest program in the nation during that period. The trophies for the national titles are prominently displayed in the main corridor of the football floor. With all that Nebraska's new facility offers, more championships could be in the Huskers' future.

