

Rood Awakening

By MICK ROOD

The Nebraska-Missouri rivalry has been the finest in the conference in the past ten years. Even before Bob Devaney's rude interruption of Tiger supremacy in 1963, the series was hard fought. Only two Missouri wins, 31-0 in 1958 and 28-0 in 1960, were of the lopsided variety.

After Devaney's first team dropped one to Dan Devine's team in 1962, the Huskers have won three straight. The televised tilt in '62 was a typical Missouri victory. Nebraska could score only on a pass interception... the Tiger defense was too much by a 16-7 count.

Since then, the Big Red has counted on the Big Play to beat Tigers.

In 1963, it was Bruce Smith, badly out of position, diving to knock down a Tiger two-point conversion pass. That preserved a 13-12 win in Columbia.

In 1964, the Huskers blanked Missouri for the first time since 1937, winning by a 9-0 margin. The '37 score was 7-0. Sophomore Langston Coleman's smashing safety on Gary Lane and Kent McCloughan's dancing pass reception and run won that one. All-American Larry Kramer laid Mizou's Johnny Roland out to make McCloughan's trip easier.

In 1965, Nebraska returned to Columbia for a shocking 14-0 first quarter deficit. Gary Lane, as he did many times against Nebraskans, looked like the best back in the country. Nebraska needed clutch runs by Harry Wilson and a firm field goal from Larry Wachholtz to pull it out.

And so it goes. Earlier this season it was mentioned here that if things didn't change too much during the season, the Tigers could make it stick in Lincoln. Things have changed, but both teams appear a little under pre-season hopes from here.

I imagine most will have the Huskers 1 to 6 point favorites and some have taken the Tigers to upset Nebraska. I would rate them about even.

Nebraska, despite a still-prolific offense, has been held by a mediocre schedule to about 21 points a game. Missouri, despite an offense that has sputtered more than Nebraska's, has managed 17 points per game, scoring when they counted. And crossing that goal line, sports fans, is what counts.

Add the fact that Devine's outside competition of UCLA, Illinois and Minnesota would have little trouble outclassing Nebraska's non-league foes. Utah State hasn't bagged one yet. Texas Christian has won only one. And the Big winner, Wisconsin, can claim two victories.

Finally, the Tigers will have no trouble with spirit. Their team is the healthiest it has been for several games. All the recent Husker-Tiger history above is not without meaning. Mizou knows they can beat Nebraska... the tradition can goad them on.

Two semi-sleeping offenses and two superior defenses. Add rivalry and national ranking to the grid stew and anybody can cook up an "upset."

Again this week, Coach Devaney appears to be brewing a surprise soup to sop the Tigers with. However, in five years here, the Huskers mentor has yet to use trickery to great advantage. Big plays, yes. But always off the standard plans worked to perfection.

There was pre-season talk about use of the I-formation. That talk disappeared in the excitement of the year. If there are any Husker surprises Saturday, the "I" may be the ticket.

The big test comes this week, despite last week's heroics. Hope the Husker have it. Figuring that Tiger spirit is higher, and that the Husker offense is still in the doldrums, I see it MISSOURI 2, NEBRASKA 9.

I have not defected... I just have a hunch. Hope the team makes me eat it.

SPORTS PAGE Daily Nebraskan

Wachholtz Gets 'Smallest' Title

How about a little high school star being recruited for a big college football team because he impressed recruiters with his basketball ability?

That's exactly what happened in the case of Nebraska's Larry Wachholtz, premier safety of the Big 8 Conference, if not the nation.

Frank Solich yielded his "Smallest Man" title to Larry Wachholtz this fall after the Huskers' diminutive duo battled each other on the scales for two seasons.

But now that he's sole owner of the "Smallest Husker" title, Larry is standing taller than ever amidst the Cornhusker defensive platoon. And the tough (5-8, 166) safety is the Huskers' leading scorer, too.

The versatile North Platte senior, a solid All America candidate after earning All Big 8 and second-team All America laurels last year, is a constant threat during the entire game.

Few men in the nation can match his punt-returning skill. Last year he ranked No. 2 in the nation and he's led the Big 8 for three straight. This year he's averaging 14.2 and his 72-yard TD jaunt with a Utah State punt put that game on ice.

And for curtain-calls, Wachholtz can swing his toe—so accurately, in fact, that he's the NU record holder for extra point kicks. Last year he led the Huskers in scoring with 36 extra points and three field goals for 45 points. His '36 of 39 PATS set a Nebraska record.

And he's defending his title this year, currently

leading the Nebraska point parade with 31 points, based on 13 of 15 PATS and four of six field goals, plus a TD on a 72-yard punt return.

How did a little 150-pound high school footballer catch the eye of Cornhusker scouts?

Strangely enough, Wachholtz impressed Nebraska football coaches by the way he played basketball. Here's the way Jim Ross, Nebraska's defensive backfield coach, tells the tale:

"We knew about Larry because he was the quarterback on the state championship team, and we were really interested in the full-back, Pete Tatman. But we were afraid Larry was just too small to make it in the Big 8.

"Then we watched him play basketball with North Platte in the State High School Basketball Tournament at the Coliseum. North Platte really wasn't a great team, and I think they lost the first game, but Wachholtz fought every second—he was a real hustler who looked like the best competitor we'd seen. So we figured if he would play that hard in a lost cause, he might be the kind of boy we wanted on our football team. We've never been sorry because Larry is as fine a defensive back, and as fine an all-around football player as there is in the country."

"He'll tackle anyone, anywhere, anyhow," says Coach Bob Devaney. "He's a great competitor and a fine athlete, one of the finest athletes we've ever had the opportunity to work with."

Morrison: No Regrets, Would Rather Play End

The last time Nebraska appeared on television, the Huskers boasted an All America left end named Tony Jeter. He's graduated now and one of the big 1966 worries was about filling his shoes.

Well, Coach Bob Devaney isn't fretting about left end any more. The reason: Dennis Morrison is doing just fine, as the Huskers get set to meet Missouri in a key Big 8 game which will be seen on ABC-TV Saturday at 12:15 p.m.

Morrison, in fact, is rapidly gaining star status midway through his first campaign as a wingman.

The former Omaha North quarterback and halfback star was switched to end after a soph season that saw him see only a few minutes duty as a back. And he's really found a home.

Against Colorado, Denny made eight grabs of Bob Churchich passes (he was eight for eight, by the way) to get equal billing in the Cornhusker record book with Dennis Richnasky (the right end who is out with a fractured ankle) and Freeman White, the Huskers' other 1965 All American end.

All told, Morrison has

caught 19 passes this season and is credited with gaining 229 yards for the Husker offensive platoon. He's only nine snafes away from All American Freeman White's season mark of 28, set last year.

Does he regret leaving the halfback ranks?

"No, sir," says Morrison. "I really enjoy playing end more than halfback. I think the reason is you're a little more free to roam—you can run some patterns and work in the wide open spaces. When you're at halfback, you can frequently get tangled up in quite a crowd."

Says Tom Osborne, Nebraska offensive ends coach, "Denny has done a great job of accepting a new responsibility and working hard to become proficient. Not only has he done a good job of pass catching all fall, he's also working hard at blocking and he's showing improvement all the time."

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Churchich Controls Big 8 Passing Lead

Big 8 Sports Information Bob Churchich, the new Big Eight Conference passing leader, is a business administration major at Nebraska and it is probably just as well he's close to an accountant who will have to be called in to keep his game, season, and career figures in order.

Churchich, who has been throwing with the accuracy of an accountant, has now passed for over 200 yards in a game for the third time in his career as he hit for 236 against Colorado, a game high this year for the Conference, in the Huskers' come-from-behind win.

This not only let him take the league's passing lead away from Iowa State's Tim Van Galder by

42 yards (821 to 779), but it also gave him five more Nebraska game, season, and career passing records, extended his own mark in three others, and placed him in a position to peek at three other career marks.

At the same time, he is padding a future resting spot among the all-time Big Eight passing leaders as his efficiency when it comes to putting the ball into the air begins to take shape. He has 2,419 aerial lengths so far in his three seasons, which ranks him fifth on the all-time list.

He has hit 172 times out of 323 pitches thus far, a fine .532 completion percentage. The record is Ray Evans' .537.

Table with columns: Team, All Games, W, L, T, Pct., Pls., Opp., Conference Games, G, A, H, Yds, Avg., Total Offense, Total Defense. Lists stats for Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, etc.

Intramural Football

- Football Results Tuesday, Oct. 25 Burners 39, Phi Delta Phi 26 Theta Xi A 46, Sigma Nu A 24 Bandits 12, Dirty Old Men 6 Unicorns 19, Boozers 14 Mousers 19, Playboys 13 Football Schedule Thursday, Oct. 27 City Campus E Mavericks vs. Boozers W Delta Tau Delta A vs. Alpha Tau Omega A East Campus E Smith vs. Benton C Alpha Tau Omega A vs. Sigma Alpha Epsilon A W Delta Upsilon A vs. Phi Kappa Psi A Friday, Oct. 28 City Campus E Aggies vs. Mistits W Navy vs. Phi Delta Phi East Campus E Delta Tau Delta B vs. Alpha Gamma Rho B C Unicorns vs. Playboys W Sigma Chi A vs. Farm House A

Freshmen To Tackle MU Tigers

By Ed Icenogle Sports Assistant Nebraska's freshman football squad is moving up from Wildcats to Tigers.

The junior Huskers will host the Missouri Tigers Friday afternoon at 2:30 in the NU frosh's second entanglement of the season. They whipped the Kansas State Wildcats, 40-13, October 17.

Missouri trounced Missouri Valley, 57-0, in a game that was called after three quarters because of rain, and overran Iowa State, 45-10 for a 2-0 season mark.

Asked how tough Missouri looked this year, NU freshman football coach John Melton pointed to the NU-Missouri Valley game film that he was viewing and said, "That's 21 points in 11 minutes... any more questions?"

Looking toward the game from the Nebraska side, Melton said that none of his scheduled starters had injuries from the opener or practice.

"On the baby Huskers' only grid test to date, the frosh coach noted the performances of two.

"Joe Orduna did a good job," he said of the left halfback who carried 17 times for an average of 2.94 yards and returned two kickoff for a total of 76 yards.

The Harmon Football Forecast TOP 20 TEAMS (Forecasting Average: 872 right, 278 wrong, 29 ties... 758) Saturday, Oct. 29 - Major Colleges Other Games - East Other Games - South & Southwest Other Games - Far West

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