

Cutting through the K-State line, Nebraska halfback Dick Davis picks up a few more Husker offensive yards in Saturday's game.

Big 8 balance means NU losses

by Randy York
Assistant Sports Editor

Kansas State, the anemic fragment in Big Eight football for the last decade, inflicted the knockout punch, and the Huskers went reeling.

Or did they? Just what can Coach Bob Devaney salvage this season?

Reluctant to tackle the enterprise so soon after the Wildcat ambush, I have nevertheless decided to evaluate just how successful Nebraska's season has been — or can be.

Nebraska does, I think, play football as methodically as a guy fitting bolts on a machine in a factory. Nebraska does, it should be pointed out, play football about as well as any college team in the country.

A diagnosis of the Huskers' three losses would be frivolous. Nebraska has been beaten and very likely could be beaten again before the season is over.

More specifically, Nebraska plays in the best football conference in the United States. Balance, reflected by last week's results, is the trademark of the Big Eight. And Nebraska is but one-eighth of the league. There must be credence to somehow dismiss a loss for some sort of consolation.

AND THE Huskers' consolation depends on whether or not people actually believe Nebraska functions in the best conference in the United States.

Kansas and Missouri are ranked sixth and seventh in this week's national wire

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service polls. Kansas was hijacked by Oklahoma last week. Colorado knocked off Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State upset Colorado last week. And so on.

But is it really necessary to recapitulate what every team, especially Nebraska, already knows — that any Big Eight team can beat any other conference team on any given Saturday?

IF SUCCESS is contingent on how well a team plays and not on whether it wins all the time, then Nebraska has had a successful season. Kansas and Missouri struggled through 60 minutes. The K-State setback is hardest to swallow.

Devaney said at Monday's Extra Point Luncheon that Nebraska lacks the versatile quarterback — one that can run and pass the football with equal effectiveness (a quarterback the caliber of Oklahoma's Bobby Warmack, Kansas' Bobby Douglass, Colorado's Bob Anderson or Iowa State's John Warder).

Devaney, in my opinion, is right. He might have added that Nebraska has been getting beat, for the most part, by its sluggish offense.

THE HUSKERS move the ball well — except across the goal line. Nebraska has outgained its foes by nearly 400 yards this season. But it's a lot of wasted effort. The best statistic is on the scoreboard, and Nebraska

ranks last in scoring among conference members.

The Huskers average 16.6 points per game, or in so many words, a couple of touchdowns every game and three whisks of Paul Rogers' toe.

Fortunately, Nebraska's chances for a successful season did not evaporate with the Kansas State loss. Colorado and Oklahoma have some sniping of their own planned.

Nebraska still has a crack at the Buffs and Sooners. The best thing to do after a jolt is reunite. Nebraska must grapple with the odds to avoid two more losses. Thus, there still is the suspense element. Why does a person usually go to a football game? To find out who's going to win, of course.

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Psychology Club to be organized

There will be an organizational meeting of the Psychology Club on Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

The meeting is open to students who have interests in any area of psychology, according to Dick Stoll.

The purpose of the club will be to promote interest in areas of psychology through films, guest lecturers, open discussions and field trips.

Dr. Levine, chairman of the psychology department, will attend the meeting to speak on possible plans for the club and to answer questions.

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Frosh to meet varsity

by Mark Gordon
Sports Editor

Unlike Nebraska's football team which has its toughest games at the season's end, the Husker freshmen basketballers face their roughest foe opening night.

The frosh meet the Nebraska varsity Nov. 22 at 7:35 p.m. in the Coliseum, trying to become the first squad in recent years to spring an upset on the varsity counterparts. But even Head Freshman Coach Bill Harrell admits the task is formidable.

"WE'RE certainly going to try to beat them," he said. "We have good height and average speed. This team compares favorably to last year's squad that was 5-3."

He added that he has narrowed his starting five down to eight players with less than 10 days before the season opens.

He said Al Nisson, a 6' 3" guard from Miller, S.D., is a fine prospect who has almost

been assured a starting post. The other guard will be either Hastings' Jim White, who Harrell said has good speed but needs shooting improvement, or Kevin Reagen, a six-footer from Aurora, Minn.

Either Curt LeRossignol, a 6' 7" center from Lincoln or Tom McCowan at 6' 3" from Lincoln will start at the high post position, Harrell said.

THE FORWARD will be selected from Chuck Jura, a 6' 7" Schuyler native; Mike Peterson, at 6' 7" from Omaha's Creighton Prep; and

Don Wilson, at 6' 5" from Pine Bluff, Ark.; Harrell said. Harrell said both Wilson and Peterson have the potential to become important

members of the Nebraska machine, and both have shown improvement from the beginning of practice in October.

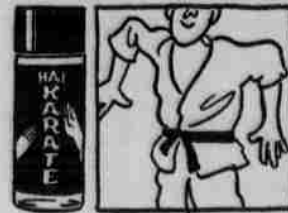
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