

Dickey in the dirt? No, in the turf

by JIM JOHNSTON
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Nebraskans will have to change their chant when Kansas State visits Memorial Stadium for a 1:30 p.m. date Saturday.

Last year in Manhattan, Nebraskans cried, "Dickey in the dirt." But this year in Lin-

coln it will have to be "Dickey in the turf."

Or if things keep going Lynn Dickey's way as they have been recently the call could simply be, "Dickey on his two white shoes."

The Kansas State quarterback, who admits that Joe Namath is his idol, has

been nothing short of impressive since recovering from the most publicized injury since former President Lyndon Johnson's gall bladder operation.

The greatest passing quarterback ever to play in the Big Eight had a frustrating first half season after suffering from bruised ribs. The Dickey-led Wildcats lost to Kentucky 16-3. Then Dickey sat on the bench to see Arizona State claim a 35-13 win over K-State.

But Dickey played with sore ribs against Colorado and the Cats won 21-20. Since losing to Kansas the next week 21-15, the Wildcats have rattled off four straight victories.

The reason has been a healthy Lynn Dickey. And that should serve as a warning to the Nebraska Black Shirts.

He was touted as a Heisman Trophy candidate before the season. But his injury has caused him to forget those dreams.

"I realize that you need a super year to win the Heisman Trophy," explained Dickey. "I have forgotten about it and all I'm thinking about now is a Big Eight championship."

Feeling better now than anytime since his injury, Dickey says his offensive line deserves much of the credit for his improvement.

"The offensive line has been doing a great job," said Dickey. "A lot of quarterbacks would like to have the time I'm getting to throw the ball."

Dickey's main target has been fullback Mike Montgomery. The 6-3, 210-pound senior leads the club in both rushing (411 yards) and receiving (45 catches for 344 yards.) Another dangerous pass receiver is wingback Henry Hawthorne, a :09.6 sprinter who has succeeded Mack Herron. He's caught 26 passes for 438 yards and has rushed for 304 yards.

Dickey, who rallied the Wildcats for comeback wins over Oklahoma and Missouri on consecutive Saturdays, almost did the same thing against Nebraska last year.

Nebraska blunted Dickey's passing for 58 minutes, then

stood off a breath-taking K-State drive in the final two minutes to post a 10-7 win. The Wildcats, driving from their 49 to the Nebraska 7 in the final minute, tried to get off another play after Dickey's 10-yard strike to Bob Long with five seconds remaining.

But time ran out and the ball remained seven yards from a Kansas State victory.

The white-shoed quarterback is back again this year, and he remembers last year's game. And he's still pulling off his come-from-behind wins.

But then, that's what K-State fans have come to expect from the top plum of their purple pride pack.

jock shots by Jim Johnston

Bring on the oranges, cotton, etc.

Nebraska puts it all on the line Saturday. What would be lost should Kansas State win? Oh, sole possession of the Big Eight championship, an undefeated season and hopes of a national championship.

That alone provides enough incentive for the Huskers. There's just that feeling at the Nebraska camp that the Huskers will explode with a big one Saturday.

This column feels the same way.

NEBRASKA 34, Kansas State 14 . . . Remember, bowl scouts. You have to wait until 6 p.m.

KANSAS 35, Oklahoma 21 . . . The Jayhawks have really been kind to Nebraska. They defeated K-State and will give the entire Big Eight title to the Huskers Saturday.

MISSOURI 42, Iowa State 17 . . . The Cyclones will have to depend on Oklahoma State if they want to win a Big Eight game.

COLORADO 42, Oklahoma State 24 . . . The Buffaloes are better than their record indicates. They just waited too long to prove it.

Season over for cheerleaders

Ahhhhhhh, the Nebraska cheerleaders must be relieved. There are no more away games. They don't have to go out of their way to get the crowd fired up.

Because there is no place like Nebraska. There's no place in the nation that dresses in the same color to support their team like Cornhusker fans do.

But once at the stadium and after the first touchdown has been scored, fans for the Big Red are dead.

And the Nebraska cheerleaders don't seem to care much about it. They seem to continue with their same original cheer that goes: "Go, go, go, go Go." That's real colorful, isn't it fans.

Visiting teams' cheering sections have out-classed that of Nebraska at nearly every game this season. And perhaps the cheerleaders can be to blame.

There doesn't seem to be any originality in their routines. They're the same year after year, game after game and touchdown after touchdown. That's at home, but on the road the NU cheerleaders seem to have a little more class.

Pep band makes difference

And the reason for more spirit on away games appears to be because of an inspired group of band members which have made some away trips. They're not dressed in Nebraska's new un-original band uniforms, but they do more than the entire band does at home games.

Some wear red army helmets. Some are dressed in red overalls. Some throw oranges. And they all have a lot of class.

But even the inspired pep band couldn't keep the NU cheerleaders happy at Iowa State late week. The band played the Nebraska fight song on several occasions. Maybe too much for the cheerleaders.

"Gee, you'd think we were on TV or something this week," scoffed one Nebraska cheerleader. "They're playing a song no matter what happens."

Maybe the cheerleaders don't like to get tired. But the Nebraska fans went wild and they loved it. Last week's game against the Cyclones was one of the most spirited games the Husker fans have enjoyed this year.

Meanwhile, back at Lincoln

But that was last week. And that was not in Lincoln. Saturday's game with Kansas State, although a spirited affair for the players, will probably be the same old drag for the Nebraska fans.

The red and white striped cheerleaders will stand in the same 20-foot area chanting the same old cheers. The Nebraska fans will let loose of their balloons after the first touchdown and then watch the airplanes fly over for the rest of the day.

Oh ya, there will be some oranges on the field. And there will be the diehard Nebraska fan yelling all the way, but the student section will be its old dead self.

They won't even be able to watch the pep band. There is no such thing at home games. The band just sits in the stands with their new, clean uniforms.

"Gee, Martha. Doesn't little Johnny look nice in his band uniform today?"

'Cats own top defense

What's all this talk about Kansas State's powerful offense? Don't forget about the Wildcat defense. After all, it is the best in the Big Eight according to statistics.

Kansas State has put together a strong front against the rush, limiting opponents to just 159.7 yards on the ground. And the Wildcats own the league's second best pass defense (125.2).

It's the undefeated Huskers that have the offensive machine. It's the best in the conference according to statistics.

So what happens when the Big Eight's most well-oiled offensive machine meets the league's most stubborn defensive talent? The answer will be provided Saturday at Memorial Stadium when the Huskers and Wildcats clash for the Big Eight title.

But don't think that this will be strictly a game of a giant offense against a giant defense. It should be duly noted that Nebraska does rank second in total defense.

Scrimmage Sat.

Nebraska's basketball team will have a scrimmage from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday in the Coliseum. The scrimmage is open to the public and seating room will be provided in the balcony.



Dickey . . . thinking about Big Eight championship.

Nebraska frosh bid for perfect season

Nebraska's freshman, undefeated in their first three outings, will try to finish the season unblemished when they meet Kansas State on the AstroTurf at 1:30 p.m. today.

Jim Ross' frosh opened the season with a 23-14 win over

Patrick and Van Brownson.

Humm is now within 66 yards of breaking Brownson's 671-yard season passing mark and within 72 yards of cracking Van's 778-yard season total offense record.

When Ross referred to the improved running game, he was speaking of I-back Don Westbrook from Cheyenne, Wyo. Westbrook rolled up 227 yards on the ground and another 204 through the air.

Humm's main targets have been split-end alternates Jeff Hill and Tim Lackovic. Flanker



Lackovic



Westbrook

Missouri and claimed road wins over McCook Junior College (35-6) and the Iowa State frosh (49-26).

Ross was pleased with the impressive win over the Little Cyclones. "We ran better than we did all year," noted the frosh coach, "and Dave Humm continued to throw the ball well."

Humm threw the ball well enough to establish a Nebraska freshman season completion record (42). That breaks the mark held jointly by Frank



Crenshaw



Hill

Glenn Garson and fullback Maury Damkroger have also received several ariels.

Marv Crenshaw, a 215-pound tackle, has been playing consistent work for the Husker linemen.