

Iowa, Nebraska to play in "The Heroes Game"



Iowa and Nebraska have agreed to refer to its annual rivalry as "The Heroes Game." The announcement was made Friday morning in Chicago.

By Brendan Stiles

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CHICAGO, Ill. – Both the Iowa and Nebraska athletics departments announced that the annual showdown between the Hawkeyes and Cornhuskers in football will be dubbed "The Heroes Game."

The announcement came at a joint press conference held by the two schools Friday morning at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, which was the site of the 2011 Big Ten Media Days.

"It was clear to me as soon as Nebraska was announced as the latest and newest member that it goes beyond our states the passion of our fan bases," Iowa athletics director Gary Barta said. "We're very similar culturally, and there was just a

swell of excitement.”

This series is sponsored by Hy-Vee, which was the former sponsor of the Cy-Hawk Series between Iowa and Iowa State until this past spring when the Iowa Corn Growers Association took over.

For Iowa, this is the fourth different rivalry where a trophy will be at stake for the Hawkeyes. As for Nebraska, this is the lone rivalry trophy it will have. Former head coach and current athletics director Tom Osborne mentioned the only trophy he believed Nebraska played for was one with Missouri that he admitted he knew little, if anything, about.

“This is a little bit new to us, but I think it’s a good thing,” Nebraska athletics director Tom Osborne said. “I’m glad it’s this kind of a trophy, this kind of a rivalry. Of course, history will only put a stamp on what it turns out to be, but I think we’re off to a good start.”

The first Big Ten meeting between these two teams is Nov. 25 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Neb. Plans are in place to unveil the trophy for this game in the days leading up to the Day After Thanksgiving showdown.