

# Big Red launches spring offensive

by JIM JOHNSTON  
Sports Editor

What's this word "offense" everybody at the Nebraska spring football camp is talking about? It was only introduced into Nebraska football vocabulary last season and now it's THE WORD.

But there's a good reason for it. The Cornhuskers return 18 lettermen on offense which includes experience at 10 of 11 positions. The Huskers will be two-deep in eight spots when spring drills open Monday on the Astro Turf.

In the backfield, where everybody took their turns last season, seven letter winners are back.

The only backfield position which isn't two-deep in veterans is I-back. Jeff Kinney holds down the position, but finding a backup man to supply the same Kinney-Orduna punch of 1970 will be a task.

Sophomore Don Westbrook, junior college transfer Gary Dixon and redshirts Randy Butts and Dave Goeller are the top contenders for the backup position. Backfield coach Mike Corgan is cautious about filling the position.

"LAST SPRING we had two proven kids at I-back," said Corgan referring to Kinney and Joe Orduna. "But this year we have only one. It's difficult to say who the leading contender for backup is before you see them against varsity competition."

Finding a backup at I-back is an important task for the Nebraska coaching staff. I-back was the bread-and-butter position last season as Orduna and Kinney combined for over 1,500 net yards.

Westbrook, a 170-pound sophomore from Cheyenne, Wyo., has good speed and rushed for 192 net yards in four freshmen games.

Quarterback is again the strong spot. Jerry Tagge and Van Brownson return for their third varsity seasons and sophomore David Humm, a fast-dealing lefthander from Las Vegas, also enters the pictures.

THE BIGGEST question concerning the quarterbacks is who, if anyone, will be redshirted. The Huskers successfully carried two top quarterbacks the last two seasons, but is three too many?

Several possibilities enter the picture. Tagge injured his knee during the off season and

Brownson's elbow could bother him again. The Nebraska coaching staff probably won't know until the end of spring drills as to what the quarterback scene will be next fall.

Head trainer Paul Schneider says Tagge's sprained knee is "coming along as good as expected and Van's elbow is perfect." But he also indicated that the real effects won't be known until spring contact begins.

At fullback, Jim Carstens and Bill Olds supply the veteran touch. But neither served in a starting capacity last season.

"WE'LL JUST have to sort out the fullbacks and see who does the best job from the I formation," said Corgan. "Blocking is the main duty for our fullback. That's probably the first basis that a fullback is chosen at Nebraska."

Johnny Rodgers and Jeff Hughes are back at slotback. Rodgers is bypassing spring football and giving baseball a try, leaving Hughes as the leading spring contender for the job.

Four veteran guards head an experienced offensive line. Mike Beran, Dick Rupert, Bruce Weber and Keith Wortman make the guard spots possibly the strongest in a long time at Nebraska.

Doug Dumler, who had an outstanding sophomore season at center, returns along with Doug Jamail at that position.

FINDING replacements for tackles Bob Newton and Wally Winter could be the problem. Carl Johnson is the only returning tackle.

Another lineman who had an outstanding sophomore debut is tightend Jerry List. He's joined by letterman Phil Harvey to make tightend strong again this season.

Finding a replacement for all-time pass receiving king Guy Ingles sounds like a difficult task. But veterans Woody Cox and Dale Didur are strong prospects to start with.

Not before last year did Nebraska speak in terms of offense as the big thing in spring drills. But offense did take the spotlight in 1970 and the Cornhuskers won a national championship.

A strong supply of offensive performers is back to make another serious bid for the national title.

## 1971 Offensive Roster

Tight Ends—		Class		Centers—		Class	
Ht.	Wt.	This Fall	Class	Ht.	Wt.	This Fall	Class
Mark Daak, Whittier, Calif. ....	6-4	220	Soaph.	Bruce Boyer, Pittsburgh, Pa. ....	6-1	210	Soaph.
xPaul Harvey, Kansas City, Kans. ....	6-2	210	Senior	Bob Dougherty, North Platte ....	6-4	210	Soaph.
xJerry List, Bay City, Mich. ....	6-0	210	Junior	Richard Duda, Westchester, Ill. ....	6-3	215	Soaph.
Brent Longwell, Homer .....	6-4	206	Soaph.	xDoug Dumler, Melrose Park, Ill. ....	6-3	230	Junior
<b>Split Ends—</b>				<b>Class</b>			
Frosty Anderson, Scottsbluff .....	6-0	165	Soaph.	<b>This Fall</b>			
xWoody Cox, Grasse Point, Mich. ....	5-9	180	Senior	xxVan Brownson, Shenandoah, Ia. ....	6-2	151	Senior
Randy Curtis, Houston, Tex. ....	6-3	185	Soaph.	Ron Coleman, David City .....	6-3	170	Soaph.
xDale Didur, Long Beach, Calif. ....	6-0	184	Senior	Jerry Davis, Phoenix, Ariz. ....	6-1	180	Soaph.
Jeff Hill, La Grange, Ill. ....	6-2	190	Soaph.	David Humm, Las Vegas, Nev. ....	6-2	170	Soaph.
Tim Lackovic, Omaha .....	6-1	190	Soaph.	Bob Jones, Oak Lawn, Ill. ....	6-4	210	Junior
Max Linder, Plattsmouth .....	6-3	200	Soaph.	Steve Runtz, Ogallala .....	5-11	175	Soaph.
Chris Nelson, Albion .....	6-4	200	Soaph.	xxJerry Tagge, Green Bay, Wis. ....	6-2	215	Senior
<b>Tackles—</b>				<b>Class</b>			
Al Austin, Lincoln .....	6-5	210	Soaph.	<b>This Fall</b>			
Marvin Crenshaw, Toledo, Ohio .....	6-6	215	Soaph.	<b>Halfbacks—</b>	Ht.	Wt.	Class
Stan Hegener, Lincoln .....	6-3	210	Soaph.	Randy Butts, Grand Island .....	6-2	200	Soaph.
xCarl Johnson, Phoenix, Ariz. ....	6-4	245	Senior	Gray Dixon, Ventura, Calif. ....	6-10	175	Soaph.
Kim McKinley, Greeley, Colo. ....	6-3	240	Soaph.	Glen Garson, Fullerton, Calif. ....	6-0	180	Soaph.
Frank McKinley, Kansas City, Mo. ....	6-3	240	Soaph.	xxJeff Hughes, Burlington, Vt. ....	5-11	196	Senior
Daryl White, East Orange, N.J. ....	6-4	236	Soaph.	Dave Goeller, Piller .....	6-1	180	Soaph.
Bob Wolfe, Omaha .....	6-5	232	Soaph.	xxJeff Kinney, McCook .....	6-2	210	Senior
<b>Guards—</b>				<b>Class</b>			
Don Anderson, Fremont .....	6-1	215	Soaph.	<b>This Fall</b>			
xMike Beran, Ord .....	6-0	228	Junior	John Stinner, Pittsburgh, Pa. ....	6-0	170	Junior
Jeff Class, Sioux Falls, S.D. ....	6-1	215	Soaph.	Don Westbrook, Cheyenne, Wyo. ....	5-11	175	Soaph.
Joe Duity, Pittsburgh, Pa. ....	6-2	205	Soaph.	Bob Schmitz, Boys Town .....	6-1	187	Soaph.
Joe Henderson, Red Cloud .....	6-2	215	Soaph.	<b>Fullbacks—</b>			
Dennis Henrichs, Beatrice .....	6-2	215	Soaph.	Tom Blazer, Limon, Colo. ....	6-2	215	Soaph.
Chad Leonard, Cannonsburg, Pa. ....	6-1	205	Soaph.	xJim Carstens, Glen Ellyn, Ill. ....	6-5	220	Junior
xDick Rupert, Los Angeles, Calif. ....	6-2	216	Senior	Maury Damkroger, Lincoln .....	6-2	210	Soaph.
xBruce Weber, Omaha .....	6-0	221	Senior	xBill Olds, Kansas City, Kans. ....	6-1	210	Junior
xKeith Wortman, Whittier, Calif. ....	6-3	237	Senior	Ralph Powell, Detroit, Mich. ....	6-2	212	Soaph.
<b>Kicker—</b>				<b>Class</b>			
Scott Bendler, Lexington .....	6-1	215	Soaph.	<b>This Fall</b>			

## Tennis team opens schedule with Luther

Coach Ed Higginbotham's Nebraska tennis team is scheduled to open its 1971 schedule Friday at 12:05 in the Coliseum when they meet Luther College of Decorah, Iowa.

The match was originally scheduled for Thursday, but it was postponed because the Iowa team was snowed in.

Higginbotham's 1971 squad is centered around four returning lettermen including

Bill Brunell, Sr., from Omaha; Bob Duffek, Sr., from Lincoln; Jack Rathburn, Sr., from Lincoln; and Jim Rathe, Jr., from Beatrice. Brunell and Rathe are both two-year lettermen.

Other members of the team are freshman Jim Crew from Omaha and six players from Lincoln including freshmen Ed Belshem, Brice Connealy, Sig Garnette, and Dave Lux, sophomore Vince Sutton and junior Ed Bullock.

The remainder of the schedule:

- March 29 at Doane
- April 1 UN-Omaha
- April 6 at Kearney State
- April 12 at Oklahoma
- April 13 at Oklahoma State
- April 16 Missouri
- April 17 Air Force
- April 21 at Washburn
- April 24 Kansas State
- April 27 Concordia
- April 30 Triple dual (both days)
- May 1 Colorado, Iowa State
- May 4 at Drake
- May 7 at UN-Omaha
- May 18 Kearney State
- May 21-22 Big-Eight Tournament at Stillwater

## Nebraska lifters compete Saturday

The University weightlifting team will host the first annual State Collegiate Olympic Weightlifting Championships Saturday in the Men's Physical Education Building with action getting under way at noon.

Competition will be held in nine weight classes ranging from 114 lbs. to super heavyweight for those weighing over 242 1/2 lbs.

The lifts being contested include the Olympic press, the two-handed snatch, and the clean and jerk. About 50 athletes from across the state are expected for the meet.

Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

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