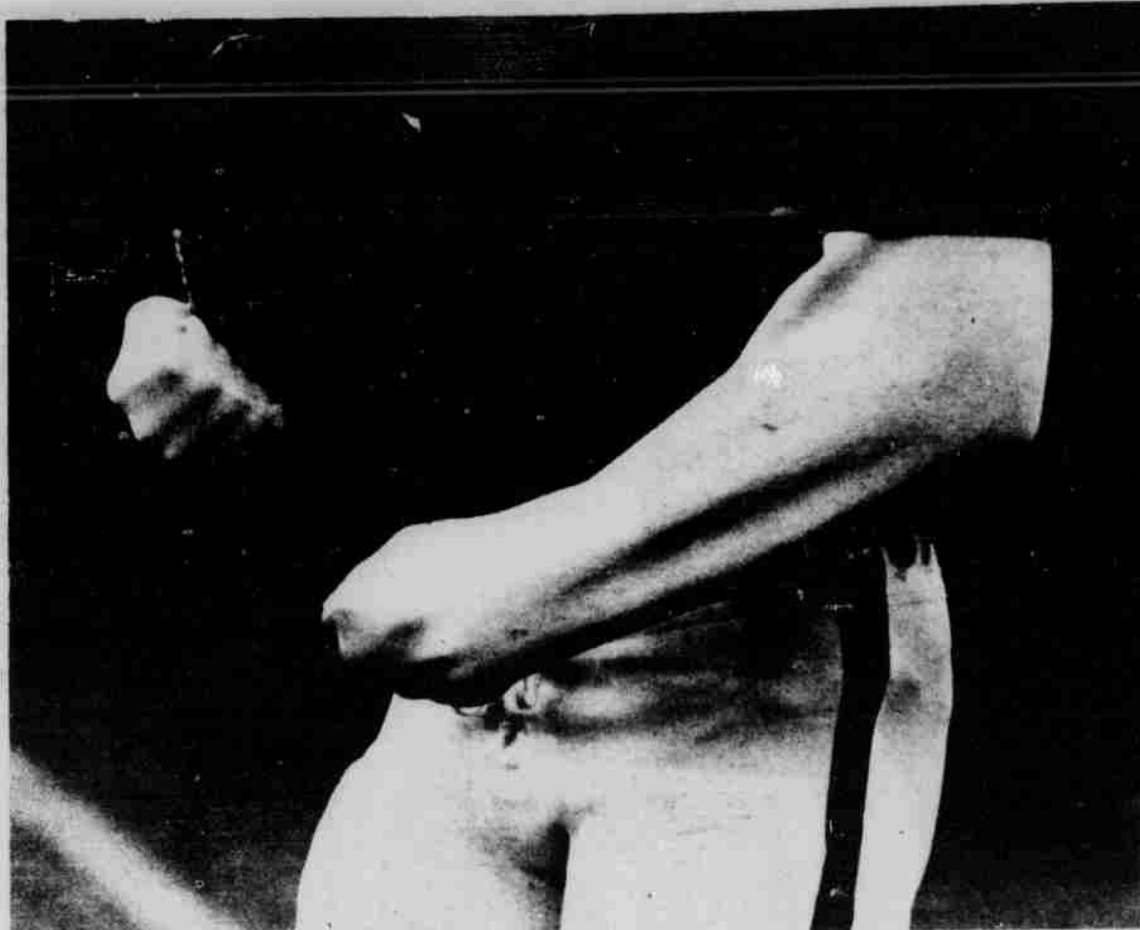


# One cold November day

The drop in temperature hasn't slowed the Cornhuskers' workouts. One player warms his hand with his shirt while Willie Harper (far right) wears a stocking hat.



## Huskers drill inside, stress ball control

by Jim Johnston

Oklahoma's offense is quick. The Sooners can explode for three touchdowns in five minutes.

Nebraska doesn't operate the same way. The Cornhuskers grind out their touchdowns yards at a time.

The reason Nebraska has had success with this type of offense is because of ball control. . . something coach Bob Devaney says must continue if the Huskers are to beat Oklahoma Thanksgiving Day.

"We have to take advantage of most of our possessions," said Devaney. "We have to control the football and can't make any offensive mistakes."

Devaney credited the simplicity of Nebraska's offense and the experience of the ball carriers for the success of the Huskers' ball control.

"We've run the same offense consistently and the players know what they're doing," said Devaney. "There's not much ball handling and we haven't had many mistakes in the offensive line."

"Players like Jeff Kinney, Jerry Tagge and Gary Dixon are experienced players and they just haven't fumbled too much."

But Devaney said he didn't like to discuss the success of Nebraska's ball control, yet.

"Ball control will be an important part of the game for us," said Devaney, "but I don't like to talk about that yet. The season isn't over. I don't want us going down there and kicking the ball all over hell."

Oklahoma, on the other hand, hasn't been very successful as an error-free offense.

The Sooners have made 38 fumbles this season and are in a position to set a new NCAA fumble record. But fumbles haven't exactly hurt Oklahoma's point production because the Sooners are capable of exploding for the big play at anytime.

Although Nebraska's offense is explosive—don't forget that

Jerry Tagge to Johnny Rodgers combination—the Huskers have depended upon the ground-it-out attack. There's no reason to think things will change Thanksgiving Day.

Nebraska can't afford offensive turnovers and errors against Oklahoma.

The Cornhuskers, forced to move part of Thursday's drills inside because of the cold temperatures, appear to be in better physical condition than at the beginning of the week.

Slotback Johnny Rodgers, who missed the first two drills this week with a cold, returned to practice Thursday. Defensive end Willie Harper worked out in sweat clothes.

Offensive tackle Carl Johnson, however, continues to look doubtful for the Oklahoma game. He injured his knee against Kansas State and hasn't shown much improvement this week.

## Cornhuskers off this weekend

Nebraskans can't get too excited about this weekend's Big Eight football schedule.

Kansas State and Colorado play non-conference opponents. Oklahoma State and Iowa State are battling for fourth place and Kansas meets Missouri in the "donkey bowl" to try to avoid the conference basement.

But there's still plenty of outside interest in this week's schedule. Should Iowa State defeat Oklahoma State, there's a likely Sun Bowl invitation awaiting the Cyclones. After all, the Sun Bowl didn't send a representative to the Nebraska-Iowa State game to watch the Cornhuskers.

If Colorado gets by Air Force, the AstroBluebonnet Bowl will probably extend a bid to the Buffs. That could mean four Big Eight teams in bowls since Nebraska and Oklahoma are naturals for bowl bids.

But poor Missouri and Kansas. There won't be any bowl scouts at Lawrence, Kan., to watch the battle for last place.

Missouri, winless in Big Eight play, can tie for last with Kansas if the Tigers win Saturday. The Jayhawks only league win was against Kansas State in the conference opener.

Kansas State, which scored more points against Nebraska (17) than any other team this year, visits Missouri Valley Conference champion Memphis State Saturday. Memphis State has landed a spot in the Pasadena Bowl.

Iowa State, 3-3 in Big Eight play, is favored to defeat

Oklahoma State and claim its first upper division finish since 1965. Should the Cowboys win, however, the two teams would tie for fourth.

If Colorado hopes for an AstroBluebonnet bowl date with possibly Houston, the Buffs will have to handle Air Force at Boulder Saturday.

Air Force stands 6-3 on the season while Colorado owns an 8-2 mark and has guaranteed itself a third place finish in the Big Eight.

### SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

UMHE—333 North 14th

Sunday Breakfast 10:00 a.m.  
Community Meeting Program 10:30 a.m.

Methodist Student Chapel  
640 No. 16th

Worship 9:30  
10:30  
11:30

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