

Ducks unimpressed by Nebraska's rating

by John Anderson
University of Oregon

Anyone who gives Nebraska's defending national champions a better than 50 per cent chance of winning their season opener Saturday ought

to talk to the Oregon Ducks. The consensus of opinion at Eugene, Ore., is that it will take an outstanding effort for anyone to knock off the Ducks this year. That includes the team which is rated number one on several

preseason polls. Indeed, the Oregon team itself exudes a certain confidence when talk swings to the Cornhuskers.

"I don't think they're the number one team," said senior linebacker Tom Graham, a two-time all-coast selection and pre-season All-American. "The team that is number one has got to beat us. And they haven't done it yet."

"I LOOK AT the number one team as one that is overpowering," Graham continues. "And in that light, this is really a toss-up game. The team that makes the fewest mistakes will come out on top."

The Ducks can score on anyone. Their offensive potential is devastating. The club averaged over three touchdowns a game in 1970, and is missing only one cog (split end Bob Newland) from that unit.

Returning is tailback Bobby Moore, who already has scored more points in his career than any other Duck, and who is another pre-season All-American pick. Returning is quarterback Dan Fouts, who was chosen the outstanding sophomore signal-caller in the nation last year after breaking or tying every season passing and total offense record held by Bob Berry, now starting quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons.

Not returning is Newland, a second team Associated Press All-American last year. But in his place, the Webfoots have recruited Junior College All-American Larry Battle from Reedley Junior College in Easton, Calif. And all Battle did in 1970 was set a modern collegiate record by scoring 214 points in nine games, breaking the old mark of 166 held by O. J. Simpson. Battle caught 80 passes for 1,329 yards and 26 touchdowns, and also kicked 44 extra points and scored a pair of two-point conversions. He also punted for a 41.2 average. He'll handle all of the Ducks place-kicking.

BUT THE FACT IS, Oregon receiving corps are already so strong that Battle may not open against the Huskers. Flanker Leland Glass, who caught 45 passes for 659 yards

last year, and end Greg Specht, who hauled in 29 aerials a year ago, are listed ahead of Battle of the depth chart.

The rest of the offense is not weak, either. Fullback Jim Anderson averaged 5.6 yards per carry in 1970. And with one exception, the interior line is intact. Sophomore LeFrancis Arnold (-4, 246) will fill the hole left by Big Jack Stambaugh, now with the Cincinnati Bengals, at tight guard. The Oregon defense is the big question mark, but it certainly isn't a pushover. Nine lettermen-- eight of them starters a year ago--return, and will be given an immediate test against the Cornhuskers.

Graham (6-3, 238) holds down the middle linebacking position and is the key man. Fellow linebackers Mike McConnell and Steve Rennie are also very tough. And at defensive halfbacks, Bill Drake and Freddie Manuel were two of the most feared on the West Coast a year ago.

The front four doesn't lack in guts, but may be hurting slightly from the experience standpoint. End Steve Buettner, a two-year letterman, is the only returning starter. The other end will be manned by sophomore Mike Bolliger, with the tackles held down by sophomore Tim Guy (6-6, 229) and senior Rich Osterkamp (6-2, 246).

The Ducks have the Rose Bowl on their minds. But in the way stands a "killer schedule" that actually provides an exciting challenge to the Webfoots. After the Huskers, Oregon faces Utah at home, then spends three consecutive weekends on the road against Stanford (No. 19), Texas (No. 3) and Southern Cal (No. 4) before coming back to Eugene against Washington (No. 17).

How do the Webfoots feel about opening against Nebraska?

"We're really looking forward to it," says Fouts. "It's a great challenge to us."

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"It's not jus us having to play them," says Moore. "They gotta play us, too. It should be one heckuva game."

Only one thing is certain. Someone will be number one in the eyes of the Oregon Ducks Saturday night. And they don't expect it to be Nebraska.



Tom Graham



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Refs call delay of flag season

A lack of officials has forced a delay in the start of the flag football season

Only seven officials signed up at the meeting last week. Another meeting is scheduled for Monday at 6 p.m. at University High gymnasium.

The flag football season, scheduled to start Tuesday, will be delayed until enough officials are found.

