

How do you out-orange a Tiger?



It's Nebraska's offense against LSU's defense. Or is it? Cornhusker defensive coach Monte Kiffin (with headset) and head coach Bob Devaney believe the Black Shirts face a similar challenge.

Kiffin's hoping to keep them in their own lair

by JIM JOHNSTON

Orange Bowl 1971: Nebraska's overpowering offense against Louisiana State's stingy defense.

The No. 2 scoring team in the nation with a 37.2 average against a team yielding only 8.7 points per game — the second best scoring defense in the land.

Nebraska does have the offense. "But to win you still have to stop people," says Cornhusker defensive line coach Monte Kiffin. And that's where the Nebraska Black Shirts enter the picture.

The Orange Bowl is being billed as a showdown between a great offense and a great defense. "But the pressure is really on Nebraska's defensive unit," insists Kiffin. "We just can't afford to give up any points."

And the LSU offense isn't really all that bad. It produced 61 points against Mississippi in the season's finale. "That makes it a challenge for us to stop them" offers Kiffin.

The Bengals' offense can be compared to Nebraska's offensive unit of 1969: The defense carried the load at the beginning of the year, but as the season progressed so did the offense.

And getting to Nebraska's "weaker" half, there's really no need for criticism. The offense did hold the Big Red spotlight this year, but that's because Nebraskans just expect Cornhusker defensive squads to be great.

"We started with an inexperienced defense and we've come a long ways," says Kiffin. "The defense has felt on several occasions that they must come up with the big game. And

they've always been able to rise to the occasion."

The Black Shirts will be facing an LSU offense that uses more backfield performers than the versatile Husker attack. The Bayou Bengals switch their entire offensive backfield right in the middle of the game.

"They try to wear you down," says Kiffin.

Senior Buddy Lee will get the starting nod at quarterback, but sophomore Bert Jones sees equal time. LSU coach Charlie McClendon alternates his two signal callers more than Nebraska.

The Tigers' leading rusher is junior tailback Arthur Cantrelle. He rushed for 799 yards and carried the ball 222 times — more than twice the carries of anybody else on the team.

The Tigers have three fullbacks that have all logged equal time. Although the fullback doesn't carry the ball much, he serves as the lead blocker as does Nebraska's Dan Schneiss.

Del Walker or Jim Bengals will get the call at fullback. Wide receiver Andy Hamilton has caught 36 passes for 722 yards and occasionally is used as a back and runs with the ball.

Louisiana State uses a sprint option offense which does not include the triple option that has given the Black Shirts problems.

But that's not to say that the LSU offense won't create any problems.

"I'm not going to make any predictions," says Kiffin. "Our goal is to hold them scoreless and the team's goal is to win the game. But I do know one thing, they're not going to score 61 points against us."

LSU admires its coach just as much

LSU coach Charlie McClendon's success remarkably parallels that of Nebraska coach Bob Devaney. Both have been head coaches at their respective schools for nine years.

And both coaches are involved in their seventh bowl game. McClendon's overall record at LSU (70-23-4) does not match Devaney's 78-18-1 mark, but it obviously speaks for itself.

The LSU boss has suffered one major disappointment (if you could call it that), however. It came after one of his most successful Southeastern Conference seasons. Last year his Tigers averaged 35 points a game, had the nation's

stingiest defense against the rush and won nine of 10 regular season games.

No major bowl bid, however, was forthcoming. LSU was left on the outside looking in after Notre Dame's decision to ban the bowl ban. The Tigers voted not to accept a minor bowl bid.

McClendon was voted Southeastern Conference coach of the year despite the bowl shun. A three-point loss to Mississippi had prevented a perfect 1969 LSU season.

Described as a "vigorous recruiter, a thorough organizer, a superb tactician, a masterful manipulator of strategy and a volatile and human

speaker," McClendon has beaten such coaches as Alabama's "Bear" Bryant, Ole Miss' John Vaught, Syracuse's Ben Schwartzwalder, Auburn's "Shug" Jordan, Texas' Darrell Royal and Wyoming's Lloyd Eaton (20-13 in the 1967 Sugar Bowl).

McClendon's team also waged a titanic defensive struggle against Ara Parseghian's Irish late this season before dropping a last-minute 3-0 decision.

McClendon was coach of the American Bowl in Tampa, Fla., last January and he also coached in the all-America game in Lubbock, Tex., last June.

His own LSU teams have won five of six bowl games and three times in bowl games have beaten previously undefeated teams. Those "upsets" included a 13-0 win over Texas in the 1962 Cotton Bowl, a 14-7 win over Arkansas in the 1965 Cotton Bowl and a 20-13 win over Wyoming in the 1967 Sugar Bowl.

Other bowl wins came against Syracuse (13-10) in the 1964 Sugar Bowl and against Florida State (31-27) in the 1968 Peach Bowl. A 14-7 loss to Baylor in the 1963 Bluebonnet Bowl in his only post-season loss.

Like Devaney, McClendon has con-

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