

Unpublicized co-captains hit limelight

by Jim Johnston

Bill Janssen and Doug Dumler have trouble placing themselves in the "big time athlete" category.

"When I first got to Nebraska I didn't expect to be a starter," Dumler admitted.

"My goal was to start for two years," Janssen said, "but I didn't expect everything I've received."

Although facing setbacks early in their college careers, both Dumler and Janssen surpassed their goals. Despite playing for the national champion Huskers, the two linemen avoided the highly publicized role. Those days of walking around campus without being noticed are over, however.

Co-captains

Dumler and Janssen left Tuesday's team meeting the newly-elected co-captains of Nebraska's football team. Neither expected the honor. Both feel uncomfortable about public relations work required by the positions.

During his freshman year at Nebraska, Janssen started at defensive tackle with Larry Jacobson. He was switched to defensive end the following spring and started one game in that position his sophomore year. But by the time Nebraska played in the Sun Bowl, Janssen was playing offensive guard.

Adding to Janssen's confusion and doubt that he would find a regular place in Nebraska's lineup, he was switched to center the following spring. He went into the fall battling for the starting center position. During the final scrimmage of fall camp, Janssen broke his arm and sat out the entire season as a red-shirt.

Broken arm

"The coaches told me if I had a good scrimmage I would start the first game," remembers Janssen. "I felt sick about the broken arm and I never did feel a part of Nebraska's first national championship."

But Janssen wasn't easily discouraged. He rarely missed practice and was constantly running up and down stadium steps to keep his legs in shape.

The following spring, Janssen earned a starting position at defensive tackle over Rich Glover. That's when Glover was switched to middle guard.

Janssen's starting position was never in danger last year, although he was often replaced by John Dutton in passing situations.

"John was a much better pass rusher," says Janssen. "It took me a while to learn how to get around people."

Dumler also sat out a season as a red-shirt. After playing tight end his freshman year, Dumler was switched to offensive tackle in the spring. He was red-shirted the following season, playing tackle for the scout squad.

Scrimmage solves few questions

Nebraska football coach Bob Devaney didn't find the answer to the backup I-back dilemma during Saturday's final scrimmage prior to the season opener at UCLA.

Gary Dixon, who backed up Jeff Kinney last season, owns the starting position. But three others are battling for the backup spot.

Junior Dave Goeller from Pilger gained 46 yards rushing in Saturday's scrimmage and appears to be the leading candidate. Sophomores Don Westbrook and Jeff Moran suffered ankle injuries early in the scrimmage and saw limited action.

"I wasn't that depressed," says Dumler. "I figured it was for my own advantage to learn the position."

But Dumler never had an opportunity to use his offensive tackle techniques. During the spring, offensive line coach Carl Selmer approached Dumler at practice.

"Have you ever snapped a football before?" Selmer asked.

Dumler's advancement to No. 1 center wasn't automatic.

New world

"I had to start from the beginning," remembers Dumler. "It was a whole new world snapping the ball and then trying to get a block."

Dumler didn't earn the start position until a week before the 1970 season when Janssen broke his arm. And even when he started, he was replaced on punts and field goal attempts because he had problems snapping the ball.

"It got pretty bad for a while," says Dumler. "Everybody knew I had problems snapping the ball and I felt the whole state was watching me when I tried a snap—even in practice."

Dumler soon took over all of the center position and made honorable mention all Big Eight his sophomore year.

Dumler and Janssen have become close friends since their sophomore year. They lived on the same floor at Harper Hall during the 1970 season and were next-door neighbors at Cather Hall the following year. While the two were battling for No. 1 center, Dumler was asked to be best man at Janssen's wedding.

Weird trip

"It's been a long weird trip from high school to where I am now," says Dumler. "I've never really felt a lot of pressure, even in big games. There's always been seniors there to provide the encouragement. Now I find myself in that position."

"I don't really know what to expect. I don't worry about our team being too satisfied. I can't believe the players don't think a national championship is that big a deal anymore. And I don't think we'll choke because of the pressure."

"We kind of thrive on pressure. Everybody enjoys having people bother them for an autograph. Everybody is gunning for us and we've always kind of dug it."

Janssen doesn't worry about the attitude of defensive players, either.

"Most teams we play are beat before they get on the field," explains Janssen. "I think Oklahoma is the only team that seriously stayed in there and thought they could beat us. All teams are fired up before the game, but if we drop them behind the line a few times they just die."

Couldn't lose

"We felt we just couldn't lose. Even during the final drive against Oklahoma we knew we just couldn't lose."

Janssen, however, is one of few present Nebraska players who knows what it's like to lose a college football game.

"I was on the 1969 team that lost to Southern California and Missouri," Janssen said. "It's just no fun. I don't care to be a loser again."

So how do Dumler and Janssen cope with the problem if Nebraska should lose a game this year? How do you get the players "up" for the rest of the season?

"I don't know," Janssen replied. "We haven't thought much about losing."



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Dumler . . . thrives on pressure

Protest . . .

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the content, Beecher's administration had a hand in some changes made in the original material and reviewed the booklet before it was printed.

Harper said funds for the booklet came from money allocated before Beecher took office, but was finished after the administrative changeovers.

Becker said Beecher had looked at the written material before it was finished and had suggested some additions.

Becker said the caricature in question was not the one originally drawn for the booklet.

After checking with several blacks, it was decided the original caricature might be offensive, so it was modified according to their suggestions, Becker said.

To his knowledge, Becker said, the final drawing was not reviewed.