

Huskers out to break Stillwater jinx

Bob Devaney hopes his 1971 football team doesn't follow Nebraska's tradition at Stillwater, Okla. It's not that Devaney's teams haven't been able to win at Stillwater—a Devaney coached team has never lost to Oklahoma State—it's just that the games at Lewis Stadium in Stillwater haven't been what Devaney terms a good game.

"My idea of a good game is when you're leading 40-0 at halftime and the other team's star quarterback is ineligible," says Devaney.

SO IF YOU'RE speaking in those terms, Nebraska hasn't played a "good game" at Stillwater since Devaney arrived at Nebraska. The biggest margin of victory for a Devaney-coached team at Stillwater is four points.

In 1963 the year Nebraska recorded a 10-1 record and Oklahoma State didn't win a Big Eight game—the Cornhuskers built a 20-0 lead before escaping with a 20-16 win.

In 1965—when Nebraska was undefeated in conference play—Cowboy fullback Walt Garrison was roaming at the Husker five-yard line when

time expired and Nebraska left with a 21-7 win.

IN 1968—THE last time the two teams played at Stillwater—an ill-fated two-point try by the Cowboys on an extra point allowed the Cornhuskers to record a 21-20 win.

"I don't know why we've had problems at Stillwater," says Devaney. "We've taken some pretty good teams down there and had to fight like hell to stay alive."

Saturday Devaney takes possibly his best team ever to Stillwater for a 1:30 p.m. date with the Cowboys. There's not a player on the Nebraska team that has ever played at Lewis Stadium since the last two games have been at Nebraska.

"I HOPE THE jinx doesn't affect this team," says Devaney. "At least they shouldn't be affected by a tradition that they've helped make."

Oklahoma State, 1-0 in Big Eight play, features possibly its best team in several years. The Cowboys only loss this season was a 31-10 decision to Arkansas, the team that beat Texas 31-7 last weekend.

The Cowboys stand 3-1-

on the season following a 37-16 win over Missouri. The tie was against Texas Christian.

WHEN THE Cornhuskers prepared for Oklahoma State last year, it was pass-minded quarterback Tony Pounds that received most of the attention. This year, however, sophomore Brent Blackman won the starting job from Pounds.

"Blackman is a more dangerous runner," said Devaney. "He's been a real help to their offense."

Both quarterbacks have played in each of Oklahoma State's first five games, but Blackman should get the call against the Huskers.

THE COWBOYS' game breaker is Dick Graham. Graham scored three touchdowns against Nebraska last year, including a 98-yard kickoff return.

The 5-9 flanker, who does everything except sell popcorn at the football games, has caught 21 passes for 389 yards this season.

Bobby Cole, the Cowboys' leading rusher last year, will be at tailback. Junior Tommy Woods, a transfer from Kansas, will be the starting fullback.

NEBRASKA IS ONE of the

few Big Eight teams to survive the injury bug. With the exception of linebacker Bill Sloey, the Huskers will start

the same lineup against Oklahoma State as they did against Oregon six weeks ago.



Saturday's forecast

NEBRASKA 35, Oklahoma State 7. It will take more than Lewis Stadium for the Cowboys to come close to Nebraska this year.

OKLAHOMA 49, Kansas State 7. The Sooners will continue to gain ground in the polls with scores like this.

IOWA STATE 28, Kansas 14. That pride Iowa State coach Johnny Majors is talking about is finally paying dividends.

COLORADO 35, Missouri 7. There shouldn't be a close game in the Big Eight this weekend.

After hitting all four Big Eight games correctly last week, that brings the yearly total to 32-41 for 78 percent.

Soph QB

There's a growing list of outstanding sophomore quarterbacks in the Big Eight Conference this year.

At two Big Eight schools—Kansas and Oklahoma State—sophomores have beaten out veterans for the starting quarterback job. A sophomore is challenging a veteran for the No. 1 signal-calling spot at Missouri and a sophomore has quarterbacked Colorado to its impressive start.

Not to forget, of course, Nebraska's David Humm who will probably be considered a red-shirt for the rest of the season.

The most impressive sophomore has been Colorado's Ken Johnson. Johnson, a red-shirt last year, has completed 46-102 passes for 803 yards and five touchdowns this year. He leads the Big Eight in total offense with a 204-yard average.

Oklahoma State sophomore Brent Blackman, who has taken over for veteran Tony Pounds, has completed 27 of 63 passes for 347 yards. He could develop into one of the better running quarterbacks in the conference.

Kansas' David Jaynes, although experiencing a long day against Nebraska last weekend, is also gaining respect. He won the starting job from veteran Dan Heck and led the Jayhawks to a win over Kansas State.

Missouri's Ed Johndrow, who didn't see action until the game against Nebraska, relieved veteran Chuck Roper and started to move the Tigers' stale offense. The Cornhusker defenders were actually more impressed with Johndrow's ability than Roper.

Nebraska records

Nebraska's 1971 Cornhuskers continue to put their names in the Big Red record book.

1-back Jeff Kinney became the No. 3 rusher in Nebraska history with his 104 yards against Kansas. Kinney now has 1,770 yards in his career and needs 427 more to pass all-time leader Bobby Reynolds. Kinney can reach that goal by averaging 61 yards the rest of the season.

Johnny Rodgers has a career total of 1,190 receiving yards, just 44 yards shy of the Nebraska record held by Guy Ingles. Johnny's two touchdowns against Kansas gives him 120 career points, fifth best in Cornhusker history.

Quarterback Jerry Tagge's 4,443 total offense mark is fourth best in Big Eight history and is only 280 yards shy of Bob Warmack's No. 3 mark of 4,713.

Big Eight competition moves closer to Nebraska-Oklahoma showdown

Before Nebraska and Oklahoma make final plans for a 1-2 showdown in Norman Thanksgiving Day, the two teams will have to survive the next four Saturdays. And survival in the Big Eight Conference is definitely limited to the fittest.

The Sooners survived their first Big Eight test last weekend with a 45-17 win over Colorado. As in their first four wins, the Sooners used their devastating ground attack against the Buffalos.

OKLAHOMA'S DATE with Kansas State Saturday should be an interesting test for the Sooners' running game. Kansas State, although sporting an 0-3 Big Eight record, is giving up just 95 yards rushing per game. The Wildcats' pass defense, however, is the conference's worst with a 186-yard average.

Will the Sooners try to crack the K-State rushing defense with their powerful Wishbone-T? Or will Oklahoma quarterback Jack Mildren, who has thrown only 17 passes in the first five games, try his fortunes against the leaky K-State defensive secondary?

Kansas State coach Vince Gibson has more than the Oklahoma Wishbone-T to worry about this week. His defensive line is plagued with injuries and the Wildcat players submitted a list of grievances earlier in the week.

Husker runners host Drake

Nebraska's Cross Country team, 2-1 in dual competition, will host Drake Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Pioneer Park.

The Cornhuskers have won their last two outings since dropping their opening dual at Kansas State. The Huskers defeated Missouri and then took a 19-43 win over Iowa State in Lincoln last weekend.

Things have turned blue in purple Manhattan. And they will probably turn a deeper shade of blue after Oklahoma shows its offense.

COLORADO TRIES to regroup after its lopsided loss to the Sooners. The Buffalos entertain Missouri at Boulder, Colo. Saturday and then travel to Lincoln for a nationally televised game against the Cornhuskers Oct. 30.

For the first game this season, the Buffs didn't receive any serious injuries last week. Defensive end Herb Orvis is healthy and will be in good condition for the Tigers.

Missouri is still having problems getting its offense going. The Tigers, winless in Big Eight play, lost a 37-16 decision to Oklahoma State last weekend.

The Tigers remain in last place in rushing offense in the conference with a 100-yard average.

IF THE BUFFALOS survive the natural let-down feeling after their loss of the season, things could be tight at

Nebraska's Memorial Stadium next week.

Kansas and Iowa State, each bidding for an upper division finish in the conference, meet Saturday at Ames, Iowa. Both teams stand 1-1 in league play.

This could turn into the best contested game in the conference this weekend. Iowa State put on a good show two weeks ago before losing to Colorado and then staged an impressive 24-0 win over Kansas State. Kansas, after an opening win against K-State, lost 55-0 to Nebraska last weekend.

BOTH TEAMS are troubled with injuries this week. Iowa State listed 12 players with injuries Monday and Kansas had eight. The Cyclones will definitely be without linebacker Bob Banger and safety Brian Cannon. They Jayhawkers will miss No. 1 rusher Delvin Williams and flanker Lucius Turner who were injured against Nebraska.

Nebraska's date at Oklahoma State rounds out the Big Eight slate.

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