



Tagge..finds room for 25-yard gain.



Reaping the rewards...of last year's victory over Missouri, the Innocents Society claims the traditional victory bell in pre-game ceremonies.

## Big Red machine claims first Big Eight victim

by Jim Johnston

Columbia, Mo.—Halfback Mike Fink dressed quickly and wasn't available for a lengthy post-game discussion. Quarterback Chuck Roper laughed when he heard Missouri totaled only nine net yards rushing and then he left for a relative's wedding. Defensive end John Brown was one of the last Missouri players to leave the dressing room and he wasn't laughing.

The Missouri Tigers, off to their worst start since 1956, were a dejected group following a 36-0 loss to No. 1 ranked Nebraska here Saturday.

"WE COULDN'T RUN against Nebraska so we tried beating them with finesse,"

said Roper who may have lost his starting job to sophomore Ed Jondrow. "But we don't have any finesse so we couldn't do a thing."

"Did we really only have nine yards rushing?" laughed Roper.

Fink, Missouri's outspoken slotback who earlier in the week said Missouri could beat Nebraska, only said "I guess I was wrong" after the game.

**BROWN, THE TIGERS'** all-American candidate at defensive end, isn't the type to make predications or laugh at a 36-0 loss. The 230-pound senior quietly answered questions about Nebraska's offensive attack that accumulated 603 yards total offense.

"Their pass protection is incredible," said Brown. "Nebraska has so much depth on pass protection. If you break loose from one guy you hit another just as tough."

Brown spent most of his time Saturday stopping Nebraska's wide running game. Brown pressured Nebraska fullback Bill Olds and prevented quarterback Jerry Tagge from pitching to Olds for the outside attack.

**THIS GAVE** Tagge his running option. And the senior from Green Bay, Wis., responded with 85 yards rushing.

"We knew how Nebraska's offense executed," said Brown. "It was my job to stop the pitch and I was satisfied with

the job I did. But we felt if we stopped Nebraska's pitch it might break up the momentum in their backfield."

Brown, however, learned different.

"Tagge is a much better quarterback than he was his sophomore year," said Brown, who has given Tagge problems the last two years. "Nothing shakes him anymore. When we stopped the outside game, Tagge took advantage of his running space."

**TAGGE** combined his 85 yards rushing with 234 yards through the air to break his own Nebraska single game total offense record. His 319 yards was 18 yards more than his 1969 record set against Minnesota.

Tagge, who broke loose for runs of 25, 35 and 16 yards, was particularly happy to set the record against Missouri.

"Missouri has really given me problems the last two years," said Tagge. "They didn't do anything different on

defense this year, and I didn't think my keeping on the option would work that good."

**BUT TAGGE** explained that the Missouri pass defenders went to single coverage and so the Nebraska receivers went deep leaving the defensive end alone to watch Olds and Tagge.

"The pitch is designed to put pressure on the defensive end," explained Tagge. "When he had to watch both of us it gave me an open opportunity. We've run this offense long enough that things are more automatic to me and it was easier to find the open space this time."

Nebraska went scoreless in the first quarter for the first time this season. The Cornhuskers penetrated inside the Missouri 20-yard-line twice in the initial period, but couldn't reach the endzone.

"IT WAS discouraging not to score early," said Tagge, "but we never quit. We knew we could come back strong and score."



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