



All the time in the world . . .

photo by Bill Ganzel

Nebraska's 1972 offensive unit, ranked second nationally in total offense, has gone through the air for 1,807 yards and 17 touchdowns. Cornhusker Head Coach Bob Devaney credits the blocking of the offensive line for the successful air attack. Quarterback David Humm has no arguments with that thinking.

Colorado's Stearns—respect for Husker team

by Jim Johnston

This was going to be the year Colorado shook the jinx. The year the Buffaloes lost the reputation of choking. The year Colorado finished No. 1.

Those hopes of No. 1 were dimmed—but not completely dashed—after a 31-6 loss to Oklahoma State. A 20-14 win over Oklahoma brought Colorado up to the No. 7 spot in the national ratings. But a 20-17 setback to Missouri the following week eliminated any hopes of a national title and made a Big Eight championship a longshot hope.

So what's left for Colorado? How will the Buffs respond to their loss to Missouri?

"I wish I knew," said John Stearns, Colorado's safety. "The loss to Missouri is a little tough to take. Everybody has a sick feeling this week. I really don't know how we'll respond against Nebraska Saturday."

The Buffs responded to their loss to Oklahoma State with three consecutive wins. But Stearns, who has earned the name "Bad Dude" in the Big Eight, claims it won't be as easy this time.

"We still felt we were in it after losing to Oklahoma State," Stearns said, "but this time it's different. We never had any idea that Missouri would beat us. We're still rather

stunned. Now we're out of the race and now we have to play the best team in the nation.

"I'm not saying that to be nice to Nebraska," Stearns said. "Our team feels that Nebraska is definitely the best college football team in the nation."

Stearns, a senior, played against the Huskers in 1970 when Van Brownson quarterbacked and in 1971 with Jerry Tagge calling signals. But he claims sophomore David Humm is possibly more dangerous than either of the other two Husker quarterbacks.

"It's unbelievable the things he does as a sophomore," Stearns said. "Tagge was good, but Humm is doing the things Tagge did his senior year."

Stearns, however, isn't tossing aside the possibility of beating Nebraska.

"We have the potential to be great," Stearns said. "I don't know what happens to us. We were really up for the Oklahoma game and played a great game. We'll have to have that same attitude and play a super game if we hope to beat Nebraska."

Nebraska's opening loss to UCLA didn't fool the Colorado football players.

"Hell, you've got to lose once every 40 games or something like that," Stearns said. "The people in Colorado went crazy after Nebraska lost. They acted like Nebraska wouldn't win a game all season. I just knew Nebraska would come back. Nebraska has a super football program with super players and coaches. They don't try any cheap stuff on the field. I respect Nebraska more than any other football team in the nation."

Playing against Nebraska may be enough to get the Buffs back in the right mental frame of mind. Colorado has beaten Nebraska only once since Bob Devaney arrived in 1962.

"We feel if we beat Nebraska our season won't be a complete flop," Stearns said. "The more I think about it, the more I think we'll be ready. There's nobody I'd rather beat than Nebraska. . . especially on national TV."

Lemerond follows Green Bay tradition

by Kim Ball

Green Bay Wis. is the home of former Husker co-captains Jerry Tagge and Jim Anderson, monster man Dave Mason and Rick Lemerond. Who is Rick Lemerond, you say?

Well, Lemerond was the third-string quarterback in the freshman team's victories over Kansas State and Missouri. And he will be the second-string quarterback when the freshmen meet Wichita State Friday at 1:30 p.m. at Cessna Stadium in Wichita, Kan.

Lemerond was an all-state quarterback at Green Bay Premontre High School and he had scholarship offers from 85 schools.

"Jimmy Anderson is the one who convinced me to come here," Lemerond said. "Jerry Tagge and Dave Mason said a little bit here and there, but mostly it was Jimmy Anderson."

Lemerond was handicapped at the start of the season. Not because people expected him to be a star like the other Green Bay products, but because he came down with mononucleosis a week after practice started.

The sickness sidelined Lemerond for two weeks. But it was nothing new for him, it was the fifth time in the past three years that he had contracted the disease.

"When I got over it everybody was way ahead," Lemerond said.

Even though Lemerond has seen considerably less action in the first two games than quarterbacks Glen Ray and Scott Copple, he has rushed for more yardage than Ray and Copple combined. Lemerond has also completed 56 per cent of his passes compared to 36 per cent for Ray and 37 per cent for Copple.

But still he was not moved up to second-string until after Copple broke his thumb in the game against Missouri.

Lemerond feels he will get to play his share against Wichita State.

"We only have two quarterbacks," Lemerond said, "so the coaches will have to rotate us, because Ray will get tired, especially if he runs a couple of option plays."

Regardless of who plays quarterback, they will meet a tough Wichita State defense that allowed the Kansas State freshmen only 111 yards total offense. That is the same K State team that had 215 yards against the Husker frosh.

sports shorts

Nebraska quarterback David Humm has advanced to fifth in the national total offense chase with a per game average of 208 yards. Nebraska's passing offense is third behind Virginia Tech and Florida State.

Iowa State coach Johnny Majors locked the gates on the practice field for the first time this season, saying "we thought it would be wise." The Cyclones have 10 injured players as they prepare for Oklahoma Saturday.



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