

Rood Awakening

By Mick Rood

Irate Arkansas fans, party lovers and "patriotic" Nebraska fans are screaming together this week. Weird combination and not much to scream about.

The clamor and the crying for the ideal match between Nebraska and Arkansas is more Hogwash than horse sense. For at the base of the nauseous arguments is the contention that Nebraska is chicken . . . that Devaney doesn't want to lose another bowl game . . . that the Husker contingent wants to have "fun on the beach."

I guess the ratio between team ranking and fan insanity is a direct one.

Although it seems evident that team and followers will go to the Orange Bowl, it is hoped not everyone is automatically second-guessing our bowl selection. And what if this decision is made to make for Miami?

Arkansas Matchmakers

Consider the types of Arkansas matchmakers:
—Although the phone call to the Rag from Fayetteville was probably a hoax, I know several Hog alums in Lincoln that genuinely want Nebraska to come down and wallow in their pig sty. But why listen to them, they are Arkansas fans.

—Then there are the party lovers. These people feel the team (really meaning themselves) will have a better time in Miami. More Hogwash. I can assure you the team will be entertained adequately, within training rules, no matter where they go. I can also assure you that Nebraska fans will entertain themselves adequately no matter where they go. Anyway, it is hoped the significance of the bowl trip is still the football game.

—Next, "patriotic" Nebraska fans. There appears to be a mass assumption that the team and coaches should do their backers bidding at every turn. Sure, the team owes supporters something, but I think the team has more than fulfilled any obligation to the fans. This is their choice.

Finally, there is our expected opponent. There has been little to indicate this season that Hogs could push back the Tide if they played. Alabama probably should be rated higher than they are. Their Georgia loss takes no luster off the late-season strength they show now. Georgia's victory was similar to the Falcon win over the Huskers a few years ago. Never should have happened.

The Razorbacks have been extremely fortunate this year. They were very weak early this year (28-14 over Oklahoma State), and excepting the Texas game, have placed easy opponents. They still have a consistent Texas Tech crew to contend with.

Hogs Susceptible

In that Texas game Arkansas showed itself susceptible to the type of grounding offense Nebraska has used for 75% of their touchdowns this year. The Huskers would have a psychological advantage.

Alabama, however, is a different story. The Crimson Tide looks better every contest . . . very similar to last year's team. And nobody forgets the Orange Bowl last New Year's Day. They, too, are a "real football team."

The ratings, even at the end of a season, certainly don't indicate the winner. There are some teams in the second ten that could give Nebraska a tougher time than the top five teams could.

I think we could beat Arkansas by ten points . . . Alabama I'm not so sure about.

Oklahoma State has always been tough, but the Cowboys will give Devaney a fine setting to announce any bowl preference. I see it, NEBRASKA 21, OKLAHOMA STATE 0.

Cyclones, Buffs Picked For Conference Upper Division

Big Eight teams are boasting a full conference slate this week as Iowa State and Colorado will close out their conference competition.

Missouri seems to be the likely runner-up in the league and are keeping their eyes on a national rating and a bowl bid. The Tigers will host the Oklahoma Sooners at the "Pit" and should find it fairly easy going. MISSOURI 21 Oklahoma 7.

Iowa State is still out to prove the experts wrong as they are pushing for the possibility of an upper division finish after being tabbed for the cellar.

The Cyclones meet the Kansas State Wildcats, still winless in nine starts, at Ames. The Wildcats have not found an offense and the Cyclones have been blowing up a storm, make it IOWA STATE 28 Kansas State 0.

Colorado closes its conference

Tickets Available

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Yearlings At Home For Finale; Bowl Top Subject; Cowboys Next

★ ★ ★

"Which bowl?" continues to be the top topic, as the Huskers head South to Stillwater. Husker Coach Bob Devaney has neither affirmed or denied reports and rumors that Nebraska will play in the Orange Bowl.

An announcement was made that the bowl choice will be made public, after the Oklahoma State game. If the Huskers choose the Orange Bowl, the likely opponent appears to be sixth-ranked Alabama.

Students interviewed at random on campus generally feel that the Huskers are headed for Miami and the Orange Bowl.

Dick Herrboldt said, "I think we'll go to the Orange Bowl. It's a little more glamorous than the Sugar or Cotton Bowls. A bowl game should be a reward for a season well-played, and I can think of no better place to go than Miami."

"I think we'll go to Miami," Shirley Voss said. "They (Nebraska) went to the Cotton Bowl last year and it's a change for the guys who are new on the team. Also a lot of people complained that there wasn't enough to do in Dallas."

Myra Rotherham conjectured, "I think they'll go to the Cotton Bowl again, especially if Arkansas goes. I'd like to see them go there and beat Arkansas."

"I think it's the Orange Bowl," John Wertz mused. "Last year it was the Cotton Bowl, and if the Big Ten didn't have such a big pull in the Rose Bowl, I think we'd be there."

"It's rather obvious," stated Keith Van Velkinburg. "They'll go to Miami. However, by going there, they'll throw away any chance for a national rating. The players in the past have had a better time in Miami in their off-practice hours, more so than the Cotton Bowl would offer."

James Klimes thinks, "The students would rather go to New Orleans, because we haven't been there yet, and the people didn't like Dallas. But I think we'll go to Miami. It would be good to play Arkansas just to prove we're better than they are."

Don Graham said, "Since the national polls don't seem to be proving much anyway, I think Nebraska will go to the Orange Bowl and make a vacation out of it. Even if they would go to Dallas, they might not be playing Arkansas."

"I heard a rumor in speech class," confided Joyce Vales, "that we're going to the Orange Bowl. Besides I'd like to go there just to soak up the Florida weather."

The Cornhuskers will be out to make it nine in a row tomorrow, as they journey to Stillwater for a match with the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

The Husker lineup remains about the same, although line-backer Mike Kennedy has been tabbed as a doubtful for the 40-man traveling squad.

Kennedy was in student health until Wednesday and Lynn Senkbell was being groomed at his linebacking spot, along with Barry Alvarez.

Defensively the squad appears to be intact with Jerry Murphy and Wayne Meylan tabbed to share the duties at the middle guard spot.

The Cowboys were tabbed

for an upper division finish but have faltered because of injuries. The Cowboy attack will be directed by Glenn Baxter and fullback Walt Garrison is the strength of the Cowboy rushing attack.

Reports from the Cowboy camp indicate that the squad is reporting in excellent physical shape, following their two week rest.

Husker coach Bob Devaney said, "Oklahoma State has always given us fits, and I am serious when I say we are worried about playing them at Stillwater. Two years ago we barely got out 20-16 and last year Walt Garrison ran wild. Oklahoma State has some fine players and we must be

prepared to play well or be in trouble."

Freshman Coach John Melton's yearlings will close out their schedule with a 2:30 bout with Iowa State at Memorial Stadium.

The frosh bounced back from a 14-6 defeat by Missouri to stop Kansas last week 28-3. Iowa State has defeated Mis-

souri 14-7 but managed only a 14-14 tie with Kansas State. Nebraska mauled the young Wildcats 38-14.

The squads are the same except for two defensive changes. Russ Stigge has been tabbed to start at guard and Lawrence Korpisch has taken over the left tackle duties.



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