

jock shots

by Jim Johnston

Bill Janssen never misses a Nebraska football practice. But he hasn't gone through regular practice drills since the last week in August.

The reason: Bill suffered a broken arm two weeks before the regular season opened and has been red shirted for the 1970 campaign. At the time of his injury, Janssen was the number one Husker center.

But has Janssen let the injury dull his enthusiasm to play Cornhusker football? Not on your life.

Arm hurts on Saturdays

"It was about the biggest disappointment of my life," said Janssen as he watched the Huskers go through practice drills Wednesday. "The arm doesn't feel too bad now, but it always hurts worse on game days."

Red shirted football players are not required to attend daily practice sessions. But Bill Janssen is not the average red shirted player.

"I come out everyday to show that I'm not going to quit just because of a broken arm," explained Janssen. "I'm still planning on playing some football at Nebraska."

He is usually on the AstroTurf at 3 p.m. when the Huskers start drills. Janssen can't do much more than run the stadium steps. And he does that daily without fail.

His daily routine includes visiting the various units on the field and offering words of encouragement.

"I've been playing paddle ball to try to keep my right arm in shape," explained Janssen. "The cast comes off Monday and it will be at least two weeks before I get the stiffness back and can start working on the arm."

Plays several positions

But once Janssen gets back in shape for next year, the problem will be where he will play. But that's an enjoyable problem for the Nebraska coaching staff. Janssen can play several positions and he has proved it.

He started as a defensive left tackle for the 1968 freshman team and shifted to defensive end during his first year of varsity action in 1969. Janssen lettered at that position before being shifted to offensive guard in the middle of the season.

As spring drills concluded, Janssen switched to center and was in contention with Doug Dumler and Doug Jamail for the top position. After the first two weeks of fall camp, Janssen earned the starting roll before suffering the broken arm.

The starting center position has been held since (and with authority) by Dumler. And Dumler is only a sophomore.

So where does this leave Janssen when he starts thinking about 1971? Who knows. His talents leave him wide open for several positions.

"I really prefer to play defense," said Janssen. "But I will be happy to play about any position."

Although the Black Shirts will lose Jerry Murtaugh at linebacker and Dave Morock at monster back, Janssen would more likely be a top candidate for Ed Perriard's position at middle guard.

But it is still 1970 and Bill Janssen is still walking the sidelines and listening to away games on radio. "It makes you feel so helpless," explained Bill. "I want to be out there helping them."

But Bill Janssen is helping the 1970 Cornhusker team simply by his daily attendance at practice. An individual such as this is a great compliment to the Nebraska athletic department.



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Cowboys load guns

Huskers being hunted

by JIM JOHNSTON
Associate Sports Editor

It's hunting season in Nebraska once again. And the Cornhusker football team could be the most hunted game in the state.

The Cowboys from Oklahoma State will bring guns loaded with all sorts of surprise ammunition in which to shoot down the high-flying Cornhuskers in Lincoln Saturday.

But Oklahoma State won't be the first or last team this year with a legal license to take aim at Nebraska. Every Husker foe since the Southern California game has taken dead aim.

And some believe if consistency pays off, the hunter will soon get its prey. The only way that could happen, however, would be a serious letdown in the Husker camp.

And although Nebraska coach Bob Devaney doesn't expect such a letdown, he admits that such a possibility does exist.

"On any given week it's possible for a team to have a

mental letdown," explained Devaney. "Everybody is always up for you if your rated high nationally."

The Huskers are rated fourth in both the UPI and AP polls and are not scheduled to play a team above them during the regular season.

"We probably had some sort of a letdown the week after the Southern Cal game," said the Husker boss. "But we learned a lesson during the first half against Army that week and I don't think we have had a serious letdown since then."

But Devaney knows only too well that the Cornhuskers have always had a few games each year when an underdog has given them trouble. Take for example 1963 when the Huskers only loss came to Air Force, a big underdog.

"There's not too much the coaching staff can do to prevent such a letdown," offered Devaney. "All we can do is just cover the basic things that must be covered."

But the 1970 edition of Nebraska football doesn't ap-

pear to have a letdown attitude.

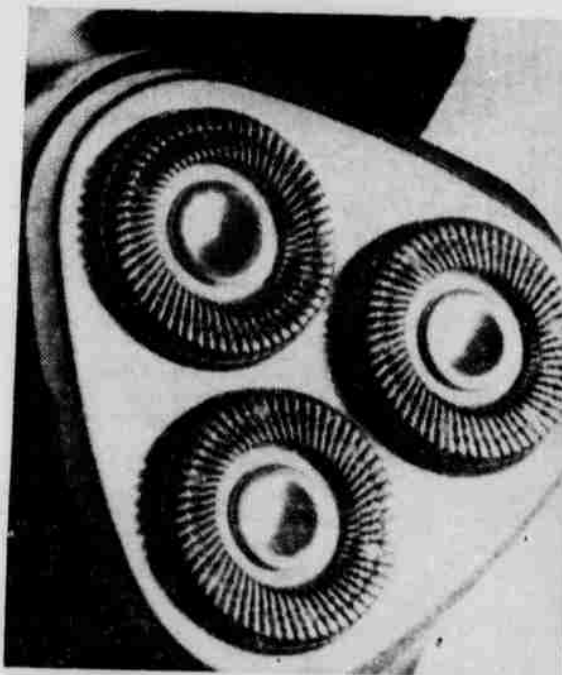
"Our seniors and juniors came off a team last year that finished the season impressing a lot of people," explained the Husker coach. "I think this attitude of pride has continued over to these fellas."

But the fact still remains that the Huskers will be the favorite team in their remaining regular season games. Take for example the Oklahoma State game Saturday. Nebraska has been made a 21-point favorite.

This must leave some feeling to the Nebraska players.

"Those 21 points could mean something to the players if they wanted to be fat-headed about it," said Devaney. "But this team is intelligent enough to know that this has nothing to do with the outcome of the game."

So the Huskers continue to fly above the Big Eight field which is loaded with guns. They have survived two conference shots and will try to avoid a third Saturday.



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