

Defensive Sparkler . . .

Doing King-Sized Job

If there's a better defensive safety in the nation than Larry Wachholtz, Nebraska football coach Bob Devaney may put up a king-sized argument.

"Larry has been a tremendous player for us this year," Bob says. "He's just not an outstanding defensive player—he's so much more to us. Larry is a great punt-returner, a real team leader and a tremendous place-kicker. He kicked six PATs against Kansas with a big toe the size of a baseball."

And the Husker coach joked, "We're afraid to let a doctor work on his toe for fear it'll hurt his kicking ability."

The Larry Wachholtz story is impressive. Only 5-8 and 182, he's a member of Col. John Bentley's famed "Societe des Lilliputs," along with Frank Solich, the Huskers' rushing leader.

A regular safety with the 1964 Black Shirts as a sophomore, Wachholtz has maintained his fast pace again this fall. He's had 23 solo tackles and 18 assists, while intercepting four passes and breaking up three others.

In addition, he's been the national leader in punt returns most of the season with 442 yards and a 16.1 average.

Even more impressive is the fact that after eight games—the Huskers have a perfect 8-0 mark—Wachholtz is the leading scorer with 39 points. And all have come via his swollen toe.

Larry has hit 30 of 33 extra point boots, and has hit on three of six field goal tries—

the biggest one coming at Missouri in the final minutes to pull out a 16-14 win for the Huskers who had dropped behind, 14-0 in the first quarter. The 30 PATs tie him with Owen Frank, who booted 30



LARRY WACHHOLTZ . . . defensive, kicking and punt return specialist.

Offensive Line Swingers Create Scarlet A-Go-Go

When historians write the story of the 1965 Nebraska football, they'll have to spend a lot of time on the unsung heroes.

Currently called only the "offensive line," these surprising Cornhuskers deserve to be known as the swingers who created the Scarlet A-Go-

Prior to the season the chief problem spot for Coach Devaney and his staff was the offensive line. So what happens? Man, these cats have picked up the beat.

Going into the Kansas game, Nebraska led the nation in rushing offense and were second in total offense. They promptly hung 419 yards of rushing and a 510 total on the shell-shocked Jayhawks enroute to a 42-6 breeze.

"I never thought any team could do that to us," mused KU Coach Jack Mitchell. "Nebraska has to be No. 1. Why, they may rank with the all-time great teams that I've competed against."

Coach Devaney is quick to heap praise on his offensive assistants—line coach Carl Selmer and backfield coach Mike Corgan.

"Both Mike and Carl do a great job of teaching blocking and inspiring desire for excellence," Devaney says.

Corgan and Selmer, likewise, are quick to pass on salutes to the hustling Huskers who have struck up the Scarlet A-Go-Go this year.

"You've got to give credit to boys like Dennis Carlson, Jim Brown, LaVerne Allers, Kelly Petersen and Jim Osberg," Selmer said. "Carlson was the only veteran we had,

and they've all worked together with a great deal of pride to get the job done. They maybe don't all have the great ability that was present on the 1963 team with Bob Brown and Lloyd Voss, but they have played well over 100% in the effort department to become a great line."

In eight games the Huskers have rushed for 2,299 yards and passed for 1,033 for a 3,332 total and a 416.5 average.

Not only has the line been blowing giant holes in enemy defense, the Scarlet backs have been devastating.

"We demand a great deal of blocking from our backs," Corgan said. "Not only is it effective in moving the ball, it does a great deal for our pride and the psychology of the game. All our backs know that when they carry the ball one of their buddies will be blocking like heck for him and, in turn, he's supposed to block like heck for his buddy when he doesn't have the ball."

With two games remaining, the Husker total offense average of 416.5 is ahead of the NU record pace of 407.3 set by All America Bobby Reynolds and Co., back in 1950.

So potent has the Nebraska running game been that no less than seven backs have logged from 184 yards to 553. The leader is Frankie Solich, the 158-pound fullback, who added insult to injury against the Jayhawks by plowing for two yards on a fourth-and-eighth situation from the NU 12, is the pace-setter.

Behind him is Lighthorse Harry Wilson (417), Pon Kirkland (327), Fred Duda (274), Charlie "Choo-Choo" Winters (195), Ben Gregory (186) and Pat Tatman (184).

"If there's one real key, or one real surprise about our team this year," Coach Devaney said, "it is the great play of our offensive line. Both Carlson and Brown, for example, have been playing as well as any of our great tackles of recent years."

The Husker backs who have been tearing through giant gaps second the motion.

SPORTS

Jim Swartz, sports editor

Gymnastics Team Rebuilding

"This will be a rebuilding year . . . all the way," said gymnastics coach Jake Geier.

Geier noted that with the loss of Francis Allen and Jim Howard, two good all-around competitors from last year's squad, this year's team has no seniors. With the exception of four returning lettermen, the squad is inexperienced.

"The varsity is largely sophomores," he said, "and they should jell. But we have to face facts, there are too many inexperienced men, not ready for college competition yet. But, as the season goes along they will get better."

Returning lettermen are Allen Armstrong, Richard Beran, Mike Ready and John Scheer. Beran has been selected as the team captain.

Geier said that the floor exercise with Ready, Bob Santoro and Pat McGill is likely to be the team's highest scoring event.

Geier said Armstrong has

been working at the rings and parallel bars while Beran is being tried at the horse, parallel bars, rings and long horse. Larry Foster and Jim Hahn are being tried at the sidehorse while Jim Hesson is working on the trampoline and the sidehorse.

Jim Inness is at the side horse. Bruce Jones is at the high bar and Ready is working on the trampoline. Floor exercise and long horse along with Santoro. McGill has been working on the long horse and floor exercise.

Scheer is listed in the side horse, rings and parallel bars and Jack McCoh is on the trampoline. Duane Strough, Vance Stone and Doug Brewer will be eligible second semester and are expected to strengthen the squad, according to Geier.

The squad will have an inner squad meet in preparation for their opening home meet against Fort Hays, Kansas, Dec. 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Grace, Haug's Knees Healing

By Dick Holman
Assistant Sports Editor

What does a football player do when he can't play football?

Mike Grace and Bill Haug are both left ends. They were both victims of the Wisconsin attack Oct. 9. Each suffered torn ligaments and cartilages in the knee. Neither one will see any action again this season.

The past month has been no bed of roses for either man. Haug went into student health immediately after the incident; Grace entered under medical supervision about two weeks ago and was released just yesterday.

Casts Off Soon

Haug, a two-year letterman from Minneapolis, Minn., said, "My cast will probably be on for another week. It's supposed to be on six weeks, but I'm going to see if I can get it off early."

While they have their casts on, (which start at the ankle and extend to well above the knee), they can receive no treatment. "As soon as I get it taken off, I'll be getting a lot of physical therapy," Grace said.

Haug, a senior, expressed his pleasure at the Huskers' performance this year. "A tremendous effort has been

put out by everyone on the team at the right time," he said. "I think the Missouri game was their best game this year. The guys came through in the clutch and they do every game."

As to his replacements, Haug commented, "Jerry Patton, Len Janik and Ivan Zimmer are doing a tremendous job. They are all fine athletes."

Haug, Skeptical

Haug is skeptical as far as national ratings are concerned. "I never placed too much on mythical ratings. They are just set up by writers," he stated. "We could never have a chance to play Michigan State or Notre Dame, but if we win the rest, we ought to be right up there."

When Grace was in student health, Nebraska Coach Bob Devaney made occasional visits to check his progress. Grace, a junior, said, "This is the second time this has happened within a year. I don't know if I'll be able to play or not next year. We'll just have to wait and see how it heals up."

Grace expressed a definite desire to play ball next year, however. "My replacements are coming along pretty good for sophomores," Grace said. "They are doing a good job so far and will present a lot a competition next year."

In 1964, Grace was taken out of action due to a similar injury in the Missouri game.

Which Bowl?

Concerning bowl bids, Haug remained noncommittal as to which offer he thinks Nebraska will choose. "I've been to both the Cotton and Orange Bowls," he reminisced, "and I know the team would like either one real well."

On that same subject, Grace said, "Of course, the team decides on it by voting. But I think they will go where they can play against the highest rated team . . . probably the Cotton or the Orange Bowl."

"I'm just an old man now," Haug said jokingly. "I plan to go to law school next year."

But in a serious tone he added, "I hope Mike Grace heals up and comes back real strong and plays like he did when he was a sophomore. He is a tremendous ball player."

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