

Field goal again to be decisive in Bruin tilt

It was the evening of Sept. 9, 1972 in Los Angeles Coliseum, and UCLA place

kicker Eren Herrera had just kicked a late fourth quarter field goal giving the Bruins a

20-17 victory over Nebraska. The loss snapped the Huskers' 32-game winning streak and virtually ruined chances of a third straight national title.

Saturday, as dusk settles over Memorial Stadium, I predict Nebraska's place kicker Rich Sanger will kick a field goal giving Nebraska a 24-21 victory.

Sound like a story too good to be true? It does, if UCLA quarterback Mark Harmon has his way. Last month, Harmon was quoted as saying, "Last year, we had to play them; this year, they have to play us."

Coach Pepper Rodgers' Bruins enter Saturday's game with 33 returning letterman, 16 on offense and 17 on defense, along with high expectations.

UCLA's wishbone is stronger than last year. Besides Harmon, senior fullback James McAlister and senior right

halfback Kermit Johnson return, with sophomore Eddie Ayers completing the wishbone at left halfback.

Providing blocking and pass protection for the Wishbone is an offensive line which averages 6 ft. 3 in. and 252 lbs.

In 1972, the offense rushed for 3,810 yds. and passed for 653. Rodgers said, "UCLA will be more familiar with the wishbone attack and thus should improve and expand it." Rodgers has indicated some of that improvement could come in the form of more passing from the wishbone formation.

The Bruins return nine of 11 starters on defense, but those nine men had a hand in allowing three touchdowns each per game last year. This is a problem, Rodgers hopes to

remedy.

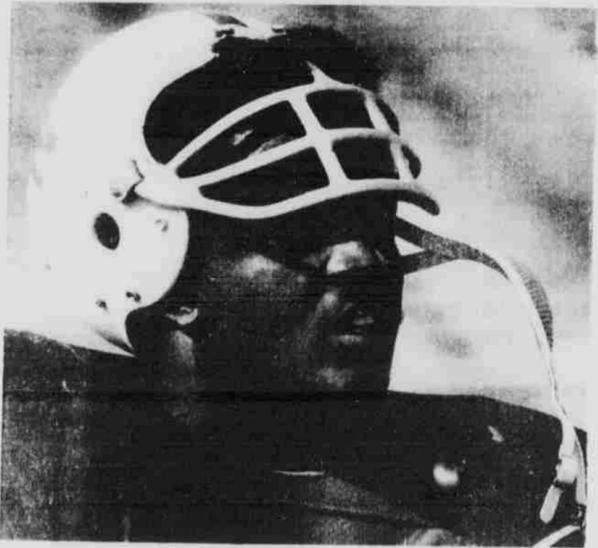
"Defensively, we were able to fill a lot of inexperienced spots with some new men and some who have improved since last year," he said.

Rodgers summed up his team by saying, "We will have a very exciting team that should be right in the thick of the race throughout the season."

bill bennett

on the bench

However, before its Pacific 8 conference schedule starts, UCLA must first get by Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan State and Utah. The Bruins probably will beat the latter three teams, but they won't beat Nebraska.



Husker co-captain Daryl White

Captains: UCLA training thorough

Although both men won't make score predictions, Nebraska football co-captains John Dutton, defensive right tackle, and Daryl White, offensive left tackle, are emphatic when they say that the Huskers will win Saturday's game with UCLA.

"Last year, we went into the game half cocky," White said. "This year, we all know the job we have to do." Last year the Huskers lost to UCLA in Los Angeles, 20-17.

"I'm in the best physical shape of my life," he said, "which is indicative of the entire team, because everyone else is probably in the best physical shape of their careers."

White, a 6 ft. 4 in. senior All American from East Orange, N.J., said the offense will not be affected in any way if junior quarterback Dave Humm doesn't start.

"The offenses geared for both quarterbacks," he said, "so the offense won't change if senior Steve Runty starts."

Dutton, a 6 ft. 7 in., 248 lb. senior All-American candidate from Rapid City, S.D., said the defense is "looking real good."

"Everyone is picking up on their assignments and hustling together," Dutton said. "UCLA thinks they're going to come here and face a crappy defense, but I don't think so."

As for himself, he said he experienced his best fall practice. He said he was pleased he didn't miss practice because of injury.

Against the Bruins wishbone offense, Dutton doesn't have one main assignment, he said.

Dutton said the entire team is psyched up for the UCLA game because of some comments the Bruins have made about Nebraska being a second-rate team.

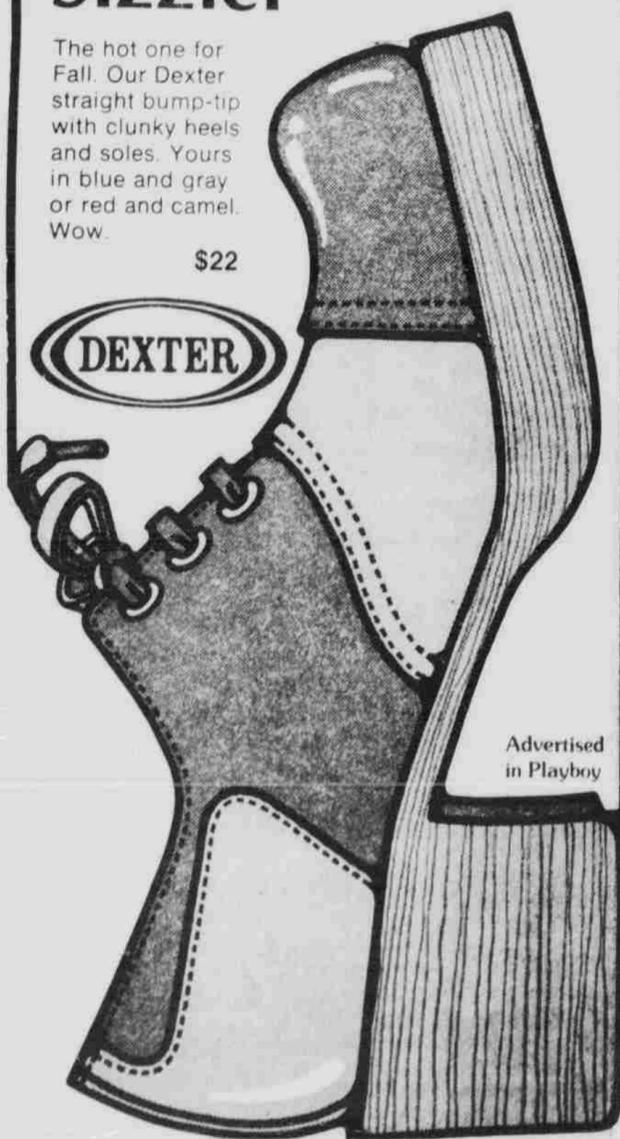
"Talk is cheap," he said. "UCLA is going to be in for a lot of surprises."

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