

Possible bowl berth is on the line Saturday

by Randy York
Nebraskan Sports Editor

Both Nebraska and Kansas State football teams have been winding up all season for Saturday's showdown in Manhattan.

The game pits a surprisingly solid Wildcat outfit against a Nebraska club with a revenge motive. The Huskers, dumped 12-0 by K-State in their Homecoming date last year, must win to keep alive their Big Eight Conference title aspirations as well as prospective bowl bids.

Likewise, Kansas State, with a mathematical chance to capture the league championship, seeks a post-season bowl berth. Representatives from the Gator and Liberty bowls have indicated an interest in each team.

The Wildcats, who have pressed nationally-ranked Penn State and Missouri to 3-point decisions, feature an explosive offense and an experienced defense.

Quarterback Lynn Dickey, mentioned as a possible Heisman Trophy candidate, triggers the Wildcat machine which has averaged 35 points in eight games.

The Big 8's total offense and passing pacesetter, Dickey has passed for 1,821 yards for a 227.6 yard per game average. However, he also leads the league in throwing interceptions, misfiring 17 into enemy hands in 276 passes.

Nebraska coach Bob Devaney, who drilled his club extensively this week on defensive pass rushing, says the key to beating the

Wildcats is getting to Dickey before he can throw.

NU defensive ends Mike Wynn and Sherwin Jarmon, who overwhelmed Iowa State quarterback Obert Tisdale last week, are the chief threats for such a plan to work out.

Tisdale endured 97 minus rushing yards last week. The Husker defenders have indicated a duplicate effort against K-State. After the Cyclone game, Husker defensive back Dana Stephenson pointed to Dickey, the white-shoed, junior quarterback. Jarmon says Dickey presents his truest challenge ever.

Dickey, who along with Tisdale and Kansas quarterback Jim Ettinger has suffered minus rushing yardage

for the season. He has rushed 34 times and lost 67 yards.

K-State also owns an impressive rushing game despite Dickey's affinity to passing. Mack Herron has accounted for a 58.0 per game rushing average while Mike Montgomery has 335 net yards, a per game output of 41.9. Fullback Russ Harrison, the ex-Omaha Tech standout, is responsible for 34 ground yards per game.

The Huskers thus must meet a balanced rushing attack and a potent aerial game. Both K-State coach Vince Gibson and Devaney said this week they expect the game to develop into a passing duel.

Nebraska's passing effort rides on the arm of sophomore starter Jerry

Tagge, the fourth best total offense producer in the conference. Tagge has passed for 1,165 yards and added 139 ground yards for an offensive output of 163.0 yards per game.

Tagge's figures have been compiled despite being subjected to occasional bench duty while fellow soph Van Brownson directed the Husker attack.

Brownson and Tagge are comparable passers in the accuracy department. Brownson has completed 36 of 67 for a .537 completion mark while Tagge is clicking at a .506 average on 92 completions in 157 tosses, the league's best.

If the game does evolve into a passing contest, Nebraska may have the advantage. Although the Huskers are second behind K-State in passing offense, Nebraska leads the league in passing defense. The Wildcats rank fifth in that department.

NU frosh invade Manhattan Friday

Nebraska's freshman football team invades Manhattan Friday afternoon to tangle with Kansas State's yearlings.

The Husker frosh, who own a 2-1 record, have dumped each of their two Big 8 foes this season: Missouri, 42-19 in Columbia and Iowa State, 20-7 in Lincoln last week. Nebraska's only setback is a 21-13 decision against McCook Junior College.

K-State has a 1-2 mark, having beaten Oklahoma State while losing to Missouri

and Kansas. Missouri bested the Wildkittens, 43-0 last week.

Nebraska freshman coach Jim Ross has been concentrating on a defensive pass rush in practice sessions. Quarterback Lynn Dickey, likes to pass frequently.

He fired 45 times in the opening loss to KU and threw 38 times in a win over Oklahoma State.

K-State coach Dean Pryor has been hurt with key injuries in the last two weeks, Ross said. He added, however, that K-State expects to be in better physical shape for the Cornhuskers.

Ex-Omaha Tech standout halfback Johnny Rodgers paces the Husker yearlings. He has accounted for 605 yards in rushing, receiving and return yardage in three games.

He's the team leader in four individual statistical categories: rushing with 166 yards on 38 carries; receiving with 157 yards on 10 catches; kickoff returns with 75 yards in three runbacks; and punt returns with 207 yards in 11 attempts.

Ross indicated Thursday he would again start Plattsmouth native Max Linder at quarterback. Ogallala native Steve Runty may see early duty, however, Ross said.

Tight end Kelly Schultz is one of Linder's prime targets. Linder has accounted for 221 yards passing and two touchdowns. Halfback Dave Goeller, who rushed for 51 yards against Iowa State, halfbacks Randy Butts and Bill Oids and fullback George Eiben are other key Cornhusker threats.

John O'Connell, who has intercepted three passes, leads the defensive unit. Other defensive standouts include middle guard Willie Harper, linebacker Tom Deyke and end John Dutton.



Husker Mismatch?

Nebraska basketball coach Joe Cipriano says the Huskers' success this season hinges on defense. Here, sophomore Donnie Wilson, 5-11 (right) gets a special defensive test against 6-8 senior Jim Brooks.

Nebraska cagers improving

Although Nebraska's basketball team returns 97 per cent of the offense it generated last season, Husker boss Joe Cipriano still says defense remains the key to a high conference finish.

Cip foresees a tough pre-conference schedule as more of a challenge than a headache. Much of his optimism in facing such foes as Duquesne, Houston and Arizona is rooted to the Huskers' defensive improvement.

"We seem to be improving in every practice defensively," he says. "If we keep improving like we have been, we're going to be a much better defensive team than last year."

"What everything boils down to is basic fundamentals," Cipriano says. "About 50 per cent of our

practices are being devoted to defense. We certainly can't afford to let down. We're ahead of what we were last year, defensively, and we've got to stay ahead."

The Huskers' starting package remains unwrapped, however, Cip adds. He says J'm Brooks, Leroy Chaik, Chuck Jura and Dale Von Seggern are battling for two front-line spots.

Last year's leading scorer Marvin Stewart, Tom Scantlebury, Cliff Moller, Al N'ssen and Bob Graton are the chief contenders for the 3-guard front spots, Cipriano added.

Sophomore Mike Petersen from Omaha Creighton Pro sustained a broken foot bone in Saturday's public scrimmage. Cip related. He also

said senior Ken Cauble has been sidelined with a knee injury and Chalk has missed two days practice because of a death in his family.

Cipriano cited the effort of Brooks, who retrieved 15 rebounds and deposited 11 field goals in Saturday's scrimmage. Stewart, Scantlebury, Moller and (Sam) Martin also shot well. Cip noted. Each guard shot over 50 per cent as Stewart notched 12 field goals. Moller and Martin 10 piece, and Scantlebury nine.

"We've got kids who can score real well," Cip says, "but the question is whose going to be the most consistent — both offensively and defensively. A person is not always going to shoot well, but he must always play defense well."

Predictions

By RANDY YORK
Nebraskan Sports Editor

Satchel Paige couldn't have said it any better when he once offered, "Never look behind; someone may be gaining on you."

The Huskers' are tied for the league lead with Missouri with a 4-1 record. Kansas State, saddled with two conference setbacks, still has a shot at the crown, providing the Huskers and Mizzou stumble in their last two games.

It's doubtful that he was talking about Kansas State's revitalized football program, but the wisdom can nevertheless apply to the Wildcats.

Nebraska looked behind K-State somewhat last year. The Wildcats capitalized, registering one of the biggest conference upsets in the last decade, a 12-0 shutout in Lincoln.

Nebraska, however, can't afford to look behind this season. K-State has changed roles and, perhaps, for the first time last week was caught looking behind itself. Oklahoma State dampened the Wildcats' title hopes with a 28-19 hijack at Stillwater.

Stumbling is not completely out of the question either. This corner missed the Oklahoma State surprise last week despite advance warning from fellow staffers John Dvorak and Steve Sinclair.

The blunder lowered the season batting average to .767 with 33 correct picks in 43 guesses. This week's effort calls for:

Nebraska 27, Kansas State 17—Both teams believe in life after death. Each entertains bowl bids. That is, providing it wins. K-State has been flashy, but, at times, defensively deficient. The Husker Black Shirts get stingier every week. Lynn Dickey and Mack Herron were somewhat frustrated last week. Saturday they will be frustrated.

Missouri 20, Iowa State 10—Cyclone coach Johnny Majors claims his team can match most teams defensively, but not offensively. In this particular case, Iowa State can't even match the Missouri pom pom girls.

Oklahoma 28, Kansas 21—The Jayhawks are more than a hard luck case. They have dropped five straight conference games, four of which have been by four points or fewer. Oklahoma, meanwhile, feels if a team is going to get beat, it might as well lose big. The Sooners feel like winning all the time in Norman, however.

Colorado 24, Oklahoma State 17—Everybody is still recovering from the Cowboy shock against K State, including Oklahoma State. A team can't play well in a partial state of shock, especially against Bobby Anderson in his home town.

Husker harriers to run in NCAA

The Nebraska cross country team's schedule has been expanded to include one more meet this fall.

The Huskers, after a vote of the squad Wednesday, will be competing in the NCAA championships, according to Coach Frank Sevigne. The meet will be held on Nov. 24 at Manhattan College in New York City.

Sevigne said that there are no requirements to be met by individuals or teams to compete in the NCAA cross country meet like there are for the track meet.

"It's up to the individual school to decide if they want to compete," he said.

This will be the first time a Nebraska cross country team has competed in the NCAA championships, Sevigne said.

The Huskers will take a second place finish in the Big Eight conference meet and a 3-1 dual meet record to the national meet.

Sevigne said he would take his top five runners to New York: Pete Brang, Greg Carlberg, Jim Lang, Mel Campbell and Bob Tupper.

"The guys are real anxious to go," he said. "If everyone is right we should be able to finish in the top 10."

Sevigne indicated there was some hesitation involved in making the decision to compete because of the status of Tupper.

"He has been hurt and hasn't been running up to par," Sevigne said. "This was the question mark in deciding if we would go or not."

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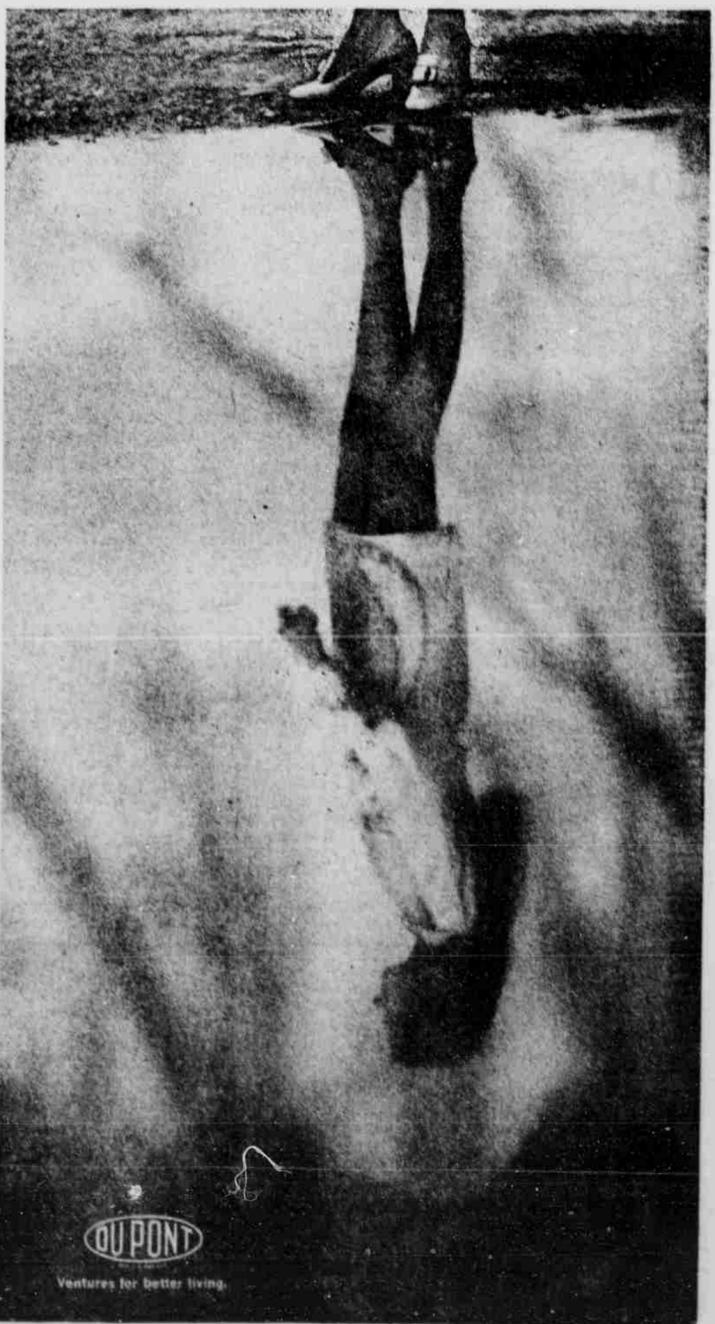
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