

jock shots

by Jim Johnston

The Oklahoma Sooners, one of two teams hot on the Huskers trail, are facing a must game when they entertain Missouri in Norman Saturday.

The Sooners and Kansas State are the only two teams with practical chances to catch the Huskers. They each have one loss and are Nebraska's two last foes of the Big Eight season.

But the Sooners record of only one loss could be misleading. They have played only three conference games and must still face Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma State.

Kansas State, on the other hand, has only two league games remaining with Oklahoma State and Nebraska still on the schedule. If both the Wildcats and Huskers win this weekend, the stage will be set for a big Nebraska homecoming.

Let's see if the race will remain that tight.
NEBRASKA 41, Iowa State 13 . . . The Cornhuskers won't give up any ground to the contenders. You can be sure of that.

KANSAS STATE 42, Oklahoma State 21 . . . Both teams live and die by the passing game. But the Cowboys usually die.

MISSOURI 28, Oklahoma 14 . . . The Sooners will only be playing .500 ball after this one.

COLORADO 35, Kansas 21 . . . Both teams could spend the day watching the offense run 60-yard sprints. But the Buffs can stop more runs than the Jayhawks.

Familiar ground to Brownson

Cornhusker quarterback Van Brownson is a native of Shenandoah, Iowa, which is only 150 miles from Ames.

Brownson was a four-sport letterman in high school and was well-known throughout the state. Will there be many fans at Clyde Williams Field Saturday who will remember Van?

"I'm sure they'll remember me," quipped Brownson, "but they probably won't be too friendly. I'm not too well liked at Iowa State."

Brownson admitted that he was recruited by both the Cyclones and Iowa University. "But I think people realize that neither school could offer what Nebraska can in football," he added.

Crowder won't compare

Colorado coach Eddie Crowder may have a good idea who will win the Big Eight title. But he won't tell anyone.

Crowder has played all three contenders (Nebraska, Oklahoma and Kansas State), but backed out when asked to compare the teams.

After suffering a 29-13 loss to Nebraska last week Crowder offered these words: "Today Nebraska played like a superb football team. But I can't say if they're better or worse than Oklahoma, Kansas State or Missouri."

"I thought Oklahoma was a great football team when we played them, but they almost got beat by Iowa State. Kansas State played good against us, but then got beat by Kansas. And now Missouri was beaten by Kansas State."

"Sure, I could compare teams, but the Big Eight is too close to do that. And besides, I don't like comparing teams anyway."

Huskers not overlooking aggressive Cyclone team

by JIM JOHNSTON
Associate Sports Editor

All-American Johnny Majors accepted the head coaching job at Iowa State to rebuild a dying football program. And quarterback George Amundson left his record setting discus in Aberdeen, S. Dak., and several major college scouts in the dust for the same cause.

It's been the dedication of individuals such as these that has built the Cyclones into a respectable football team. So respectable that Nebraska scout Bill Thorton compared the Cyclones to such teams as Kansas State and Oklahoma.

So will it be an easy Saturday for the Cornhuskers? That assumption wouldn't be a safe bet.

"Any team that can play Oklahoma the way the Cyclones did (Oklahoma won 29-28) is not a bad team," offered Husker coach Bob Devaney. "Regardless of their record (ISU is winless in the Big 8), we will be playing an improved, dedicated, aggressive football team with some fine individuals."

Scout Bill Thorton complimented Devaney's statement. "Iowa State is a much better team than last year," said Thorton. "I think coach

Majors is more interested in building a football program than winning a championship this year, but they would like nothing better than to knock off Nebraska."

And the Cyclones have what it takes to pull a major upset sometime during the year.

The Cyclones rank first in the conference in pass defense. To prove the point, Kansas State (the top passing team in the league) scored only 17 points against ISU.

What's made the ISU defensive secondary so tough? Here's just a few examples.

Obert Tisdale, who quarterbacked the Cyclones last year, is now at monster back. And Jeff Allen, who played an offensive halfback during the '69 campaign, is now in the defensive secondary.

"These two players can read and analyze offensive plays real well from having offensive experience," explained Thorton. "They're especially tough to pass against because they rush only four men and you have seven men dropping back."

Don't be surprised to see the Huskers go more to their running game Saturday.

As for the ISU offense, the Cyclones rank fourth in the league in passing offense. Mainly behind the arm of quarterback Dean Carlson and with the hands of splitend Otto Stowe, the Cyclones have passed for a 157.3 yards average per game.

The Cyclones rank sixth in the league in rushing, but have a fine runner in Jock Johnson when they need him. Senior tailback Mike Palmer is also a steady runner, but the Cyclones seem to lack the big man like Missouri or Kansas has.

So the Huskers aren't overlooking this one. As Devaney pointed out, any team that takes a 21-0 lead over Oklahoma can't be all bad.

Tagge will start if Van's elbow sore

Van Brownson's elbow injury may be serious enough to take him out of a starting position Saturday. But that shouldn't worry Nebraska fans.

It doesn't seem to bother Husker coach Bob Devaney, anyway.

"We'll wait until game time to make our decision on the quarterbacks," offered Devaney. "Van looked better today (Thursday), but he just didn't throw too much."

But Devaney knows that Jerry Tagge is healthy and he also knows that he's ready to play football. Tagge hasn't seen steady game action since the Missouri game, Oct. 10.

"The layoff hasn't bothered me at all," said Tagge. "Even since Van has been starting we both have been doing a lot of work with the first team in practice."

Brownson developed the sore elbow after the Colorado game last week and has seen limited

practice time this week.

"I don't think it makes any difference who is at quarterback," continued Tagge. "I feel the team has enough confidence in either Van and me that it isn't that big a deal."

Another offensive backfield position that is always in doubt is I-back. But injuries haven't affected that spot and Devaney has devised a simple method to select the starter.

He just alternates Joe Orduna and Jeff Kinney.

"At I-back it's about Joe's (Orduna) turn to start since Jeff (Kinney) started last week," quipped Devaney. Then he thought a moment.

"I guess it was Joe who started last week. We'll probably go with Kinney Saturday."

Those two situations may dispute the rumor that Bob Devaney doesn't have any problems. He does have problems. But they're rather enjoyable ones.

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