

New Freshman Grid Coach Bob Faris Cool, Effective

By MAURY LIPTON
Sports Staff Writer

There is an old adage around the University that Nebraska football teams will regain the form of the thirties when the state's top high school grid talent looks first for a college at Lincoln.

But while the Wades and the Tannahills are going to Kansas State, the Deckers are moving to California, and the Tofts are concentrating on Denver, a personality of great value, possibly more beneficial than all the others combined, has come to Nebraska.

This personality is not a bone crushing tackle, an elusive halfback, or a pile driving fullback, but a smooth, mild-mannered, soft talking football coach, Robert Keithley Faris, seemingly unimportant freshman mentor, is the key link in the future of Cornhusker football.

The recent history of the 34 year old Fremont native is not the least bit unknown to the followers of Nebraska sports pages. He has been a surprisingly effective three-sport coach at Fremont high since 1946. His teams have built up with slight fluctuation from a mediocre beginning to reach the State basketball finals in 1951 and 1952 and to cap an undefeated 1951 season with the big ten football championship.

A Faris coached team first hit the headlines in 1949 when they spilled Grand Island from the state football pinnacle with a 20-18 win. The loss, first in thirty-five games for the Islanders, followed near misses by Fremont in 1947 and 1948.

In '47 Fremont led 7-0 at the end of three quarters only to have a certain Robert Reynolds break away for two long pay off runs, one for 95 yards, and take home the victory 13-7. A close duplication followed in 1948 when Fremont, after leading 2-0 at half, wilted, under the hot fire of Reynolds and company, 13-2.

Faris' career in athletics is not limited to the position of coach. In the mid-thirties, after graduating as an all-round athlete from Fremont high, he entered George Washington University. Bob made this stop over a profitable one as he was unanimously selected to a forward position on the All-American basketball team, and combined with Tuffy Leemans, of "pro fame."



Courtesy Lincoln Star
FROTH FOOTBALL MENTOR
... Bob Faris, former Fremont High School coach, takes over the reins as head instructor of freshman football. He expects a large turnout of new frosh hopefuls on Tuesday

to provide the punch in George Washington football during this span.

Graduating from the University, Bob side stepped all pro offers and accepted a position with the physical education department of the FBI. The position was only temporary as he accepted another one with the US Army. This terminated in 1946, and he started his coaching apprenticeship. The job lasted until 1952 and prepped him for the position he now occupies. His task is now to provide partially polished football potential without which no varsity team can survive.

The tall mild mannered fellow could have no better recommendations than his five years at Fremont. He is not a nervous or frantic coach but one who pushes an athlete through encouragement and not demand. He has, and I'm sure will continue to, attain a high degree of success, a word which is his very nature.

Two midget football games will be played as curtain raisers for Nebraska games. Midget teams start their games at 12:30. These contests will be held Oct. 4, prior to the Iowa State game and Nov. 1 before the Missouri contest.

Faris Lists 55 On Frosh Unit; More Expected

With their sights set on Cornhusker varsity football jobs next year, an advance group of 55 freshmen has started getting in their practice licks.

Another group of 50 to 75 frosh are expected to report for physical examinations and to check out their equipment next Tuesday afternoon.

Under the tutelage of Freshman Coach Bob Faris and his corps of assistants, the first-year men will spend the fall grid season getting an indoctrination course in the T-formation system used by Head Football Coach Bill Glassford. Next spring they'll move up to the varsity.

Hailing from dozens of different localities, some of the frosh played 11-man ball, others the six-man brand.

Among those who reported early were Darrell Dolph, 235-pound Minutaire tackle, and Frank Reeves, Rushville halfback, who played under Glassford in the annual East-West High School All-Star game at Memphis, Tenn., two weeks ago.

On the list are the sons of two ex-Huskies—Leo Scherer, Jr., son of Leo Scherer (1920-22) of North Platte, and Joseph Prucka, son of Frank Prucka (1928-30) of Omaha. Rex Fischer, Oakland, brother of Cletus and Ken who played in Nebraska backfields in the late 1940's also has reported.

Other standouts include John Blahak, Columbus; Jack Braley, Miles City, Mont.; Don Brandt, Beatrice; Mart Connealy, Gordon; Bill Debus, Lincoln; John Edwards, North Platte; Larry Gallion, Chester; Bill Hawkins, Beatrice; Sylvester Harris, Kansas City, Mo.

Gale Lair, Omaha; Jim Majors, Oshkosh; Jon McWilliams, Sidney; William Moss, Omaha; John Nolan, Mechanicville, N. Y.; Don Patton, Alliance; Keith Richardson, Fairbury; William Taylor, North Platte; Frank Tomcykowski, Omaha; Don Trautner, North Platte; and Ralph Weddle, Nebraska City.

One regulation game has been scheduled for the freshmen this fall.

That will be in Memorial Stadium with the "B" squad on Sept. 27, the week-end the varsity is in Portland to play Oregon.

The frosh also will scrimmage against the "B" team and the varsity during the season.

Emphasis throughout the fall practice sessions will be on fundamentals and conditioning.

The frosh will begin learning some plays Monday.

Assisting Faris are Al Partin, Tom Novak, Don Strasheim and Bill Mueller.

An odd method of numbering seats in the University of Colorado stadium is causing confusion in the Nebraska ticket office.

Colorado numbers its tickets on one side of the entryway 2, 4, 6, etc. On the other side they run 1, 3, 5, 7, etc. When Nebraska patrons receive these it appears that the seats are not together.

"We are getting wires and telephone calls about them," Business Manager A. J. Lewandowski said. "Anyone holding four seats numbered 2, 4, 6, 8 can be assured that they are sitting together. This goes for those with Seats Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7."

Concessions Director



CALLS SELLERS' MEETING . . . L. F. (Pop) Klein, director of concessions for the athletic department, has called a meeting for all athletes who intend to sell at football games this fall. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tonight on the indoor track in the East stadium. (Daily Nebraskan Photo.)

Sports Notes . . .

Aside from those Tiger gridders who live in either the greater St. Louis or Kansas City areas, there are only four players on the 1952 Missouri roster who reside outside the state. The non-Missourians are: Fullbacks Bill Rowe, Kamp, Marietta, O., and Tim Fitzgerald, Coffeyville, Kan.; and halfbacks Buddy Makin, Tiptonville, Tenn., and Harold Thomeczek, Alton, Ill.

Bill Fessler, veteran Mizzou halfback, won the Big Seven javelin crown at Norman last spring.

Dan Pippin, captain of the U.S. Olympic basketball squad, scored a total of 802 points during his playing career at the University of Missouri—a mark topped just last season by the Tigers' Bill Stauffer with 813 points.

Missouri has three southpaw-tossing halfbacks—all sophomores—on its 1952 football squad in Jack Fox, Gerye Burson and Vic Swenholz.

Missouri's 1952 baseball team—finalists in the NCAA playoffs—won 21 of 28 games, the most victories ever recorded by a Tiger nine.

Bob Reynolds, Ray Novak, John Bordogna and Jim Cederdahl have been doing the punting for the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers during the early drills.

They are all better than average punters, Coach Bill Glassford says.

The Huskers have been working on punt protection to equal, or better, the record of 1951 when only one Nebraska punt was blocked.

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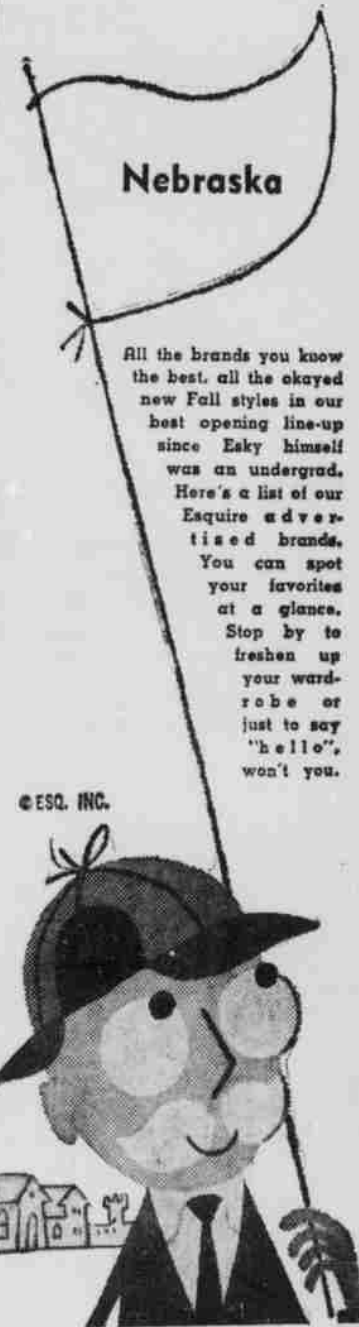
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Husker Line Stalwarts



SHINE IN WORKOUTS . . . Jerry Minnick, (left), a 6-4, 215-pound tackle from Cambridge, and Verl Scott, six-foot, 190-pound center from Laurel, performed well Saturday in an intra-squad game while getting ready for the Cornhuskers' opener with South Dakota in Lincoln. Both linemen saw regular duty last year on Coach Bill Glassford's lineup. (Daily Nebraskan Photo.)



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