

Gopher trio may force Blackshirts to dig in



Ray Parson . . . tight end



Barry Mayer . . . halfback



Jim Carter . . . fullback

Nebraska knows what the prototype Minnesota football team is — a big line, tough running backs and a solid defense.

But such is not the case with coach Murray Warmath's Gophers this year. He has a big line, all right. It averages over 225 pounds per man. And he has a stable of outstanding running backs, indicated in the club's 835 yards total offense in two games this season. Tough linebackers when Noel Jenke, Wayne King and John Darkenwald departed last year. The vacancies left the Gophers overwhelmingly susceptible to passing attacks, the most important weapons upon which their first two opponents relied.

Warmath needs no lesson on Nebraska, which will be third

straight team in a non-conforming sequence of potential passing powers. The Huskers are set to start sophomore quarterback Van Brownson.

Brownson, the Big 8's best percentage passer, will, for the first time, have his top receivers at full strength. Minnesota, however, fails almost miserably defensively. The Gophers have been bombed, quite literally, for 83 points in a 48-26 opening loss to quick Arizona State and in a 35-35 tie last week with Ohio University.

Warmath lost a brace of Tight end Jim McFarland, who was not at full-speed in the Huskers' opener against USC, and split Guy Ingles, who was sidelined before the Texas A & M encounter, will

start Saturday, coach Bob Devaney indicated.

Frank Patrick, who started the first two games at each end position, is slated for heavy duty, according to Devaney.

The Gophers will counter with a productive air game of their own with quarterback Phil Hagen at the controls. Hagen passed for 278 yards against Arizona State two weeks ago, but slacked off somewhat against Ohio U. last week, sticking mainly to the ground game.

Ray Parson, who was a standout back at McCook Jr. College, makes Hagen combustible. "If there is a better tight end in the country," Warmath says, "I don't know about him."

The two most important fixtures in the Gopher ground game are fullback Jim Carter, labeled as one of the best backs in the Big 10 Conference, and halfback

Barry Mayer, who led Minnesota in rushing and scoring last season.

Carter (6-2, 209) and Mayer (6-2, 209) follow their blocking well, according to

Warmath, who promptly adds they are two of the best in creating their own holes on their own patterns.

The line is headed by right tackle Alvin Hawes (6-5, 236)

and Parson, whom Warmath rates as an excellent blocker. The other line starters include end Jim Brunzell (203), tackle John Thompson (230), Guard Bill Christison (144), Center Ted Burke (227) and guard Vern Winfield (228.)

Minnesota and Nebraska are still not at full quarterback strength. Although the Huskers' Brownson has been declared

healthy, his backup, Jerry Tagge, is not completely recovered from a pre-season ankle injury. Hagen is slowed by a knee strain.

If Hagen does not open for the Gophers, the job will be handled by Walt Bowser, considered a better runner than Hagen on the option play, but not considered as good a passer.

Devaney has never been beaten by a Minnesota foot-

ball team, but unlike the past games, which have been close, Saturday's contest promises more fireworks.

If Hagen and Parson successfully collaborate, the game may be close. The Gophers can run well too, but the defense has been pretentive. The Huskers' defense seems to be constructively solid after registering a 14-0 shutout last week.

Predictions

By Randy York
Sports Editor

Football forecasting is a frivolity, but for those of you foolish enough to believe in the trade, here's another chance to stage your own laugh-in.

I fearlessly have predicted two conference upsets — Nebraska over USC and Colorado over Penn State. Neither, obviously, materialized. In fact, they fell short by 34 combined points.

So, the genuine football sage may indeed read on for more humor. The other readers are banking on a 750 batting average with 12 successful picks of 16 intra-sectional games involving Big Eight teams.

The other two misses were KU's tumble at Texas Tech and Oklahoma State's upset over Houston. This week's selections:

Nebraska 21, Minnesota 14 — This could be a double feature — the Huskers' now stingy defense against the Gophers' gaudy offense. NU's offense, however, presumably is much more productive and reliable than Minnesota's defense, which has yielded almost 80 points to such relative have-nots as Arizona State and Ohio University.

Penn State 28, Kansas State 21 — The nationally-ranked Nitony Lions will somewhat tranquilize the Wildcats' offensive explosion, triggered by quarterback Lynn Dickey. If K-State's defense improves in its home opener, Dickey and Mack Heron may manufacture a surprise.

Colorado 24, Indiana 21 — The Hoosiers are favored, but CU's Bob Anderson is a tough one to horsecollar two straight weeks. Penn State's near shutout of the Buffs last week should turn Anderson loose again.

Missouri 17, Michigan 14 — This game has been designated at even odds by most prognosticators, who nevertheless give the Wolverines' high-scoring offensive outfit (43.5 point per game average) the edge over the Tigers' solid defense. Any team that can outmuscle a Dan Devine club, however, deserves a high rating.

Kansas 35, New Mexico 7 — The Cyclones' defense will win this one. Their offense has not been overly impressive, but the defense registered a shutout last week against BYU and was almost as resistant in its opening loss to Syracuse.

Texas Tech 27, Oklahoma State 14 — The Cowboys regained their prestige last week in upsetting Houston, but who's Houston? Playboy magazine's choice to finish number one in the nation, the Cougars have given up 86 points in two setbacks. That's the naked truth.

Murtaugh leads Black Shirts

Linebacker Jerry Murtaugh leads Nebraska's defensive Black Shirt unit with 24 tackles, including 11 unassisted credits. Backs Al Larson and Randy Reeves rank next with 17 stops apiece. Tackle Bob Liggett paces the linemen statistics with 14 tackles, seven of which have been unassisted.

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| NEBRASKA Offense | | | MINNESOTA Offense | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Pl. | Name | No. Wt. | Pl. | Name | No. Wt. |
| 1 | Jim McFarland | 80 224 | 1 | Jim Brunzell | 203 |
| 2 | Wally Winter | 87 251 | 2 | John Thompson | 230 |
| 3 | Carl Ahlman | 52 223 | 3 | Bill Christison | 144 |
| 4 | Glenn Patterson | 77 219 | 4 | Ted Burke | 227 |
| 5 | Gale Williams | 77 235 | 5 | Vern Winfield | 228 |
| 6 | Paul Topfiff | 73 221 | 6 | Alvin Hawes | 236 |
| 7 | Guy Ingles | 88 160 | 7 | Ray Parson | 241 |
| 8 | Van Brownson | 181 181 | 8 | Phil Hagen | 15 |
| 9 | Jeff Kinney | 25 174 | 9 | Barry Mayer | 213 |
| 10 | Larry Frost | 28 208 | 10 | George Kemp | 46 191 |
| 11 | Mike Green | 34 201 | 11 | Jim Carter | 34 225 |
| Defense | | | Defense | | |
| 1 | Mike Wynn | 90 228 | 1 | Leon Trawick | 89 218 |
| 2 | Bob Liggett | 71 158 | 2 | Steve Thompson | 75 224 |
| 3 | Ken Geddes | 27 224 | 3 | Bill Light | 50 224 |
| 4 | Dave Walling | 76 226 | 4 | Jim Panuza | 65 223 |
| 5 | Sherrin Jarmon | 81 202 | 5 | David Nixon | 82 215 |
| 6 | Jerry Murtaugh | 42 205 | 6 | Bob Bailey | 99 208 |
| 7 | Adrian Fiala | 32 215 | 7 | Rich Crawford | 31 215 |
| 8 | Al Larson | 20 202 | 8 | Jeff Hygren | 48 185 |
| 9 | Dana Stephenson | 36 185 | 9 | Mike Curtis | 41 178 |
| 10 | Jim Anderson | 18 180 | 10 | Jeff Wright | 27 184 |
| 11 | Randy Reeves | 25 198 | 11 | Albie White | 28 185 |

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