

"K. St. is gonna wish they didn't show up in Memorial Stadium."

It was only moments after Nebraska's 23-23 tie with Iowa State last week before folks started feeling sorry for Kansas State.

"Kansas State is gonna wish they didn't show their face in Memorial Stadium next week," said Cornhusker center and co-captain Doug Dumler. "We feel like blowin' somebody out of the park after what happened today."

Now that doesn't sound like Nebraska's typical pre-game comments. Cornhusker head coach Bob Devaney, his staff and players usually remain cautious about making predictions before a game.

But even Devaney has changed a little this week after that frustrating tie with Iowa State where the Huskers committed eight turnovers.

"Our No. 1 objective this week is to beat Kansas State and do a damn good job of it," Devaney said.

That has to be rather frightening to Kansas State. The Wildcats are last in the Big Eight with a 1-5 record and bring the conference's poorest total defense statistics into the game against the Big Eight's leading scoring team, Nebraska.

And things don't get any easier when

the opposite units are on the field. Kansas State is last in the league in rushing with a 120-yard average. Nebraska's Black Shirt defense leads the Big Eight in total defense and is allowing just 102 yards per game on the ground.

Statistically, it doesn't sound like a very attractive matchup. But Devaney still remains a little cautious.

"This is Kansas State's last game of the season and I'm sure Vince Gibson (KSU coach) will have his team up for us," Devaney said. "After Kansas State views the films of our game last week you can bet the football may be flying around quite a bit Saturday. You couldn't blame any team for throwing against us after our exhibition Saturday."

Passing is one part of the Kansas State offense which has been successful this season. Lefthanded quarterback Dennis Morrison, who switched from an erratic option-type quarterback last year to an effective dropback passer, has completed 126 of 280 passes for 1,508 yards this season.

Morrison's top receiver is wingback John Goerger, the Big Eight's second



leading receiver. Goerger has caught 49 passes for 542 yards.

With the exception of Morrison and Goerger, there haven't been many other bright spots for the Wildcats this season. Kansas State, hobbled by injuries, is the Big Eight's biggest disappointment in 1972.

Halfback Isaac Jackson, expected to develop into one of the Big Eight's top rushers, has also been plagued with injuries and is averaging 55.6 yards per game.

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The odds are against it. The odds have been strongly against it ever since Nebraska lost its season opener to UCLA. And that 23-23 tie with Iowa State last week placed even more doubts on it. But Nebraska still has a chance to win a third straight national championship.

"There had to be a lot of combinations before we could have won it this year and there still have to be a lot of combinations," Nebraska coach Bob Devaney said this week, "but we do have a chance."

Nebraska is rated fifth in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls. Southern California, Alabama, Michigan and Oklahoma own the top four spots.

Here, then, is the remaining schedule, excluding bowl games, for the nation's top rated teams.