

Jim Johnston

Goeller—cold Saturday in the stands

Dave Goeller probably will go unnoticed in Boulder, Colo., Saturday. He won't be wearing his football uniform and he's not one of those Nebraska players automatically recognized in street clothes.

Goeller won't be flying to the Nebraska-Colorado game in the luxury of a chartered 727 jet, either. He's going by car with his parents, wife and sister and will be watching the game from the end zone seats with the other Husker fans.

Goeller, who started Nebraska's last two games at I-back, suffered a hairline fracture in his arm against Oklahoma State. He is expected to be sidelined for at least three weeks.

Now that may not be of grave concern to many Nebraska football followers. You can always use that "running backs are a dime a dozen" philosophy. And Goeller is no super human on the field. He's been consistent in becoming Nebraska's second leading rusher this year, but his partnership with Gary Dixon can be adequately filled by sophomore Jeff Moran.

Gruelling experience

There remains, however, a rather sad commentary to this story. Dave Goeller's rise to a starting position at Nebraska has been no overnight success script. It's been a long, gruelling experience.

Goeller entered the Nebraska football program in 1969 as a walk-on from Pilger. He earned a scholarship after his freshman season, but was redshirted the following year. He was alternating with Dixon behind Jeff Kinney during the spring of his redshirt year, but knee surgery following spring drills placed him fourth on the I-back chart when the 1971 season opened.

After Kinney's graduation, Goeller was expected to share the I-back job with Dixon. But sophomores Tony Davis and Don Westbrook were listed in front of Goeller when the 1972 season opened.

Injuries to Davis and Westbrook pushed Goeller to the No. 2 position for the opener at UCLA. He never lost the spot and started against Kansas and Oklahoma State when Dixon was recovering from a fractured jaw.

But now Dave Goeller will start all over again. Has it been worth it?

"It's probably been worth it just to start those two games," Goeller said, "but it's rather discouraging. I just hope somebody has some warm coffee in the stands at Colorado, because it's really supposed to be cold out there this weekend."

Comments

Sportswriters aren't the only ones who make pre-season predictions that appear ridiculous by the middle of the season. A few Big Eight players have come up with some gems, too.



Some O' Them Buffaloes been by here sayin' they're number One agin'!

Bubba Bridges, Colorado defensive tackle: "My goals are being selected to the all-Big Eight team as a sophomore, being an all-American as a junior and becoming the first lineman to win the Heisman Trophy as a senior." Bridges dropped out of school this fall.

John O'Neill, Kansas State defensive end: "The conference race should be close again with Nebraska and Colorado the top two and Oklahoma and possibly Kansas State right behind." The Wildcats are in seventh with a 1-3 conference record.

Reuben Gant, Oklahoma State split end: "I don't know much about the wishbone, but I know it will work."

Bill Olds, Nebraska fullback: "Coach Devaney asked me about playing the I-back and I told him I wasn't too crazy about the idea. It has taken me two years to learn how to play fullback."

No spies

NEBRASKA 31, Colorado 10... The Huskers haven't even used a spy this week, unless Van Brownson is roaming around Boulder these days.

OKLAHOMA 35, Iowa State 14... The Cyclones are still the fourth best team in the Big Eight.

MISSOURI 31, Kansas State 21... Who would ever think the tigers would have to worry about being overconfident?

OKLAHOMA STATE 35, Kansas 14... That group of OSU students who stood up and sang "Oklahoma-O.K." in the Loaf last Friday may have something to yell about this week.

'Super Bowl' set for third attempt

The "on again, off again" all-university flag football championship, canceled Thursday for the second time because of wet fields, has been rescheduled for Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Phi Delta Phi will meet Phi Delta Theta on the Cather fields in the championship game.

Colorado toughest Husker foe yet

When oddsmakers establish Nebraska as a big favorite, Cornhusker Head Coach Bob Devaney usually quizzes their judgment.

"I hope they're right," Devaney says, "but they're forgetting that this is a good football team we're playing. They sure make it sound easy."

That must be Devaney's thinking this week. The Cornhuskers are 21-point favorites in their nationally televised (noon central time) game with Colorado at Boulder Saturday.

Devaney mentions the loss of key offensive players in Colorado's losses to Oklahoma State (31-6) and Missouri (20-17).

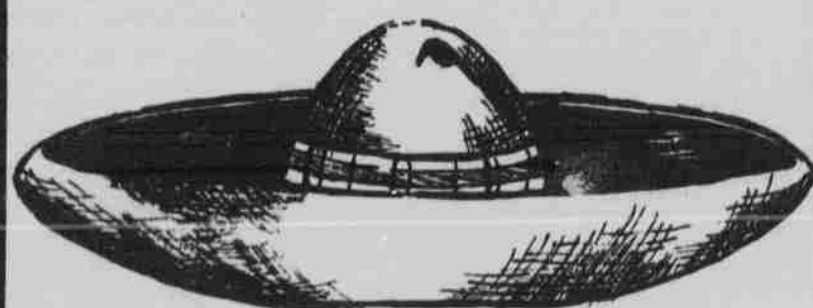
Junior quarterback Ken Johnson missed the game with Oklahoma State because his father died that week. Running back Charlie Davis, a pre-season all-American, missed the first half against Missouri with a bruised shoulder.

Both, however, will play against Nebraska Saturday.

"Colorado is a whole new team with both those guys in there," Devaney said. "This is the strongest team we've faced in many ways."

Colorado's offense operates from the I formation. Unlike previous years, the Buffaloes have mastered a blend between passing and running.

The Buffs are capable of moving the ball on the ground. But Saturday, they'll be trying to do it against the nation's leading defense, a defense which hasn't allowed a touchdown in four straight games.



KEEP THIS UNDER YOUR HAT

Here's a little tip for good—and inexpensive—eating this weekend. Taco Kid, at 17th & Van Dorn, is selling six of their tacos at the price of only one dollar. That's like getting two tacos free. (Because they're four for a dollar on weekdays.) Come out and try the weekend special. And bring a friend—because you might not be able to eat all six by yourself.

TACO KID
17th & Van Dorn



ABRISKI POINT
A COLORFUL CINEMATIC
ESSAY ON LOVE, SEX,
REVOLUTION AND VIOLENCE

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY:
7:00 AND 10:00
UNION SMALL AUDITORIUM
SUNDAY AT 7:00
EAST CAMPUS UNION

75¢
WITH UN-L
I.D.