

Huskers close great season

By Chris Petersen.

A great Nebraska football team concluded their season yesterday, a season of thrills topped with victory, a season that will probably place them among the five top teams in the nation.

Thirteen seniors played their last game yesterday, leaving behind them a trail of gridiron glory, a trail not marked by one outstanding man but rather one which marks them as a group, as a real team.

And they leave behind them another team, potentially as great as their own; for their play during the last three years has been integrated with that of juniors and sophomores. And those who are open to greatness learn what makes that greatness.

It is the team, the coach, and school support that deserve credit not for credit's sake but credit built upon the season.

It was on Oct. 5 that two of the "midwest's always good" teams met in Minneapolis to do battle. Minnesota's Gophers, now the No. 1 team in the nation edged out a 13-7 win over the Huskers that afternoon. But it was not a disappointed team that returned to Lincoln for they knew that they had played the toughest team in the nation—knew that in one sense of the word they had won a moral victory for "Butch" Luther had scampered 65 yards in the third quarter to score only to have it discounted by a heart-breaking penalty. Perhaps that score would have meant a tie or maybe even victory for the Huskers.

And then out of Indiana came the Hoosiers, not an ordinary team, to go down before the Husker machine 13-7 as Hopp and Rohrig flipped passes for the Huskers'

first win of the season. It was after this game, that Sports Editor Jim Evinger of the DAILY in his column said, "We don't know where we're going, but we're going."

It was in that game that Nebraska fans began to realize that it was going to be Ed Schwartzkopf who would be in on the bottom of most of the tackles during the season and that Prochaska, who caught one of the touchdown passes, was not just another end.

At Kansas, the KU Jayhawks gave way Huskers. The ball started rolling in Nebraska's favor early in the game when Forrest Behm and Ray Prochaska blocked a punt on the Kansas 8-yard marker. Vike Francis plunged it over from there. Wayne Blue got the second tally only to repeat for six points a few minutes later.

Harry Hopp "powered" over the goal to be followed by Petsch who feil on a fumbled Kansas ball behind the goal line for an additional score. Blue cracked over for the sixth touchdown while Bradley followed him a few minutes later with seventh scoring honors. Henry Rohn added seven points to his individual scoring record a few minutes later when he carried the ball over and kicked the extra point.

And calling signals like the coaches think them were Petsch and Theos Thompson.

And at the Homecoming game, old grads came back to see their team "cook with gas." The Missouri Tiger and its cub, the great Paul Christman, were put in the broiling pot to be cooked to the tune of 20-7 as 37,000 fans squeezed into the stadium.

There's an old axiom that too many cooks spoil the broth but the numerous

chefs that trotted out on the field that day for the Huskers brewed a dandy pot of victory broth. The Huskers, as a unit, combined running power and scoring punch via the air lanes to sink the Tiger hopes of repeating as conference championship holders.

Roy "Cowboy" Petsch scampered 53 yards for the first tally, while Hopp and Rohrig passed to Luther for the second and third set of six points after Francis and Hopp had worked the ball up the field.

Then came the Oklahoma game. Oklahoma, one of the big guns in the conference race, went down before the Huskers 13-0. And it was Nebraska who remained as the only undefeated team in Big Six conference play.

It was big Royal Kahler and Warren Alfson who were making the holes for the gains and scores. And it was there that Quarterback Petsch pulled the famous center around play from his bag of tricks.

It was Nebraska's last big hurdle in the winning of the conference that was beaten down at Norman, Okla., that afternoon.

And it was after that game in the Sooner dressing room that Mitchell Shadid, who played a whale of a game for the Sooners, said, "I heard Nebraska had an All-American, but I got mixed up on which one it was." And that's the way the team worked all season, not as separate units but as one unit.

It was a tilt of sheer power and teamwork when Nebraska met the Iowa Hawkeyes on home sod to beat them by a score of 14-6. The Huskers led all during the game but the Hawkeyes were no push-overs.

It was after that game that Nebraska fans began to sit up and take notice that they had a great team that was steadily climbing towards the top among the best teams of the nation. And it was not long after this game that someone got the idea that Nebraska should be one of the leading contenders for a bowl bid.

At Pittsburgh, Nebraska's fighting band of Cornhuskers fought fire with fire in turning back the inspired Panthers, 9-7, in one of the most thrilling games of the season.

A field goal in the third period by Vike Francis gave the Huskers a precious three point lead. Harry Hopp, in one of the best games of his career had scored six points earlier in the game. Perhaps one of the outstanding plays was that of Clarence Herndon when he slashed through the Pitt secondary to block an attempted field goal in the last few seconds of the game.

Iowa Cyclones blew into Cornhusker Land to give the Scarlet and Cream one of the big scares of the season when they led at the half by a score of 12-0. But it was an inspired eleven that came back on that field in the second half with a smooth running machine that changed the score to 21-12. And it was a great line that Francis, Hopp, and Luther scored behind, a fighting line with every one from Center Burruss to Ends Prochaska and Preston.

And yesterday, the Kansas Aggies went to the chopping board before the axe of the Husker eleven. And it was in a blaze of glory from good playing and teamwork plus the best form of sportsmanship that this team, our team, shall go down in the annals of Nebraska football history.

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