

## Blahak—no need for excuses

by Jim Johnston

Joe Blahak has been answering the same two questions for the past two weeks.

How did UCLA split end Brad Lyman burn you for a 46-yard touchdown pass? Why didn't you play tighter on Texas A & M split end Richard Osborne and take away that short pass?

Blahak, Nebraska's left defensive cornerback, offers no excuses for the UCLA game. "That play was just a part of the total happening to us in Los Angeles," he said. "I had the guy covered, but I missed the ball."

There is no need for Blahak to make excuses about letting Osborne catch five passes last Saturday. In fact, you might say it was in the Nebraska game plan.

Against Wishbone teams—like Texas A & M—the Nebraska coaches use the philosophy that the four or five-yard pass isn't going to beat you. A defensive back can't gamble on a short pass and get setup for the long bomb.

But that doesn't do much for a defensive back's ego. And it doesn't do much for his publicity when, like Blahak, he's been touted as an all-American candidate.

But Joe Blahak is finally wearing a smile. For the first time this season Nebraska will not be playing a Wishbone team when the Cornhuskers play Army Saturday on regional television.

That means the defensive secondary can play a zone instead of man-for-man coverage. That also means the defensive backs can help to stop those end sweeps, instead of standing helplessly in the background.

"It's a great feeling to play a team that doesn't run the Wishbone," Blahak said. "I always felt so isolated from the rest of our defense against Wishbone teams. It's such a helpless feeling on those sweeps. Now the defensive backs can feel more a part of the team."

But Army's standard offensive attack could create some problems for the Cornhuskers' young defensive secondary. Blahak, safety George Kyros and right cornerback Randy Borg have not worked together as a unit in a game situation against any offense except a Wishbone.

"We may take awhile to get everything straight," Blahak said, "but I'm sure our defensive secondary can adjust back to zone coverage. In the Wishbone, when we played man-for-man, the receiver always has an advantage over you. But against a team like Army

you always have the safety to help you out."

Army hasn't played a game yet this season. The Nebraska coaches can go only from last year's films for a scouting report. But one thing appears certain—Army will put the football in the air. The Cadets simply don't have the talent to run against Nebraska.

Army's offensive attack is headed by junior quarterback Kingsley Fink. Fink, who passed for just under 800 yards last fall, earned the starting quarterback job midway through the season and directed the Cadets to wins in four of the last five games, including a dramatic 24-23 win over Navy in last year's Philadelphia grand finale.

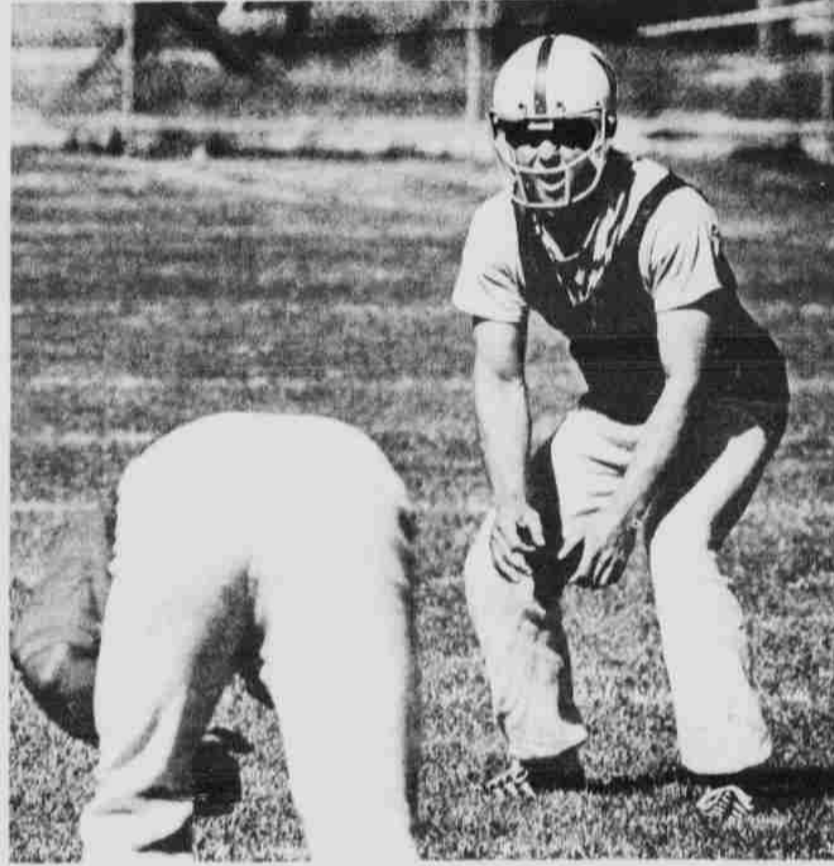
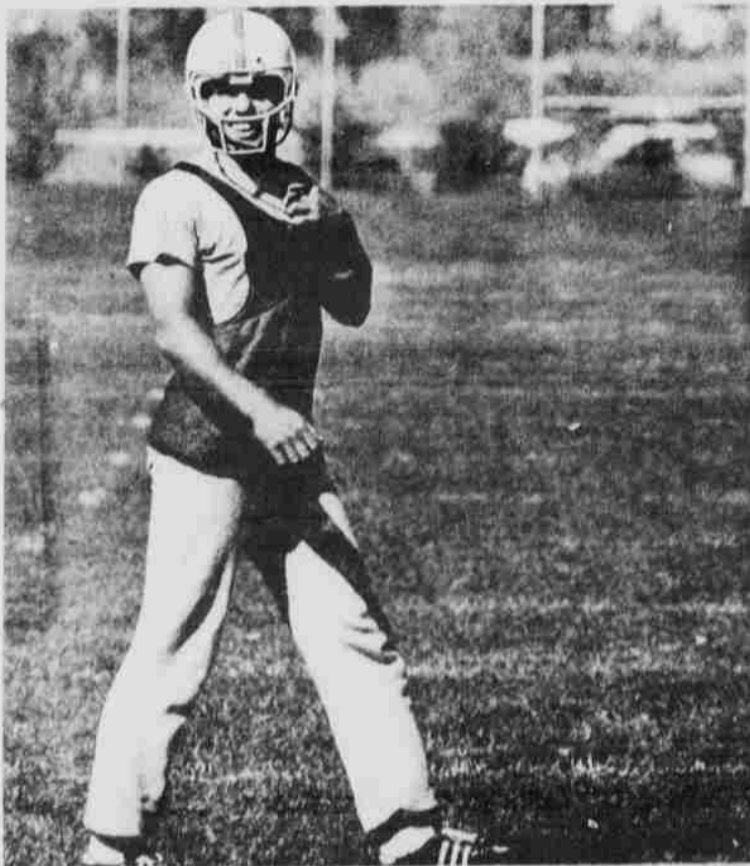
Fink's leading receivers are split-end Mike Gaines and flanker Bob Hines.

Bruce Simpson returns to his left halfback slot and is counted as the Cadets' leading runner. Simpson rushed for 399 yards in 108 carries last fall.

The success of Army's offense, however, revolved around Fink. He is not regarded as a running threat, but is a tough quarterback to defend against because he can throw on the run.

But most of the experts don't give Army much of a chance against the Huskers Saturday. True, Army is always tough to beat in Michie Stadium. And true, a service academy team is always spirited.

But it is also true that the Cornhuskers have the Cadets outmanned at nearly every position.



photos by Bill Ganzel

Jim Johnston

## Kinney may start in Chiefs' backfield

Don't be surprised to see former Nebraska I-back Jeff Kinney in the starting backfield for the Kansas City Chiefs when they meet New Orleans in next week's Monday Night Football game on ABC t.v.

Kinney, in a telephone conversation this week, told Nebraska co-captain Bill Janssen that he will probably start against the Saints.

Kinney played the final six minutes in a game last Sunday which the Chiefs lost to Miami.

\*\*\*

There will be more than a small contingent of Nebraska fans from Jersey City at the Nebraska-Army game Saturday.

Nebraska's Rich Glover, who went to high school in Jersey City, presented Nebraska ticket manager Jim Pittinger with a list of 87 names of friends and relatives who wanted tickets for the game. The request was fulfilled.

Glover also said that several other people have decided to charter busses from Jersey City to watch the game. The game is sold out, but Glover's friends are hoping to buy tickets outside the stadium.

Jersey City is about a two or three hour drive from West Point. It will be the first time Glover's high school coach has seen the Nebraska all-American play college football.

\*\*\*

From all indications, recreation and intramural programs at the University of Nebraska will continue to grow during the 1972-73 school year.

Entries for a tennis tournament have increased by

more than 60 students. A horseshoe tournament has attracted more than 70 students this year compared to 40 a year ago.

The big increase in flag football teams was noted last year. More than 130 teams competed in the flag football program in 1971 compared to just 95 the previous year. The program has remained at the 130 level again this year. Co-rec flag football has attracted 55 teams this year, compared to 30 a year ago.

The expansion of outdoor facilities at UNL and the interest in students expressed by the Recreation and Intramurals Department can be credited for the success of getting students involved in recreational programs.

But there is a stumbling block. There can be no increase in indoor recreation programs simply because there are not enough indoor facilities on campus.

The overcrowded Men's Physical Education building, built in the 1940s as a temporary structure, remains as a permanent eyesore for indoor intramurals. The only available indoor basketball courts for men are two in the Men's PE building, one court each at Henzlik Hall and the East Campus Union and two courts at the Coliseum.

The Coliseum courts, however, are available only part-time for intramurals. The courts in the P.E. building are not available until later in the afternoon when physical education classes are over.

That's rather limited space when you consider there were 130 basketball teams (1,950 participants) sharing those courts last year.

One outlet is the Women's Physical Education building. But that's usually off-limits for men. The proposed fieldhouse on the Lincoln campus won't

eliminate the space problem, either. The fieldhouse will be for varsity competition, so intramurals will have second priority.

And now they're talking about making the Coliseum (when vacated by the athletic department) into a cultural center.

It appears that Nebraska's indoor recreational facilities will continue to rank among the poorest in the Big Eight. Oh well, students can always settle for the annual snowball fight on 16th St. for their winter recreation.

\*\*\*

**NEBRASKA 38, Army 3** . . . Nebraska's football team in general—and Johnny Rodgers in particular—usually play super football on television.

**COLORADO 41, Minnesota 10** . . . New Gopher coach Cal Stoll may decide to go back to Wake Forest's schedule after playing Colorado and Nebraska on consecutive weekends.

**OKLAHOMA 49, Oregon 14** . . . If Missouri's Wishbone can beat Oregon, Oklahoma's could win with an all freshmen backfield. And they might have just that the second half.

**ARKANSAS 35, Oklahoma State 7** . . . The Razorbacks may not be as good the pre-season polls indicated, but the Cowboys are really that bad.

**IOWA STATE 35, Utah 14** . . . The Cyclones continue to prime for that Oct. 14 date in Boulder, Colo.

**ARIZONA STATE 28, Kansas State 7** . . . Vince Gibson will have some task getting the Wildcats ready for the Big Eight schedule.

**KANSAS 35, Wyoming 21** . . . Wyoming has an experienced defensive secondary, but Jayhawk quarterback David Jaynes can pick apart some of the best defenses.

**MISSOURI 24, Baylor 17** . . . This could be the only exciting game in the Big Eight this week. But who really cares?