

Vann Lines

Crown To Sooners Again; Tigers To Orange Bowl?

By HOWARD VANN Sports Editor

A newspaper without headlines is no newspaper at all just as a sports page without predictions could not be considered a real sports page.

Everyone else has come out with their views on the Big Seven so here I go giving mine.

I am certainly not the first one to tab Oklahoma, the perennial champion of the Big Seven Conference, to take the title again this year.

Oklahoma, like most of the other squads, is very strong in their backfield. Such memorable names as Calame, Littleton, Burris, Leake, and Herndon will be leading the way for the Sooners in their title bid.

On the line we find Max Boydston and Carl Allison, both experienced wingmen and both choices on many Big Seven and national all-opponents teams.

Kurt Burris, another all-Big Seven performer at the center slot, passed his first test in the Sooner's opening game last week against California when Matt Hazeltine, All-American selection from last season, played opposite him.

Bo Bolinger and Don Brown should help the Oklahoma staff to forget the loss of two great 1953 linemen, J. D. Roberts and Rodger Nelson.

In second place and destined to go to the Orange Bowl is Missouri. Actually there is enough incentive for any team to take second place and win a trip to the New Year's day classic, but one team can be tabbed.

The Tiger line has such stalwarts as Charley Bull and Terry Roberts and the backfield has reliability in Bob Bauman, fullback Coach Don Faurot has plenty of experienced lettermen to work with and to merit the second place prediction.

The rest of the five teams are very evenly matched. I put my hand into a hat and . . . oooops, there are two pieces of paper and on them I find Kansas State and Colorado. Contrary to popular belief, I can't overlook the large line and the fairly good back field of K-State topped by tricky Corky Taylor who should take many deserved headlines now that Verl Switzer, a real credit to the Big Seven in post season games, is gone.

Colorado has a tremendous backfield, probably second only to Oklahoma in the conference. Topped by Carroll Hardy, potential All-American, and Emerson, fullback, the Golden Buffs have a double-barrelled running attack. Frank Bernardi adds more power to the running attack besides being a left-handed passer.

The line is another question and this prediction actually depends on what Coach Dallas Ward comes up with from his reserves and freshman squad of last year.

I sincerely hope that the Nebraska Cornhuskers will do better, but on paper the Huskers look like they are destined for fifth place. I expect the Nebraskans to improve over last season which most of the other scribes don't; in fact they give NU the favorite's nod in just two games—I-State and Hawaii. If this is the case, I definitely look for a lot of upsets especially in league contests.

The Huskers should end up with at least a 500 in league competition. If Missouri encounters unforeseen troubles and there is a tie for second place with records of 4-2, NU could sneak into the next position.

The main trouble that some experts find with the NU team is the lack of an experienced quarterback.

From what I observe, the Huskers are fairly well balanced in this spot with Dan Brown, Rex Fischer, Don Erway, Charles Smith, Don Margheim, and Gordon Englert all showing good field-generalship.

The rest of the backfield stacks up with the best in the conference. Such names as Ron Clark, Bob Smith, Jon McWilliams, and Dennis Korinek will provide the experience in the backfield and sophomore names such as Don Comstock and Willie Greenlaw should hit the headlines.

The line has a big job cut out for them. Where NU finally ends up will depend on how well the line blocks and tackles.

It looks to me like a rough year for the new coaches in the league. Some people are talking about the championship down in Kansas. Spirit is fine and Kansas has plenty of it, but this does not win championships. The major talk seems to be of their new coach Chuck Mather. Mather is a good coach judging by his fine records and recommendations from fellow coaches. Barring upsets, I place Kansas in sixth place.

Next is Iowa State, one of two conference teams to beat Missouri last fall. Under their new coach, Vince De Francesca, Iowa State has a new found spirit to win also. I expect the Staters to improve their 1-5 record of last season, especially if Fullback Max Burkett retains his form of last fall. I-State is without a doubt put in a "spoilers role" this year.

Many teams in the past have been given pre-season nods to go to the top and have failed miserably. Missouri is put in this very uncomfortable position this year in a wide open race for runner-up laurels in the Big Seven.

The Tigers play Maryland in their final game of the season. In case there was a tie for second place in the Big Seven and Maryland beat Mizzou, the other Big Seven team would go to Miami for the Orange Bowl. On the other hand, if Maryland should happen to lose, Duke will be waiting for a bowl bid. The pressure is definitely on both teams. Colorado is just waiting for Missouri to lose one too many games. Only time will tell.



Game Captain

Bob Oberlin, senior center from West Allis, Wisconsin, has been chosen as the Cornhusker's first game captain this year for Saturday's contest with the Minnesota Gophers. Bob has been playing football for the Huskers ever since his sophomore year.

Rally Thursday

Team Leaves Friday For Gopher Contest

By MAX KREITMAN Sports Staff Writer

Today's practice will bring to an end three weeks of contact work as the Nebraska Cornhuskers prepare for their season opener against Minnesota Saturday at Minneapolis.

The Gophers, pre-game favorites, finished their scrimmage session in fine fashion as the first team ran through the second and third teams in easy fashion. The Gophers will go into the game with a veteran team featuring the McNamara brothers, Richard and Robert. Richard is the left halfback while the other is at the other halfback slot. Joining them in the backfield will be quarterback Geno Cappelletti and fullback John Baumgartner. Geno is considered one of the top passers on the squad along with Don Swanson, the Gophers' other signal-caller. Minnesota's line features Ron Smith and Jim Soltau at ends; Gordy Holz and Mike Falls at tackles; Bob Hagemelster and Rocky Elton at guards; and Chuck Stamschoor at the pivot.

Minnesota trip. The team will leave Lincoln at 1 p.m. on Friday. They will work out in Minneapolis that day in preparation for Saturday's tilt. Three men to keep a keen eye on are halfbacks Ron Clark and Willie Greenlaw, and center Bob Oberlin. Clark is a veteran, having played three years at NU before entering the army. Greenlaw is a tricky sophomore and Oberlin is a rugged center. Bob was chosen captain of the Minnesota opener.

Twin-Cities Alumni Club Plan Jamboree Friday

The Twin-Cities Alumni Club of the University is sponsoring a Football Jamboree in Minneapolis Friday night before the Nebraska-Minnesota football game.

The get-together will be held at 6 p.m. in the East Room of the Curtis Hotel. Members of the Athletic Department and Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin will be present.

Fencers Club To Plan Schedule On Thursday

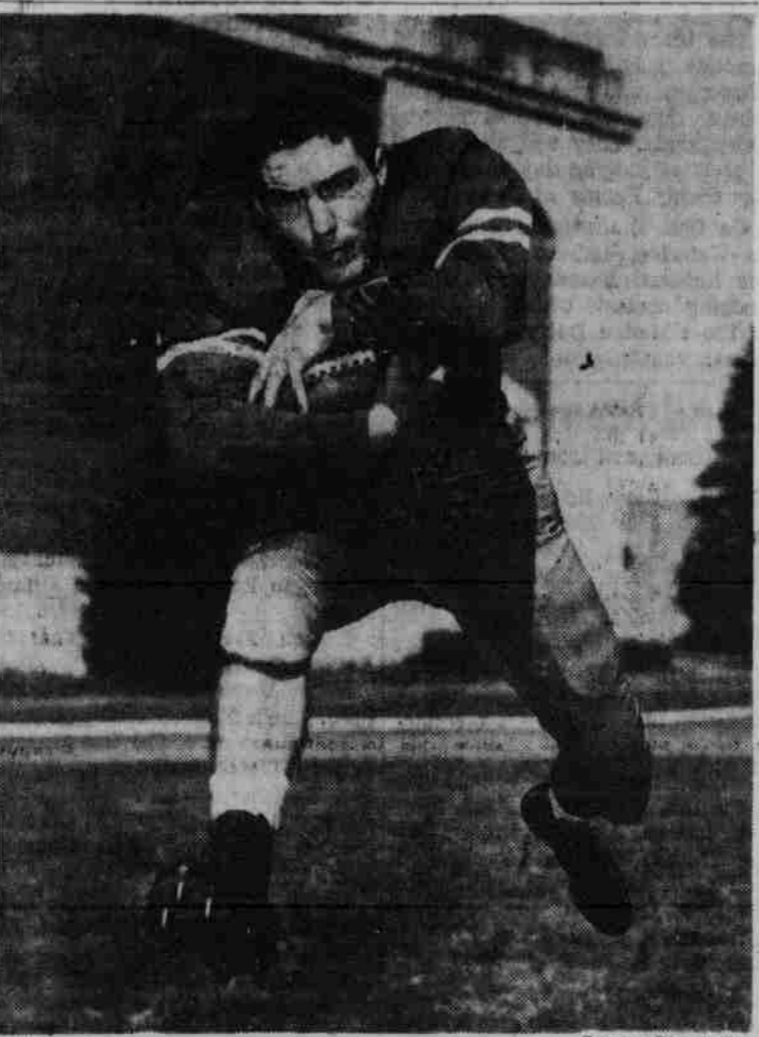
All members of the Fencers Club and men interested in advanced, team or recreational fencing are to report to John Giele, fencing coach, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in the Men's Physical Education Building for their first meeting of the year. Men signed up for Physical Education 38 Fencing are to report at the same time.

Four Conference Teams Shine;

The Big Seven once again showed last Saturday that it will be one of the toughest conferences in the nation, as five of the six teams who made their 1954 debuts convincingly routed their opponents.

Colorado led the parade of Big Seven teams as it crushed a spectacular defense and a powerful offense rolled past the University of California 27-13. Sparked by quarterback Gene Calame who had not been expected to play because of an injury, the Sooners scored once in both the second and third periods, and twice in the fourth period to chalk up another victory for coach Bud Wilkinson and his boys.

Kansas State fared equally well, as it gained a 29-0 victory over Colorado A. and M. Taking the opening kickoff, the Wildcats immediately ground their way to a touchdown, and then proceeded to humble their opponents, using 39 players in all to complete the rout.



Pre-Season Choice

Bob Smith, playing his fourth year on the Nebraska varsity, was switched from halfback to fullback this season because of his fast starts and powerful running. Many football magazines have tabbed Bob as a pre-season choice to make the All-Mid-Western and All-Big Seven teams. He weighs 194 and stands 5-10.

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Experienced Wingman

Andy Loehr, senior-end from Turtle Creek, Pa., is the most experienced end on the Nebraska football squad this year. Andy was the leading pass receiver on the team his sophomore year and was the second leading pass catcher his junior year. Last year, Andy played part of the season with a chin brace after breaking his jaw early in the football season. Besides being a good pass receiver, Andy is better than average on holding down his end on defense.

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