

# Huskers get first real test against Colorado

How good is Nebraska's football team?

Bob Devaney claims he doesn't know. The Associated Press and United Press International polls say it's the best college football team in the nation, but they're only playing a guessing game.

The reason for the uncertainty is because Nebraska hasn't played a respectable opponent yet this season. The Cornhuskers haven't been tested.

Oregon, Nebraska's opening opponent, was expected to provide the Cornhuskers with one of their toughest opening games in history. But with the ease the Cornhuskers defeated the Ducks (34-7), it appears that the Pacific Eight team was over-rated at the start of the season.

The rest of Nebraska's non-conference schedule didn't supply a true test, either. The Huskers' first three Big Eight games have also been mismatches. Nebraska has out-scored its first seven opponents, 277-40.

## Top ten team

But those days of saying Nebraska hasn't played a respectable opponent are over. Colorado, Nebraska's foe on national television Saturday, has gained much respect after its wins over LSU and Ohio State. The Buffaloes are rated ninth in the nation.

"This game will not only give us an indication of how good we are, but also how good Colorado really is," said Husker head coach Bob Devaney. "This is definitely the best team we've faced all season."

Now the question. How will the Huskers react to playing their first top-rated team? Will the pressure of Nebraska's 26-game unbeaten string affect the Huskers?

Will Grimsley, who predicts games for the Associated Press, says it's time for an upset. He tabbed Colorado a 31-28 winner, saying "The Cornhuskers' string and mounting pressure grow taunt."

But anybody who has followed the Huskers closely knows they are not the type of team to choke. Although Nebraska's strength hasn't been tested yet this year, the Huskers ability to play under pressure has been given an honest test.

At Missouri and Oklahoma State, the Nebraska offense failed to move early in the game much to the approval of Tiger and Cowboy fans. The pressure was on Nebraska. The Huskers had to prove themselves.

And in both cases Nebraska did prove itself. The Huskers didn't let the pressure get to them. There's no reason to think the pressure situation will be any different Saturday.

## Freshmen put win streak on line Friday afternoon

by Dave McBride

Nebraska's freshman football team puts a seven-game winning streak on the line at 1:30 p.m. Friday when they meet the Wichita State frosh in Memorial Stadium.

Although freshman coach Jim Ross said he was pleased with the way his club came from behind in the fourth quarter for their win at Missouri three weeks ago, he expressed concern with the defensive showing of the team.

"We were ahead 18-0 at the half so we shouldn't have had to come back," Ross said. "The defense has to improve or we're not going to beat any of the other teams we're going to play."

Looking ahead to Wichita State, Ross said, "Although they haven't won a game they've played everybody fairly tough. Their defense has looked pretty good, but they have had some trouble on offense. We hope they continue to have it."

Frosh quarterback Terry Luck, a 6-3, 208-pounder from Fayetteville, N.C., said he was also impressed by Wichita State from watching their scouting films.

"We saw them on film against Houston and I think they've got a real good defense," Luck said. "They should put our offense to the test."

Luck connected on 12 of 20 passes for 227 yards and 3 touchdowns against the Tiger frosh. He scored another touchdown on a two-yard plunge.

"I made some mistakes I shouldn't have, but I was pretty satisfied with my personal performance and with the team's performance," Luck said.

Luck added that Missouri frosh were "the hardest hitting bunch I've ever played against."

Husker Dave Redding, a 6-1, 192-pound defensive end from North Platte, noted that Wichita State will have an edge in experience on the Huskers with four games already behind them.

"Before the Missouri game, we were all totally unaware of what it was going to be like," Redding said. "We didn't know what to expect. We were just like a bunch of high school kids traveling out of state to play another state, and it was kind of hard to adjust to."

Nebraska, like its Big 8 counterparts, is limited by a conference rule restricting them to four freshman games each year. Wichita State plays a six-game schedule.

Nebraska had originally been scheduled to play McCook last Friday, but when the school dropped football, rearranging of the Husker slate left two big practice gaps, according to Ross.

He explained that practice time before the first game is precious. Once the season is under way, a two-week practice period between games is ideal instead of the three week period the team has had since the Missouri game.

The Huskers meet Iowa State next Friday in Lincoln before closing their season in Manhattan on Nov. 12.



## Saturday's forecast

NEBRASKA 35, Colorado 10...Sorry, ABC, It just won't be any closer than this.

OKLAHOMA 56, Iowa State 21...The Sooner offense continues to score, but their defense also continues to give up big points.

KANSAS STATE 21, Kansas 14...The Cowboys are an improved football team. Nebraska discovered that last Saturday.

MISOURI 7, Kansas State 21...The Wildcats win the battle of the Big Eight's winless teams.

After the second straight week of hitting all four Big Eight games, that brings the yearly total to 36-45 for 80 per cent.

## Listen to Eddie

One of the first questions Colorado coach Eddie Crowder will be asked after Saturday's game will be: "How would you compare Nebraska and Oklahoma?" The Buffs are the first common opponent for the nation's No. 1 and No. 2 rated teams.

Pay special attention to Crowder's comment. He

has a way of looking into the future. After the Colorado-Nebraska game last year, for example, Crowder was asked to comment on the Cornhuskers.

"Nebraska is playing like they know something good is going to happen to them," said Crowder. "They're confident. They just know something good is going to happen."

So what happens? Top-rated Texas and Ohio State lose on New Years Day and Nebraska wins a national championship.

While on the subject of comparing Nebraska and Oklahoma, did you notice this week's *Sports Illustrated*? The Sooners are No. 1.

## Any surprises?

In 1969, Colorado surprised Nebraska with a reverse play that went for a touchdown. Last year, the Buffs put split end Cliff Branch at wingback. Do the Buffs have any surprises this year?

Don't be surprised if you see Branch at a wingback again Saturday. Colorado enjoys turning the 9.2 speedster loose against the Huskers.

"We're expecting almost anything," said Nebraska defensive line coach Monte Kiffin. "In 1969 we stopped the pitch and they hurt us with reverses. Last year we stopped their inside game and they hurt us with the pitch. This year we're going to stop the fullback, quarterback and the pitch."

Kiffin, incidentally, cracked a smile after that statement.

## Alpha Tau Omega, Pro Students meet in Orange Bushel Bowl

Alpha Tau Omega and the Pro Students will meet Saturday morning in the First Annual Orange Bushel Bowl for the all-university intramural flag football championship.

The ATO's defeated Triangle, 27-19, and Pro Students edged Abel VI, 13-6, in Thursday night action to gain the all-university finals, but the biggest enemy of all four teams was the weather.

Wednesday night's rain turned three of Vine Street's four fields into brown soup and made solid footing impossible.

Temperatures in the 43 degree range caused dozens of passes to be dropped, and a strong wind played havoc with

the passing games of all four teams.

Despite the elements, ATO, champions of the fraternity B division, managed a reasonably consistent attack in leading Triangle the fraternity A champs, throughout the game.

The ATO's jumped to an 8-0 lead in the first quarter, only to have Triangle draw within one point on the first play of the second stanza. Triangle was within one point later at 14-13 and within two at 21-19 before a late fourth quarter ATO touchdown iced the game.

Pro Students and Abel VI, champs of the independent and dorm divisions, respectively, might just as well have played

on an ice rink for as good as the footing was on their field.

The Pro Students' usually potent offense had trouble sustaining a drive against the Abel defense and the weather. The Pro Students tallied a second half touchdown to break a 6-6 halftime tie, and Abel's comeback efforts were repeatedly stalled because of poor footing and pass interceptions.

Saturday's title game, starting at 10 a.m. at the Vine Street fields, will match the high-scoring offense of the Pro Students against a highly effective ATO defensive unit.

The winner will receive a bushel of oranges in addition to the all-university trophy.

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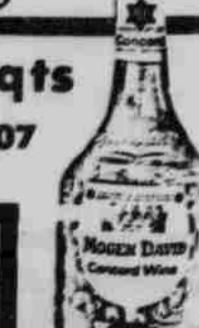
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