

Touch football gives Olds fullback edge

by Jim Johnston

They used to say that Bill Olds had hands like ice picks...then he started playing touch football and it turned him into hot hands.

Olds, who is the probable starting fullback for the Cornhuskers against Oregon Saturday, earned the No. 1 job when his pass receiving improved during fall camp.

"I played touch football back home this summer," explained Bill. "I wanted to be a wide receiver so I could run long patterns and get into shape. Then they started throwing the ball to me and I started catching it. I've gained enough confidence now that I think I can catch anything they throw to me."

Nebraska backfield coach Mike Corgan doesn't express equal confidence in Olds' receiving ability, but he thought enough of his improvement to place Olds ahead of Lincoln sophomore Maury Damkroger and junior Jim Carstens in the battle for the fullback spot.

"He's catching the football better than last year," admits Corgan, "but his biggest asset is his quickness. He's quicker than Dan Schneiss (last year's

fullback), but he doesn't pick up as many yards after contact."

Although Nebraska's fullback serves mainly as a lead blocker, the importance of the fullback in the passing game cannot be overlooked. Last season, Schneiss grabbed 20 passes for 156 yards which included a timely reception that set up the winning touchdown against Oklahoma.

Olds can't be blamed for his earlier inability to catch the football. After all, he was a tackle in high school before his senior year.

"During the spring of my junior year I was running track with our starting fullback who was a senior," explains Bill. "I realized that I could run the dashes just as fast as him so I asked the coach if I could have a chance at fullback."

Things turned out pretty well for Olds. He led Sumner High School in Kansas City in rushing and was recruited by Nebraska as a halfback.

Olds, a 210-pound, 6-1 junior, saw limited action with the national champions last year. He carried the ball 13 times in recording 80 yards and wasn't thrown for a loss.

One aspect of the game Olds hasn't thought much about is his

passing. But after all, Schneiss hit Guy Ingles for a 17-yard scoring strike for Nebraska's first touchdown against Southern California last year.

"I guess I can throw the ball if I have to," grinned Olds, "but the only problem is that I have to wind up before I throw the ball."

...Bill Janssen was listed as the No. 1 defensive right tackle and John Dutton, who is recovering from an injury, was listed No. 2. Devaney reported that middle guard John Bell, a junior college transfer, may be out for the season with knee complications.

...Three Cornhuskers missed practice Monday because of the flu and several others are recovering from the bug. Missing practice were Glen Garson, Dan Anderson, and Don Westbrook.

...Linebacker Bruce Hauge was in pads for the first time in a week. John Hyland moved up to the No. 2 defensive end position.



Bill Olds . . . out for fullback position.

Ping pong bounces back

The Nebraska University table tennis club will hold an organizational meeting Tuesday from 7:30- 9:30 p.m. at the University High (Henzlik Hall) gym.

Recreational equipment can be checked out at the men's physical education building every day from 4:45-9:30 p.m. The check out window will be closed on Saturday's of home football games.

Irish edge past Big Red in AP pre-season poll

Notre Dame is No. 1...at least that's what a panel of 50 Associated Press sports writers believe in their pre-season poll.

The Fighting Irish received 885 points in the first poll to edge No. 2 Nebraska with 870 points. The Cornhuskers received 26 first place votes compared to 15 for Notre Dame, but the Irish recorded 25 second place votes while Nebraska received only 10.

AP POLL

1. Notre Dame (15)	10-1	885
2. Nebraska (26)	11-0-1	870
3. Texas (5)	10-1	662
4. Michigan (1)	9-1	593

5. So. Cal. (1)	6-4-1	525
6. Auburn (1)	9-2	434
7. Arkansas	9-2	332
8. Tennessee	11-1	323
9. LSU	9-3	302
10. Oklahoma	7-4	242
11. Ohio State	9-1	237
12. Penn State	7-3	190
13. Syracuse	6-4	165
14. Arizona State	11-0	154
15. UCLA	6-5	122
16. Alabama	6-5	88
17. Ga. Tech	8-3	62
18. Georgia	5-5	71
19. Stanford	8-3	62
20. Northwester (1)	6-4	58

Other receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Air Force, California, Colorado, Florida, Florida State, Houston, Illinois, Kansas State, Michigan State, Mississippi, Missouri, Oregon, Purdue, San Diego State, South Carolina, Texas Tech, Toledo, Wake Forest, Washington.

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