

# 'Gridiron Robin Hood' Hurts Nebraska

Notes and quotes while wondering whether it was a sultan or a mountian which attracted thousands of coeds to the beaches of Fort Lauderdale last week.

Spring football practice has begun or will this week on many Big Eight campuses and, according to Topeka Daily Capital sports editor Bob Hurt, Nebraska is the only conference team which doesn't figure to improve over last season.

Nebraska returns only three offensive and three defensive starters," Hurt writes. "No other Big Eight team returns fewer than 13 starters," from last year.

"The other seven are on the verge of prosperity," Hurt continues. "It's as if LBJ suddenly touched them with his magic money wand. Some gridiron Robin Hood has taken from the rich and given to the poor."

Kansas State returns 10 offensive starters and eight on defense to lead the league in at least one department for the first time in quite a spell.

Isn't Satisfied  
New Kansas State coach Vince Gibson isn't satisfied with that distinction, however, and he's gone to some trouble to see that the Wildcats' bite is as big as their roar.

Gibson has acquired the services of Kansas City Chiefs' quarterback Len Dawson during spring drills. Dawson will work entirely with the K-State quarterbacks, concentrating on the techniques involved in a passer's drop-back style and attack.

Pro-Type Attack  
Gibson plans to use a pro-type attack featuring the drop-back quarterback with a split end and flankers this year.

Gibson is bringing more than Len Dawson to the Manhattan campus in his effort to instill a winning spirit into the Wildcats. Upon his arrival he had



**I Believe**  
By Tom Henderson

lend to the team morale," he says. But alas, K-State's answer to the jet-set lounge didn't receive only favorable comments.

Win Games  
"I don't think this will make us win any games," defensive back Mitch Borota says, adding however, that it will raise the Wildcats' spirit and pride.

thick while K-State's is three.

It appears that the Big Eight is making ready for a mass run at the Husker coach in his bid for a fifth straight conference title.

Oklahoma  
Gibson and Rodgers join Oklahoma's Jim Mackenzie, Iowa State's Clay Stapleton and Oklahoma State's Phil Cutchin as Big Eight advocates of Alabama's "out-quick'em" brand of football.

This is the style of play which has had the most success against Devaney-coached Husker teams in the past (Alabama twice and Oklahoma last year). Mackenzie was able to mold his Oklahoma team that way in only one year. With speedsters like Eddie Hinton skirting the ends, the Sooner coach sent his slower backs like Ron Shotts, who takes a whole :09.7 seconds to run the 100 up the middle. More and more of this type of football will be played against the Huskers this season.

## Beta Tournney Slated

Big Eight and Missouri Valley conferences' varsity and freshman starters will participate in the All-Beta Charity Basketball Tournney this Friday and Saturday at the University.

Hosting the meet is the University's Alpha Tau chapter of Beta Theta Pi. On the Beta team will be Roger Leitner, Tom Scantlebury, Sam Martin, Doug Anderson, Ken Cauble and Denny Sullivan.

Kansas, Too  
Other teams in the tournament are Kansas, Missouri, and Wichita State.

The Mizzou Beta team will include varsity player Bill Owens and football center Gary Grossnickle.

All games will be at the Physical Education Building, with finals Saturday at 2 p.m. Preliminary games will be Friday evening.

A 25-cent donation for the Heart Fund will be collected at the door.

Trophies Given  
Trophies will be presented after the championship game.

## Despite 1-5 Record On Texas Tour, Baseball Team Has 'Encouragement'

If practice makes perfect, competition should make even more and if this philosophy is true it would bring hope to Coach Tony Sharpe and his Husker baseball team.

The squad had only one "solid" outdoor practice before it was thrown against tough Texas competition in a swift six-game vacation tour.

Only One  
The young Cornhuskers garnered only one victory down south, a 16-2 drubbing of Houston University (Houston retaliated defeating Nebraska twice), but Coach Sharpe remains very optimistic.

"I feel fairly good about this team, even though we won only one game last week," said the coach, now in his 21st year as Husker mentor.

"I think we learned most of our team's individual strengths and weaknesses and how we can adjust to them. I think we left Texas this week with more encouragement than in some

years when our record showed up better."

Home Opener  
Sharpe must now take advantage of his newly discovered strengths and try to conquer the weaknesses as he prepares the team for its home opener against Kansas State.

The Huskers will tangle with the Wildcats, an oft-mentioned contender for the Big Eight crown, in a Friday doubleheader, starting at 1:30 p.m. Nebraska, a predicted six or seventh place finisher due to personnel losses, is hoping for a surprising and successful conference start.

Bob Churchich  
Bob Churchich will be the Husker hurler in Friday's first game. A second team all-America last year, Churchich was charged with two mound defeats in Texas but Sharpe said the Omaha senior displayed some good form and was "impressive."

Under Coach SHARPE'S platoon system, the remainder of the Husker starting lineup will depend on which arm the Wildcat's pitcher throws with:

Right-hand-pitcher  
Sam Pizzo, ss  
Steve Johnson, rf  
Mike Zanardi, lf  
Bob Brand, 1b  
Alex Walter, cf  
Wayne Kessler, c  
Mike Churchich, 3b  
Tony Sharpe, 2b  
Bob Churchich, p

Left-hand-pitcher:  
Sam Pizzo, ss  
Tim Boz, lf  
Mike Churchich, 3b  
Bob Brand, rf  
Alex Walter, cf  
Wayne Kessler, c  
Tony Sharpe, 2b  
Bob Churchich, p

When Bob Churchich isn't pitching he will be found somewhere else in the Nebraska lineup.

The Huskers and Wildcats square off again Saturday afternoon at one with lefty Alan Furby or Bob Sticksels probably getting the starting call.

Lack of practice cost the Cornhuskers physically in Texas. Sharpe explained that the week was long for the Husker squad and that by Wednesday the team was showing fatigue.

The Husker mentor

thought Nebraska was always "in" these games and that errors may have cost a better record.

Besides the Houston encounters, Nebraska also fell twice to Southwest Conference favorite Rice and Houston Baptist.

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