

Devaney Reviews Defense Concepts



Wayne Meylan... will lead Nebraska's defensive charge.



Dennis Thorell... will push for starting job this year.



Ben Gregory... might go both ways for the Huskers.

"We're going to have to re-evaluate our concept of defense," said Nebraska football coach Bob Devaney as he contemplated this afternoon's scheduled opening of spring football drills.

Devaney blames Nebraska's occasional breakdowns in pass defense last year on "lack of quickness in our defensive linemen."

"This made our pass coverage look worse than it was," said Devaney, adding, "We've got to see if we can't get a more concentrated pass rush from individual men."

Back this year to lead Nebraska's defensive charge is Bay City, Mich. junior-to-be Wayne Meylan. The 240-pounder stopped many of his opponent's plays last year before they got started and he has been predicted as a future All-American by some football critics.

Devaney said Meylan would be used strictly on defense, either at middle guard or at a linebacking position and offered that the Michigan native "has a fine future in football."

Tackle Spot Open

Also back this year at a defensive line position is 261-pound tackle Dick Czup. That leaves All-American Walt Barnes' defensive tackle spot up for grabs and Devaney mentioned that Carl Stith would get a close looking over at that position.

Jim McCord, who's hard-nosed play as a sophomore earned him a letter, should also be watched as a candidate for a defensive position in the line.

The Huskers appear to be well stocked at the defensive end spots. Nebraska's two starting defensive ends in 1965, Langston Coleman and Mike Grace, both sustained knee injuries last year. Grace's absence and Coleman's off-and-on performances forced sophomores to take over the defensive end positions.

Devaney came up with Len Janik, Ivan Zimmer, and Jerry Patton, all of whom showed they knew how to guard Nebraska's flanks well enough to letter

in their first year of varsity competition.

Those three juniors-to-be along with Coleman and Grace are expected to be ready for the 1966 season but Devaney said it was doubtful that Grace would be able to participate in spring practice.

Two Nebraska boys will be missing from this year's defensive backfield. They are Mike Kennedy, from Omaha, last year's defensive captain, and Bill Johnson, of Stanton, who Devaney called "the hardest guy to replace. He was our 'monster' or 'rover'."

Kuehl As Line-backer

Al Kuehl, a sophomore from Wausau, Wis., was mentioned by Devaney as a candidate for Johnson's line-backing job. The Husker coach also hinted that Ben Gregory might be shifted to defense to be looked over at one of the backfield positions.

Larry Wachholtz, the nation's number 2 punt return man in 1965, will again be back to anchor the Husker safety position. Devaney said that Dennis Thorell, a junior from Loomis, would put pressure on Wachholtz for a starting assignment. Letterman Ron Poggemeyer will also be vying for the safety spot.

Junior Kaye Carstens and sophomore Marv Mueller both played their first varsity defensive football last season and they will be back this year as two of Nebraska's top cornermen. Devaney said that Jim Hawkins, a little heard of junior-to-be from Jefferson City, Mo., would push Carstens for a defensive position in the backfield.

Hawkins had a good freshman year in 1964 but he sustained a heart injury in last year's spring sessions which forced him to sit out the 1965 grid campaign.

Lynn Senkbeil, a two year letterman and regular last year, along with Rick Coleman, a 211-pound junior from Pittsburgh Pa., will be prime candidates for Husker linebacking jobs this season. Barry Alvarez, a 237-pounder from Burgettstown, Pa., is also in contention for one of the posts.

Coaches May Need Programs

It hasn't happened yet, but Nebraska football coach Bob Devaney may order programs printed for spring practice.

Not that the squad for the spring drills which start April 1 is any larger than usual at the opening gun. The reason for the concern is that there are 12 Husker players on the roster with the same name.

Coach Devaney could holler, "Hey, Brichacek!" And he might get Melvin of Schuyler. But he could mean Gary of Schuyler, Melvin's cousin. Gary's a letterman, Mel is a soph-to-be.

Or Assistant Carl Selmer could yell, "Come here, Buda!" And he might get Sam of Omaha, when he wanted Joe of Omaha. Yep, they're cousins, both candidates for sophomore line jobs next fall.

Those are the only family combinations on the 1966 Cornhusker team. But that's not the end of the confusion by a long way.

There are the Colemans -- defensive end Langston of Washington, D.C., and line-backer Rick of Pittsburgh, Pa., both vets.

Then come the Hansens -- Ed Hansen of Omaha, a soph-to-be, and veteran squadman Larry of Blair.

Next the Greens--Mike of Omaha and Lauren of Baton Rouge, La., both bidding for soph jobs with Mike a grad of the 1965 frosh team and Laurie a transfer.

Finally, the Thompsons -- and this could mean real mayhem, since both are Gary: Gary W. of Omaha and Gary L. of Lincoln.

That's the end of the Name's The Same, but Coach Devaney could still have a few problems when he tries to make a point in practice.

Like hollering for "Davis", meaning soph-to-be Dick of Omaha, and getting response from Dais, soph-to-be Bill of McCook.

Or Coach Devaney might get into trouble just by speaking to a fan who happened by practice.

Think of the trouble that might result if he yelled, "Hey, Mac!"

After all, there's Curtis McCarthy of Belle Vernon, Pa. an end; Jim McCord of Fairbury, a guard; Jim McFarland of North Platte, an end; and Neal McQuistan of Pender, a halfback.

Like somebody said, it should be an interesting spring practice!

Big Eight Grid Scene

KSU, OSU Spring Football

EDITORS NOTE: This is a continuation of the DAILY NEBRASKAN's coverage of spring football around the Big Eight Conference. Bob Flasnick's coverage of the Cornhusker football preparations for the 1966 season (and another Big Eight Championship) appears in Thursday and Friday's papers.

Jayhawks To Learn 'Basics'

Fundamentals will be the name of the game when spring football practice starts at the University of Kansas next Friday.

Coach Jack Mitchell has announced that the Jayhawks will not be concerned with any "tricks" position changes or type of offense to be used when about 90 candidates report for spring drills. "We're going to learn basic football," Mitchell said.

Mitchell stated that three lettermen have been excused for practice this spring, end Sandy Buda and Bob Skahan and Bill Fenton, both quarterbacks. The three veterans are expected to be members of the K. U. baseball starting line-up.

The Jayhawks will have eight quarterbacks answering spring roll-call. Mitchell said sophomores Tom Ball (Manhattan), Bob Douglas (El Dorado), Dave Morgan (Phoenix, Ariz.) and Tom Thompson (Ontario, Calif.) will join four returning varsity members, Wally Hinshaw (Wichita), Gipp DuPree (Oklahoma City), Dave Bouda (Omaha) and Halley Kampschroeder (Lawrence). "Ball, Dupree, Morgan and Kampschroeder will be used on both offense and defense," Mitchell said.

The Jayhawks have one new member of the coaching staff. Bill Schaake, 1952 K. U. graduate, has replaced Ellis Rainsberger, who resigned to accept the head coaching position at Southern Illinois University.



Two more out-of-state prep football players have signed a Big Eight letter of intent to enroll at the University of Kansas next fall. Coach Jack Mitchell announced yesterday that Robert Johnson and John Wall-drop, both of Kearney High School, San Diego, Calif., plan to join the Jayhawks.

The addition of the two California ace's give the Jayhawks a total of 33 prep athletes signed this spring. Mitchell said he hopes to sign 12 more football players within the next few weeks.

OSU Has Reorganized Staff

With a reorganized staff that includes four new coaches, Oklahoma State's spring football is scheduled to start April 5th and will conclude May 7th with the annual intra-squad game.

Coach Phil Cutchin has four new staff members aboard as the Cowboys lay final preparations for the spring workouts. Veteran assistants are Elwood Kettler, Jim Stanley, Tom Ellis and Wayne Freiling.

The recently assigned men are James Dickey from the University of Houston, Franklin Carter from the Stephen F. Austin College staff, Nacogoches, Tex., Tom Harper from Eastern Kentucky State University, and Bob Thompson from Altus High School, Altus, Okla.

"At the start it'll be strictly platoon football," says Coach Cutchin, and "there'll be experiments."

"I'm sure it's obvious our biggest problem is finding replacements in our offensive backfield. As for a kicking specialist, the job's wide open. We've been able to relax here for the last three seasons, but we'll check everyone out. We'd like to find a kicker who can play."

Oklahoma State will have 22 lettermen returning to boost a squad which will be heavily flavored with 43 sophomores-to-be.

"As for the sophomores-to-be," says Cutchin, "we don't know which ones will do the best right now, but we do count on them giving us plenty of help next year."

Highlights of the Cowboy's season last year were a 21-17 loss to Nebraska, a 31-7 victory over Kansas State, and a 17-16 win over Oklahoma U which ended the Sooners' dominance in their traditional battle with Oklahoma State.

Oklahoma State's first game will be against Arkansas, September 17th in Little Rock.



Husker Defensive specialist Wayne Meylan (66) brings down Oklahoma State's Walt Garrison in one of last season's crucial games. Nebraska won 21-17 thanks to a 95-yard touchdown drive in the last five minutes of the game.

Kansas Relays Adds Women

The 41st Annual Kansas Relays will become a three day meet for the first time this year. Coach Bob Timmons has announced that the Relays, scheduled for April 21-23, has been enlarged to include several new events including the return of a division for women.

A full slate of events is scheduled for Friday, April 22, opening with the F-JC 100 yard dash preliminaries at 8:15 a.m.

The Glenn Cunningham Mile Run, an open event featuring Jim Ryun, Kansas freshman, is scheduled for

2:25 p.m. on Saturday, April 23.

Two events for women are included on the Saturday schedule. At 2:10 p.m. the dash will be run and the girl finals of the girls 100 yard

The Kansas Relays will officially get under way at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, with the Frosh Junior College preliminaries and finals of the javelin throw, the shot put, and the broad jump.

Track events scheduled for the first day will include the Frosh-Junior College 440 yard relay preliminaries at 3:00 p.m. followed by the F-JC distance medley relay at 3:15 p.m. The Julius Marks, 10,000 meter run, an open event, is scheduled for 3:35 p.m. Opening day action will come to a close at 4:10 p.m. with the F-JC finals in the 440-yard relay.

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