

jock shots

by Jim Johnston

It's going Huskers way

The Big Eight Conference has always been known for its tight races and the ability for one team to knock off another. Such is true again this year. But the latter statement seems to be going Nebraska's way.

Nebraska got early chances and collected against Missouri and Kansas. While this was going on, top contenders Kansas State and Colorado were suffering their lumps.

The Cornhuskers lead the loop with a 2-0 mark. Oklahoma is the only other undefeated team with a 1-0 score. Colorado already has two losses and Missouri and Kansas State must play each other yet.

It appears that the schedule is agreeing with Nebraska fans this season. Let's see if this column's predictions can agree with some actual outcomes for a change.

NEBRASKA 41, Oklahoma State 13 . . . The Cowboys may hit the scoreboard first, but the Cornhuskers' offense will take over from there.

MISSOURI 21, Colorado 17 . . . This one should put the Buffs out of the Big Eight picture completely.

KANSAS 35, Iowa State 13 . . . The Jayhawks are going to win some more ball games before the season is over. Just ask the Black Shirts.

KANSAS STATE 28, Oklahoma 17 . . . The Cornhuskers could be the only undefeated team in the conference after this one.

The Big Eight Joke

It isn't the general policy of this column to deal with the criticism of other news sources. But a matter has come to attention which deserves some ink in **The Nebraskan**.

The mentioned news source is the Big 8 Banner, a weekly publication from Topeka, Kansas, which deals strictly with promoting (so they say) the Big Eight Conference.

That's a good idea, but the paper is being handled in a poor manner. If the paper's purpose is to promote the conference, why not try to boost the powerhouse of the league, That powerhouse is Nebraska and the Cornhuskers receive little coverage.

Nebraska is the only Big Eight team in the nation's top ten ranks. The Huskers have been tabbed fourth by both the UPI and AP polls. Yet the Big Eight Banner, (remember its practice is to promote Big Eight teams) tages Nebraska fifth behind Michigan.

A Nebraska fan, Eugene Pearson, wrote an open form in this week's issue of the paper wondering why no mention of the Nebraska-Southern California game was noticed. "But," Pearson's letter read, "there was a big blow-up on Colorado over Penn State. (Big Deal)"

The Nebraska-USC game was undoubtedly the top game in the conference if not the nation that week, but it was ignored by the conference's "promotion sheet." And then following the Nebraska-Missouri game, the paper didn't publish because of "administrative difficulties."

There's difficulties there all-right, but they may simply be in the newsroom. This column doesn't suggest writing to the paper, it would only be a waste of time.

And there's no need to waste your time on the Big 8 Joke. And that's spelled with a capital J.

Bowl talk buzzing

Although a Nebraska bowl bid is five tough Big Eight games away, a Dallas newspaper reports the Huskers are the top candidate to meet the Southwest Conference champion in the Cotton Bowl.

Should Nebraska continue their winning pace through the remaining five games, Big Red will be the hottest color in the eyes of all the major bowl scouts. In other words, the Huskers would have their pick of the Orange, Cotton or Sugar Bowls.

But it would seem that a Cotton Bowl bid would be accepted because they'll get a shot at the number two team, Texas.

But its still too early for serious bowl talk. Notre Dame could remain undefeated, although that is unlikely, and beat out the Huskers for the Cotton Bowl bid.

Arkansas could defeat Texas for the Southwest title and the nation's number two team wouldn't be playing in the Dallas classic. And the possibility of Oklahoma winning the Big Eight is still not ruled out.

So don't make any New Years Day plans for either Miami, New Orleans or Dallas yet. Who knows? The Huskers could have a few bad Saturdays and end up in the Sun Bowl again against Arizona State or some other colorless outfit.



Flag football . . . can be an extremely rough game as shown by some of Wednesday's flag football action.

Flag-football growing

by ROGER RIFE
Associate Sports Editor

Men's flag-football is one of the fastest growing sports on the University of Nebraska campus.

To date, there are 150 teams participating in the intramural department's flag-football program, thus putting the total number of men playing organized flag-football at over 1200.

Neal Mcquistan, an intramural supervisor, has the responsibility of seeing that the football games are run smoothly. Mcquistan is in charge of the football field at 19th and Vine Streets. On that field alone, Mcquistan supervises eight football games per day, five days a week.

A graduate student in physical education, Mcquistan has been active in the intramural flag-football program. He was an official for three years, before recently being promoted to intramural supervisor.

Supervising a flag-football game is not an easy job according to Mcquistan. "My main responsibility is to maintain order and general discipline over the entire area," Mcquistan explained. "And sometimes, keeping order can be quite a difficult task."

"For example, we usually have about one fight per week," Mcquistan explained. "The fights are usually caused by players griping about the rules. The players who gripe the most are usually the ones who know the least about the rules."

"The fights usually break out

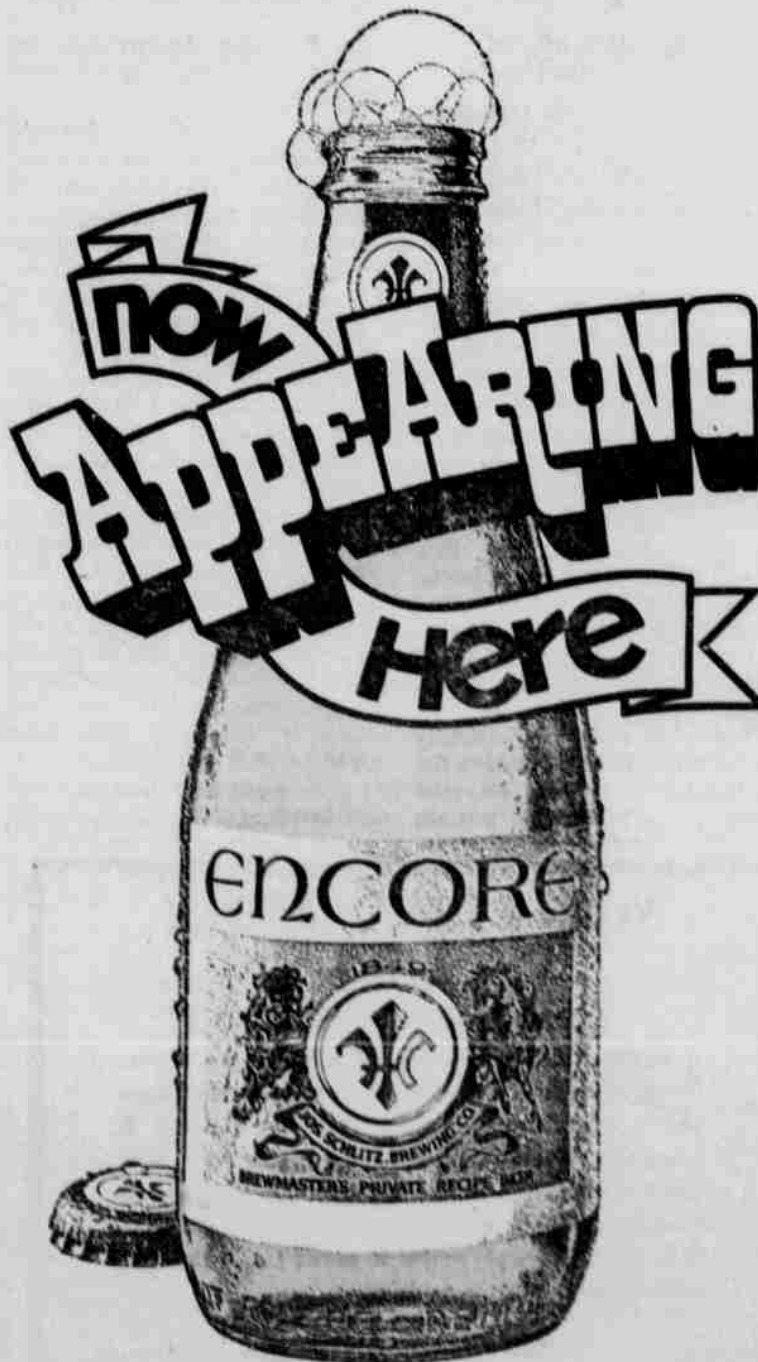
when you least expect them to," continued Mcquistan. "One minute a game is going along smoothly and the next minute the two teams are going at each other. However, in most cases the fights don't last more than a couple of minutes."

Flag-football is considered to be a fairly easy game to play with little if any physical contact. But at Nebraska that isn't the case.

"Flag-football is a much rougher game than people

think it is," said Mcquistan. "Flag-football is a wide-open game with every player eligible to run or catch the football. The players don't wear any type of protective equipment, so if they happen to fall or collide with each other the chances are high that someone will get injured."

The injury list thus far this year includes two broken collar bones, a sprained ankle and a number of players with cuts and bruises.



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THE NEBRASKAN