

Huskers still running for No. 1

by Jim Johnston

A smirk rushed across Rich Glover's face after reading the sports page Tuesday morning.

"So Oklahoma's No. 1," the Nebraska middle guard said. "I hope they stay there for six or seven more weeks."

Glover obviously was looking forward to Nebraska's Thanksgiving Day date with the Sooners. He was looking for another shot at No. 1. And the Cornhuskers, rated ninth and 10th in this week's wire service polls, still are in contention.

"So what if we lost," Glover said in reference to Saturday's 20-17 upset at UCLA. "We just have to start all over. We know we're a better team than UCLA, but we didn't get the job done. Now we have to do the job. We have to show people we deserve to be No. 1 again."

Glover's attitude brings back memories of the 1970 football season when the

Cornhuskers battled from eighth in college pre-season polls to the No. 1 ranking at the end of the season.

"In a way it's more exciting," Glover said. "In 1970 we would always listen to scores in the locker room after the game to see how teams ahead of us did. Last year we just had to worry about ourselves."

"Sure we'd rather be No. 1 now. But we have to think like we did in 1970. The only important poll is the one at the end of the season."

The 1971 campaign, when the Cornhuskers went untested except for the Oklahoma game, wasn't so exciting as 1970. That "we have to show we're better than they are" attitude didn't exist most of last year. Nebraska usually was favored by three or four touchdowns.

Perhaps that is what went wrong in Los Angeles Saturday. Perhaps an incentive

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factor was lacking.

"We felt we were ready for UCLA, but I guess we weren't," Glover said. "We went into the game pretty cocky. Losing probably did us some good."

Glover said everybody was more serious at practice this week.

"After we first lost we felt like we were out of it," Glover admitted. "But now that we're still in the top ten, we figure we've got a good shot at No. 1. This week we're going for a shutout to let people know we're still there."

A shutout against Texas A & M Saturday definitely would be an indication that the Black Shirts are "still there." Like UCLA, the Aggies run out of the Wishbone-T. And if anyone should know how to run the Wishbone, it should be Texas A & M.

New Aggie coach Emory Bellard was the offensive backfield coach at Texas and is the inventor of the Wishbone offense.

"Texas A & M runs the Wishbone as good or better than UCLA," said Monte Kiffin, Husker defensive line coach. "We feel UCLA played an exceptional game offensively and ran the Wishbone as well as could be expected early in the season."

Kiffin, however, does not subscribe to the theory that the Wishbone cannot be stopped if run with perfect execution.

"There's no offensive formation that can't be stopped," Kiffin said. "It's still a matter of fundamentals. You have to be in the right place and be able to make the tackle."

Kiffin admits he was disappointed in

