

Rodgers finds a new twist on a strange afternoon

by Jim Johnston

It was a rather strange afternoon in college football.

Down in Stillwater, Okla., a team which some folks said wouldn't win a Big Eight game stunned No. 3-rated Colorado. Oklahoma State's wishbone offense ran for 307 yards and a 31-6 romp over the Buffs.

Then in Birmingham, Ala., unranked and previously unimpressive Auburn shocked No. 4-rated Tennessee, 10-6.

Now Memorial Stadium in Lincoln hasn't been the site of many strange happenings the past few years. Those lopsided scores, like Nebraska's 49-0 triumph over Minnesota Saturday, have been commonplace.

But this time there was a new twist—thanks to Johnny Rodgers.

The senior from Omaha scored on a 64-yard punt return in the third quarter. The final 10 yards he ran backwards.

"I wanted to do something different and I couldn't think of anyone ever doing that," Rodgers explained. "I might have stumbled, but I was not going to fall down. No way."

But once the game was over, Memorial Stadium was its same old self. Post game interviews centered around the usual things.

Minnesota coach Cal Stoll called Rodgers the best back he's ever seen. Gopher quarterback Bob Morgan was asked his opinion of

Nebraska's defense. Morgan, like every other opposing quarterback at Memorial Stadium, said "it's probably the best I've ever faced and ever will face."

The usual questions with the usual answers were again observed in Nebraska's dressing room.

The Nebraska captains—Bill Janssen and Doug Dumler—said they were pleased with the way the Huskers have rebounded from the season's opening loss to UCLA. But they both finished with that "We can't quit now" response.

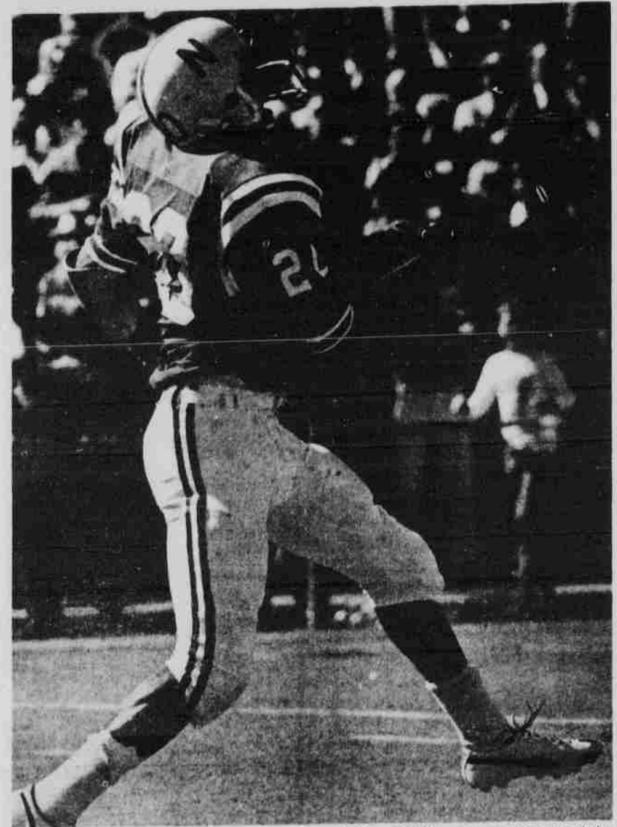
Then there is always cautious Bob Devaney. The Cornhusker coach reviewed the past three games and warned that "the toughest part of our schedule is now coming up."

Devaney pointed to Missouri's 34-27 win over California as "an indication that Missouri is developing into a fine football team."

When asked for his reaction to Oklahoma State's win over Colorado, Devaney replied: "I guess we know that Oklahoma State is for real."

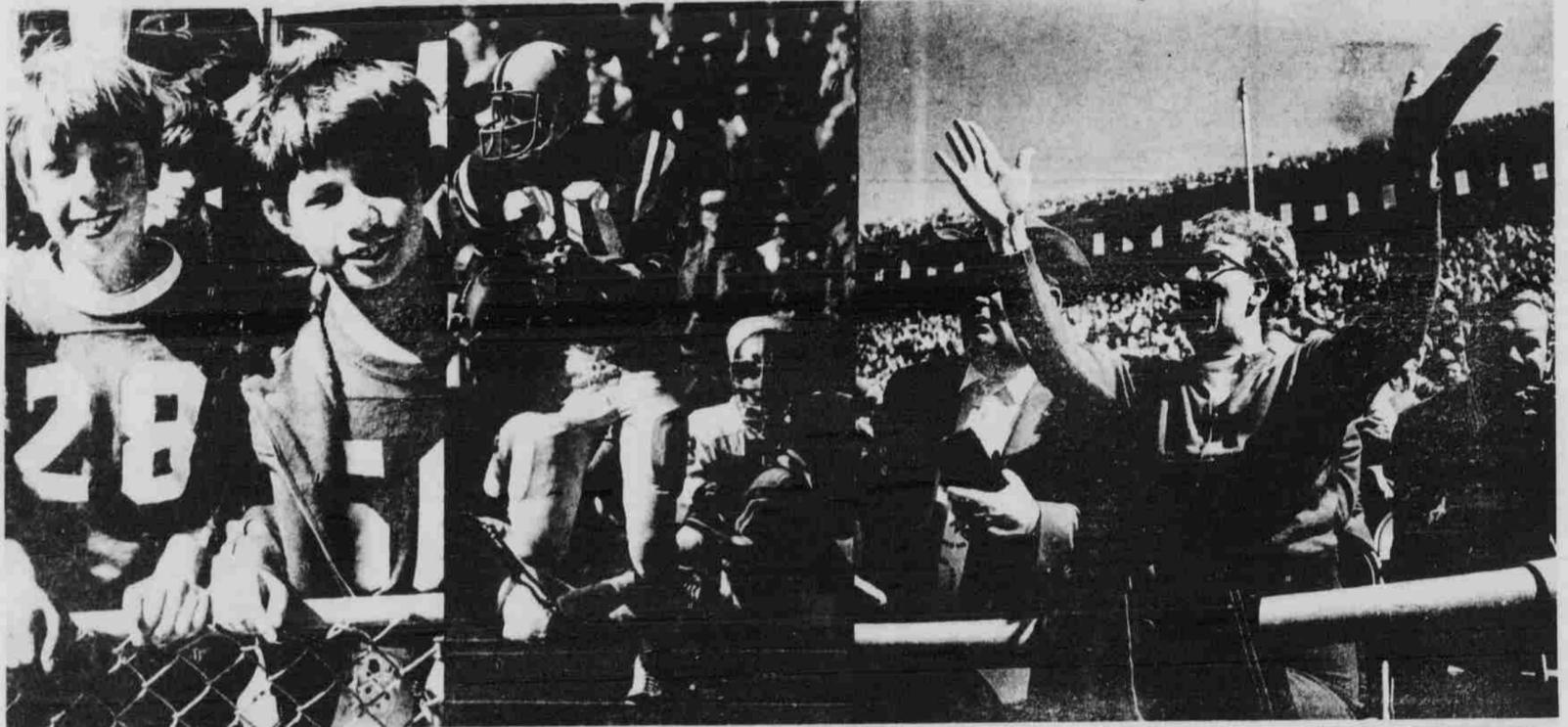
Perhaps Memorial Stadium will offer Nebraska fans something different in the future. After all, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma will be playing there.

And, as Devaney observed, "this Big Eight could be some kind of a race."



Photos by Gail Folda, Bill Ganzel and Dan Ladely

Johnny Rodgers enters the end zone backwards... "I wanted to do something different."



Dave Humm... after having a pass intercepted, tackles Minnesota defensive back Greg Engebos (No. 47).

Intramural ratings remain unchanged

The All-University intramural football standings remain unchanged after last week's action, but five teams did drop from the ratings.

The Fraternity League underwent the biggest change as three rated teams suffered their first losses. Brown Palace, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Alpha Gamma Rho dropped from the standings. Alpha Gamma Rho's loss was a forfeit.

The Stoned Cowboys are replaced this week by the Fumblers in the Independent League and Abel VI replaces Harper II in the Dorm League.

A key game this week pits Delta Upsilon against Delta Tau Delta in the Fraternity League. The Pro Students play the Hawks in a contest that could be a preview of the Independent League championship game. The Pro Students have scored 46 points per game while the Hawks have averaged 42 points per outing.

All-University

1. Pro Students (4-0)
2. Phi Delta Theta (2-0)
3. Phi Delta Phi (4-0)
4. Delta Upsilon (3-0)
5. Gus II (5-0)

Fraternity League

1. Phi Delta Theta (2-0)
2. Delta Upsilon (3-0)
3. Delta Tau Delta (2-0)
4. Triangle (2-1)
5. Tau Kappa Epsilon (4-0)

Dorm League

1. Gus II (5-0)
2. Glenn 7 (3-0)
3. Kiesselbach (4-0)
4. Abel VIII (3-0)
5. Abel VI (3-0)

Independent League

1. Pro Students (4-0)
2. Phi Delta Phi (4-0)
3. Hawks (3-0)
4. Bang Gang (3-0)
5. Fumblers (3-0)