

'F. W.' Goes Out on Limb To Predict Bright Years For Huskers of Future

World-Herald Sports Editor
Muses Over Abacadabra
System of Rating.

BY **FREDERIC WARE**,
World-Herald Sports Editor.

Sunday's sports sections carried the 1937 college football rankings as determined by the Dickinson system of mathematical hocus-pocus.

The Dickinson system placed the Cornhuskers fifth in the nation. The cerebral offspring of Dr. Frank Dickinson of the University of Illinois faculty, it is widely accepted by footballloons as the most accurate in a field that during the past decade has been crashed by many competitors. Maybe this acceptance is based principally on priority—it was the pioneer abacadabra—but I believe it is something more substantial than that, though I'd hesitate to regard any such listing as final.

Other systems have ranked the Huskers in other spots, about the lowest of which was twelfth. We have yet to hear from Dr. William F. Board, whose product has come to rival Dr. Dickinson's in the midlands, probably principally because Dr. Board, like Dr. Dickinson, usually has the Huskers among the top ten.

PRESS HUTCH OBSERVATIONS.

Third semester high school algebra almost stymied me. I don't understand the methods of any of these savants. I get my notions from first and second hand press hutch observations. They do not permit me to engage in arbitrary pigeon-holing. They only enable me to generalize.

It's my opinion that the Cornhuskers of 1937 belong somewhere between fourth and ninth in the national ratings. Generally speaking, this notion was arrived at by comparisons, not just of records of games won and lost but also of the caliber of elevens against which the victories were achieved and the defeats suffered.

RANKING FLABBERGASTS.
That the Nebraska kids should

rank so high is, to me, downright flabbergasting.

Last fall there wasn't a lay nut among the state's thousands of lay nuts who wouldn't have been happy to settle for, say, fifteenth or eighteenth place.

Nebraska had a new coach. Nebraska's material provided imposing strength at some positions and little more than an anemic challenge at others. Nebraska's material, in short, was spotty, and on the whole the least likely in three or four seasons.

WHO'LL EVER FORGET?

No one in this incomparable state is going to forget what happened. The weakest material in several seasons lost one game in nine, and lost that on a break—and tied two others, one of which was played under the advantages and handicaps levied by rain, the old equalizer.

Nebraska finished somewhere between fourth and ninth in the national listings.

Nebraska won its eighth Big Six title in ten years.

Nebraska was clearly the unofficial midwestern champion, as Dr. Dickinson showed by figures Sunday.

All this happened in Major Jones first year. It happened to a team of which no one expected a great deal.

It hapened—and this should interest Nebraska high school football bucks—to boys who were coached by a gentleman who knows how to make practice both productive and great fun. It hapened to boys who seldom were drilled beyond 5:45 o'clock. It hapened to these boys because they did what they were told and had a hell of a swell time doing it. **NO LUCK INVOLVED.**

To what extent was luck an ally? We heard widely varied expressions on this subject. There are those who maintain that the Huskers didn't accomplish a thing by their own meritorious conduct. It should be obvious to anyone able to distinguish between an end run and a field goal that such a view is idiotic. The Huskers actually were more unlucky than

lucky. Much more so. Injuries riddled the backfield. A bad break cost them the game at Pittsburgh.

But, you ask, didn't luck produce that touchdown for Nebraska that seemed so sufficient until the contest was all but ended?

Luck emphatically did not! That reverse-with-a-punt-return was deliberately planned. So was that opening play that licked Indiana.

With almost no qualification it can be said that every touchdown

scored by Nebraska was the product of careful rehearsal and planning.

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