

Bob Sees Problems At Offensive Ends



Wayne Weber . . . one of many at quarterback.



Jim Osberg . . . did "good job" in 1965.



Dennis Richnafsky . . . one of few ends.

By Bob Flasnck Sports Assistant

Pre-season speculation about Nebraska's 1966 football team wouldn't be complete without a "problem" to spice the conversation.

This year the problem seems to lie in the offensive end positions.

"We've lost some real good ends," says Husker Coach Bob Devaney, referring to All-Americans Tony Jeter and Freeman White. "When you lose men of that caliber, you have a tough time replacing them."

The problem is compounded by the fact that only one returning back-up man for last year's end tandem will have playing experience. Dennis Richnafsky caught 13 passes for 133 yards at his flanker end position last season to rank number three for the Huskers ends in receiving yardage behind Jeter and White.

Although Richnafsky is small, (6-0, 186) he has a knack for catching anything thrown in his vicinity, and if he remains healthy, Nebraska will have a top flight receiver at right end.

The left end, or tight end in Nebraska's attack, remains a big question mark. Devaney calls the tight end spot one of the toughest, if not the toughest, position on the team to fill. "He has to be able to block and catch the ball," says Devaney.

The only person to put in any time at that position last year, with the exception of Jeter, was Larry Casey, and he too, has graduated. Sophomore Miles Kimmel and junior Don Delaney will probably get the first shots at the tight end position in spring practice.

1965: 'Weak' Interior

At this time last year, early speculation was of the consensus that the 1965 team would be weak in the interior line. However, the front wall solidified, thanks to the play of center Kelly Peterson, guards Jim Osberg and LaVerne Allers, and tackles Dennis Carlson and Jim Brown.

Peterson will be back at center this year, and letterman Bob Hill will be with the Huskers to strengthen the position. Joe Buda caught Devaney's eye as a center on last year's freshman team and should add depth.

About the guard position Devaney says, "Osberg and Allers did a good job for us last year and should improve this year." Both of last year's starting tackles have graduated, "but we have some reserve strength back at that spot," says Devaney.

Sophomore letterman Bob T a u c h e r (284) and transfer students Bob Pickens (274) and Dick Fitzgerald (230) are in the early running for the tackle spots.

Except for the ends, depth in the line appears to be good.

'Loss Of Speed'

The same holds true in the backfield. In a bit of an understatement, Devaney says, "Offensively, I think we have a good group of backs." One of the Husker coach's main worries in the backfield is what he calls "a gradual loss of speed over the last few years."

Devaney says the departure of Frank Solich, last year's mighty-mite fullback, will cut down on Nebraska's break-away threat. "We don't feel we're going to be real fast" in the backfield says Devaney.

With Solich gone, Nebraska fans will have to adjust their ideas about fullbacks and realize that the man behind the quarterback is big and bruising. Charlie Winters (217) and Pete Tatman (214) are the most likely ones to fill that role. Two fine sophomores to be, Dennis Galbraith and Dick Davis, add depth to the fullback position.

The number-one man for the left half-back spot going into spring practice is last year's third leading ground-gainer Ron Kirkland. Kirkland came on strong last season after being hobbled with a mid-season leg injury and finished with the highest rushing average on the team (6.6 yards).

The man most likely to back him up this year will be Ken Brunk, a sophomore from Cozad.

Harry Wilson, last year's leading ground-gainer with 672 yards, leads the contingent at right halfback. Behind him is hard-running Ben Gregory.

'Well Stocked'

The quarterback position seems as amply stocked, if not more so, as any of the backfield positions. After guiding the Huskers through most of the 1964 season and filling in for Fred Duda last year, Bob Churchich is the quarterback to beat out if you want to play that position for Nebraska.

Wayne Weber would appear to be playing the "second man" role going into spring practice. Behind Weber are two of last year's red shirts, Ernie Siegler and Al Fierro, and last season's freshman quarterback Frank Patrick.

Nebraska will use both the balanced and unbalanced line again in 1966. Devaney says the unbalanced line allows his backs to get to the short side quicker, but he prefers the balanced line for passing.

Sports

Where the Action Is

Five NU Swimmers To Be Honored

Although official word has not yet arrived, Nebraska will have five more All-Americans this year. By virtue of their performances in the NCAA swimming meet last weekend five Husker swimmers will be named to the 1966 All-American swim team.

Keefe Lodwig, Rich Gorden, Tom Nickerson, and Dave Frank will be named to the team for their six-place finish in the 400-yd freestyle relay. Their time was 3:14.2 in the finals and swam a 3:13.1 in the prelims.

Lodwig also placed tenth in the 50-yd freestyle and Steve Sorensen placed eleventh in the diving competition.

Swim coach Dick Klaas explained the first ten finishers in the swimming competition and the first twelve finishers in the diving competition are named to the All-American team.

This was the first time since 1947 that Nebraska had scored any points in the NCAA meet

and having All-Americans. The last Husker All-American was Marvin Grimm.

Nebraska's team finish in the national this year was fifteenth in the nation with a total of 24 points. This was the best showing of any of the Big Eight schools, including Oklahoma and Kansas which had finished first and second, respectively, in the conference this year. Nebraska was third in the conference.

Klaas is most optimistic with the performance of Sorensen in the diving. Sorensen is a sophomore and this was his first year of competition. "I'm sure he'll get better," commented Klaas.

Lodwig, Frank and Nickerson are seniors and will not be back next year. "I sure hate to see them go," said Klaas. "These three boys have always had a fine attitude in college competition and have shown steady improvement."

Tennis



Coach Ed Higginbotham's 1966 varsity tennis team will open the season next Tuesday against Creighton University on the Nebraska courts.

Freshman- varsity matches are being held this week in preparation for next weeks opener.

Two seniors are gone from this year's squad which compiled 12-6 record last year and tied for fifth in the Big Eight Conference. Higginbotham is uncertain about his teams capabilities but he assured that "they'll give a good account of themselves."

Thinclads Compete In Relays

Nebraska track coach Frank Sevigne will take a 9-man squad to the Texas Relays Friday and Saturday in Austin, the annual opening of the big outdoor circuit.

The Huskers will try to retain their 440-yard relay championship won last year in :40.5. NU will have almost the same quarter, with the exception of Ray Harvey for Dave Crook on the second leg. The 440 team will have Tom Millap, Harvey, Lynn Headley and Charlie Greene in that order.

Crook will concentrate as anchor man on the 2-mile relay team. The 2-mile lineup will have Les Hellbusch, Orlando Martinez, Pete Scott and Crook, in that order, to challenge Oklahoma's State's fine quartet.

Husker shotputter Jim Beltzer will also make the trip.

Intramurals

Qualifications can still be made for the intramural archery contest today and tomorrow. Qualification rounds can be shot today from 12 to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The archery ranges are on the state of the coliseum.

An intramurals managers meeting will be held tonight (Thursday) in the physical education building. The meeting will be held to go over spring activities.

Volleyball Schedule Thursday, March 31

Court 1 North

6:30 Patton A vs. Penn A
7:30 Kennedy A vs. Governors B
8:30 Governors A vs. Thorau A

Court 1 South

6:30 Smith vs. Selleck
7:30 Crist vs. Avery
8:30 Unicorns I vs. Unicorns II

Court 2 North

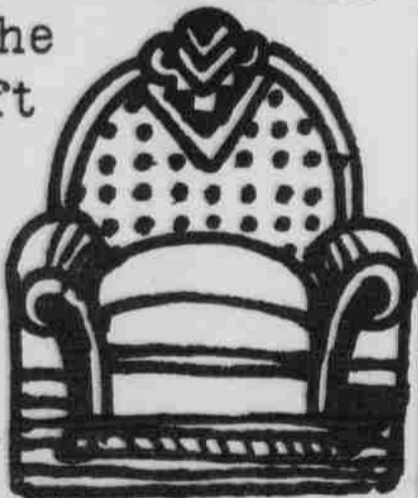
6:30 Phi Delta Theta B vs. Beta Theta Pi B
7:30 Theta X B vs. Delta Tau Delta B

8:30 Phi Kappa Psi B vs. Kappa Sigma B

Court 2 South

6:30 Alpha Tau Omega B vs. Sigma Alpha Epsilon B
7:30 E-Week game 12
8:30 E-Week game 13

Don't just sit there, Wallace Middendorp. Make a noise. Or drink Sprite, the noisy soft drink.



WALLACE MIDDENDORP SAT HERE

What did you do when Joe (Boxcar) Brkospelaj was kicked off the football team just because he flunked six out of four of his majors? What did you do, Wallace Middendorp?

And when the school newspaper's editors resigned in protest because The Chancellor wouldn't allow the publication of certain salacious portions of

"Night In a Girl's Dormitory" you just sat, didn't you?

You've made a mockery of your life, Wallace Middendorp! You're a vegetable.

Protest, Wallace Middendorp. Take a stand. Make a noise! Or drink Sprite, the noisy soft drink.

Open a bottle of Sprite at the next campus speak-out. Let it fizz and bubble to the masses.

Let its lusty carbonation echo through the halls of ivy. Let its tart, tingling exuberance infect the crowd with excitement.

Do these things, Wallace Middendorp. Do these things, and what big corporation is going to hire you?



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