

jim johnston

Basic Bob joins ABC's Bland Bud for big (red) talk

The matchup is a classic. It could be the most intriguing thing to happen during a football telecast since Howard Cosell threw up in the pressbox at Minnesota last year.

Forget about Saturday's publicized rivalry between Michigan State and Notre Dame on ABC-TV. Listen, instead, to the commentary between Bland Bud Wilkinson and Basic Bob Devaney. The Cornhusker coach will join the ABC crew of Wilkinson and Common Chris Schenkel for Saturday's nationally televised game.

Bland Bud—Good afternoon, college football fans, and welcome to another exciting telecast of NCAA football. Today we have a special treat. Bob Devaney, the fine coach from Nebraska, will help with our telecast. Nebraska has won two straight national championships and has another fine football team again this year. Welcome, Bob, and how about that football team of yours.

Basic Bob—Well, thank you very much, Bud. We feel we have a fine football team this year, but we can't look past Missouri, Kansas and Kansas State.

Bland Bud—Right you are, coach. That Big Eight is a fine football conference. You have to keep your fine athletes mentally prepared every week.

Basic Bob—Winning the Big Eight is the toughest job in the country.

Bland Bud—You have another group of fine athletes again this year, coach. I'm sure the fans would like to hear about them.

Basic Bob—We feel Johnny Rodgers is a fine football player. He does a lot of things well. Our coaching staff has also been pleased with Rich Glover and Willie Harper. They're fine football players.

Bland Bud—What about today's game, coach?

Basic Bob—Well, Bud, as you know Michigan State and Notre Dame are both fine-hitting football teams.

Bland Bud—Right again, coach. And everybody knows that when you have fine-hitting football teams it should be a fine-hitting game.

Basic Bob—I'm looking for a fine game.

Bland Bud—We've had a lot of thrills on our telecasts. And I'm sure it will be a big treat for you fans again today. The winning team will probably be the team that has the most ball possessions. Ball control is the big thing in football.

Basic Bob—We feel ball control is important, Bud.

Bland Bud—I'm sure you're looking forward to that classic confrontation with Oklahoma, coach.

Basic Bob—Not really.

Bland Bud—I'm sure ball control will play an important part in that game, too. And you must be mentally prepared.

Basic Bob—We can't look past Kansas State.

Bland Bud—What about Colorado, coach?

Basic Bob—Eddie Crowder always tries something different against us. It should be a fine game.

Bland Bud—So should this be a fine game, coach. I'm sure the fans have enjoyed your comments. And I've enjoyed talking with you, coach. I used to coach football at Oklahoma.

Basic Bob—You were also a fine coach, Bud.

Bland Bud—Well thanks, coach. That's sure a compliment coming from a fine coach like yourself. Oklahoma, as I'm sure all you fans know, has another fine football team this year. The Big Red is back.

Basic Bob—We're also the Big Red, Bud.

Bland Bud—Right again, coach. Both Big Reds are good. My favorite color is red, coach.

Basic Bob—I'm glad to hear that, Bud.

Bland Bud—And we're glad you're with us today, coach. You're a fine coach of a fine team. Now here is my colleague Chris Schenkel.

Common Chris—Thanks, Bud. And thank you, Coach Devaney. We wish you and your extremely tough Cornhuskers the best of luck this year. And now we should be ready for a fine football game.

Colorado 35, Kansas State 10... Rumors have it that the Buffs are having internal problems. But that's not unusual for the Buffs.

Oklahoma State 31, Missouri 21... Sorry about those earlier comments about the Cowboys. They might be for real.

Kansas 35, Minnesota 24... The Gophers will find things much easier in the Big Ten.

Notre Dame 38, Michigan State 24... This should be a fine football game.

Cross country team looks for first win

Nebraska's cross country team will attempt to get on the winning trail Saturday when the Huskers host defending champion Kansas State at Pioneer Park at 10 a.m.

Nebraska, expected to be in contention for the Big Eight title, lost its season opener last Saturday against Colorado at Boulder.

Bob Unger, runner-up last season, paced the Cornhuskers by finishing third. Mike Fertig (4th), Jim Hawkins (6th), Lynn Hall (7th) and Roger Chadwick (9th) also counted in the Nebraska total score of 29. Colorado, lead by John Gregorio, who won the race, had a score of 26.

Nebraska has never seemed to win a cross-country meet at Colorado. "The altitude is a big factor," said Hall, a two-year letterman from Grand Island. "I thought before the season started that the Colorado meet would be the toughest to win."

Even though the Nebraska harriers were beaten, they remain optimistic according to Hall. "We still plan on winning the Big Eight meet. We know we can do it."

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