

SI Says Huskers Best

By Jim Pearce

The September 20, 1965, issue of Sports Illustrated hit the newsstands yesterday, and at one stand they were gone about that fast. The particular stand was in the Nebraska Union, and the reason for the rapid disappearance of this week's issue was its prediction of Nebraska as this fall's mythical national champion.

The Best

SI sees the Huskers as the team that will break out of a pack of top collegiate teams to be the "best of all in 1965." Noting that "most people will live and die with the home team, but they also will watch the ones at the top," SI predicts "None will be more visible than Nebraska."

Rest of the Best

Battling Coach Bob Devaney's team for the No. 1 spot will be Darrell Royal and his "stockpile of recruits" at Texas; Frank Broyles and Bear Bryant with their solid grouping of talent from the respective home states of Arkansas and Alabama. John McKay should have little trouble finding talent in sunny southern California to man his USC Trojans, and at Notre Dame Ara Parsighian has made one thing clear, his team is from Notre Dame.

To make Nebraska, and future champions, even more visible, SI proposes a national playoff involving the major conference winners and the top independent team from each section of the country.

Dividing the country into East and West the playoff would begin on December 11 in the various sections of the country. Survivors would advance to the next week's play until only two teams remained. A national championship contest then would be played on January 1 and nobody could argue about who was No. 1. Least of all SI.

But for this season it will

remain for wire polls, football writers, and various and sundry foundations to each select a "national" champion. In most cases it should be the Huskers.

Football Weather

At Nebraska the temperature dropped, the skies became overcast, and a light drizzle began to fall (as if it were football time in Nebraska) as NU students marched to class Thursday admiring SI's cover photo of Frankie Solich about to break away in last year's Cotton Bowl or reading inside about the best pair of ends in the country and perhaps the nation's top player.

Start of Something Grand

Many of these students plus around 40,000 other Huskers followers will fill Memorial Stadium Saturday in a brilliant display of red that has become the trade mark wherever the Scarlet and Cream travel.

These 50,000 may know little about the multiplicity of offensive and defensive alignments in today's world of collegiate football, and they may not know about all the rule changes. But they will notice freer substitution and no delaying to put a punting team in the game.

These things will speed up the game catching all in the heightened excitement of what promises to be a brilliant opening in defense of a national title the Nebraska Cornhuskers have been destined to garner.

Nebraska Opener With TCU

By Jim Swartz

The Nebraska Cornhuskers are out to halt a two-game losing streak tomorrow as they meet Texas Christian University at 2:00 p.m.

The game will be the season's opener for both squads and marks the second meeting of the Cornhuskers and the Horned Frogs.

The previous encounter

was in 1951 when the Texan Purple invaded Memorial Stadium as one-TD underdog and scored three touchdowns in less than nine minutes and ended up taking game honors 28-7.

Tomorrow's game should hold several interesting highlights, to the sell-out Stadium crowd. The Scarlet offense should sparkle with '64 backfield stand-outs: Bob Church, quarterback; Frank Solich, fullback; and Harry Wilson, halfback; scheduled to start.

The game will also mark the '65 debut of the famous "Black-Shirts" who ranked number two nationally in defensive statistics last year and whose main job should be the stopping of Sonny Campbell, the TCU left-end who ranked number two in the SWC pass catching department.

The defensive unit will be without the services of Mike Grace. Grace is sitting out the game with an injured knee. The left-end position will be manned by Bill Haug.

Two sophomores will be making their starting line-up debuts. Right-guard Wayne Meyland will run with the offensive team and Marv Mueller, in the defensive secondary.

Mueller replaces Ted Vactor, who has been hampered by an injury.



Mueller . . . Replacing injured Vactor.

A final note from the athletic department reminds students and stadium spectators that "air horns of any kind will not be allowed in the stadium."



Meyland . . . Sophomore starting in line.

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Probable Starters

Nebraska		Offense		TCU	
No.	Player	Pos.	Player	No.	Player
34	Tony Jeter	QB	194	Sonny Campbell	82
73	Dennis Carlson	LT	393	Robby Barker	70
67	LaVerne Allen	LG	300	Russell Stout	69
55	Dalein Drum	C	271	Jim Navia	57
46	Wayne Meyland	RG	215	Butch Gilliam	62
72	Jim Brown	RT	200	Adon Silra	76
85	Freeman White	RE	203	Joe Ball	86
15	Bob Church	QB	185	Kent Nix	11
20	Ron Kirkland	LB	192	Steve Landon	21
31	Harry Wilson	RB	198	David Smith	32
45	Frank Solich	FB	300	Ernest Baver	34

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Young Frogs Hopeful

The TCU Horned Frogs invade Cornhusker country tomorrow. The Southwest Conference representative will bring a young squad, composed of eight seniors, 16 juniors and 35 sophomores.

In reports received from TCU publicity director, Jim Brock, TCU is tagged for a lower division conference finish again this year, due to an over-balance of sophomores in the line-up.

In Fall drills Othol (Abe) Martin, beginning his 13th campaign as the Purple head coach, welcomed 19 lettermen from the 1964 team that won four of ten games and finished sixth in the Southwest Conference race.

Martin, known for his optimism, sees the Frogs as an improved eleven for the 1965 season. Chief problems are the lack of speed, and experienced personnel in several key positions. Strong point is

the overall defense, especially the secondary where the three 1964 regulars return.

"We have a lot of enthusiasm and willingness to learn, and this is important to any football team," reminds Martin. "The mental attitude is always a big thing—a boy who has the right mental outlook will take care of himself physically."

Martin and staff point to a fine crop of youngsters, and 23 of the young men are among the top 45 counted on for fall duty.

"This young crowd has something," he continued. "I believe several have the potential to be stars. However, for us to have a better team, I feel many of our seniors and juniors will have to play better than they are capable."

It's been six years since success hit the Purple campus. The Frogs tied Arkansas and Texas for the 1959

flag, after waltzing to the crown in 1958.

Only three returning lettermen were offensive starters in 1964—T-End Sonny Campbell, T-Guard Russell Stout, and Power End Joe Ball. On defense, five are back—Tackle Ronnie Nixon, End Doyle Johnson, and a secondary composed of Dan Jones, John Richards, and Frank Horak.

TCU will run from the DUAL offense, installed for the first time in 1964. The formation, similar to the one at Texas, will feature T plays to one side, with power to the opposite side. There also will be flankers, split ends, and the line will flip-flop on most occasions.

Campbell, who was No. 2 pass receiver in the League as a sophomore in 1964, could be outstanding. He already is one of the fine ends in TCU annals. Also Horak could be the best safety in the SWC this fall.

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