

Bell rejected UCLA

By Bill Bennett

To play football at Nebraska or UCLA was the choice senior middle guard John Bell had to make after playing defensive tackle for two years at Cypress, Calif. Junior College.

"All my life I wanted to play football for UCLA, but I also was being recruited by Nebraska," said the 6-ft., 198-lb. Bell. "I came to Nebraska because I admired Coach (Tom) Osborne and disliked Pepper Rodgers (UCLA coach)."

Bell, from Anaheim, Calif., reported to spring practice in 1971. After two days of workouts, his knee gave way, and surgery followed.

He then was redshirted for the 1971 season and played behind All-American middle guard Rich Glover during 1972.

Bell got his first start last week against the Bruins, and he called the experience "great."

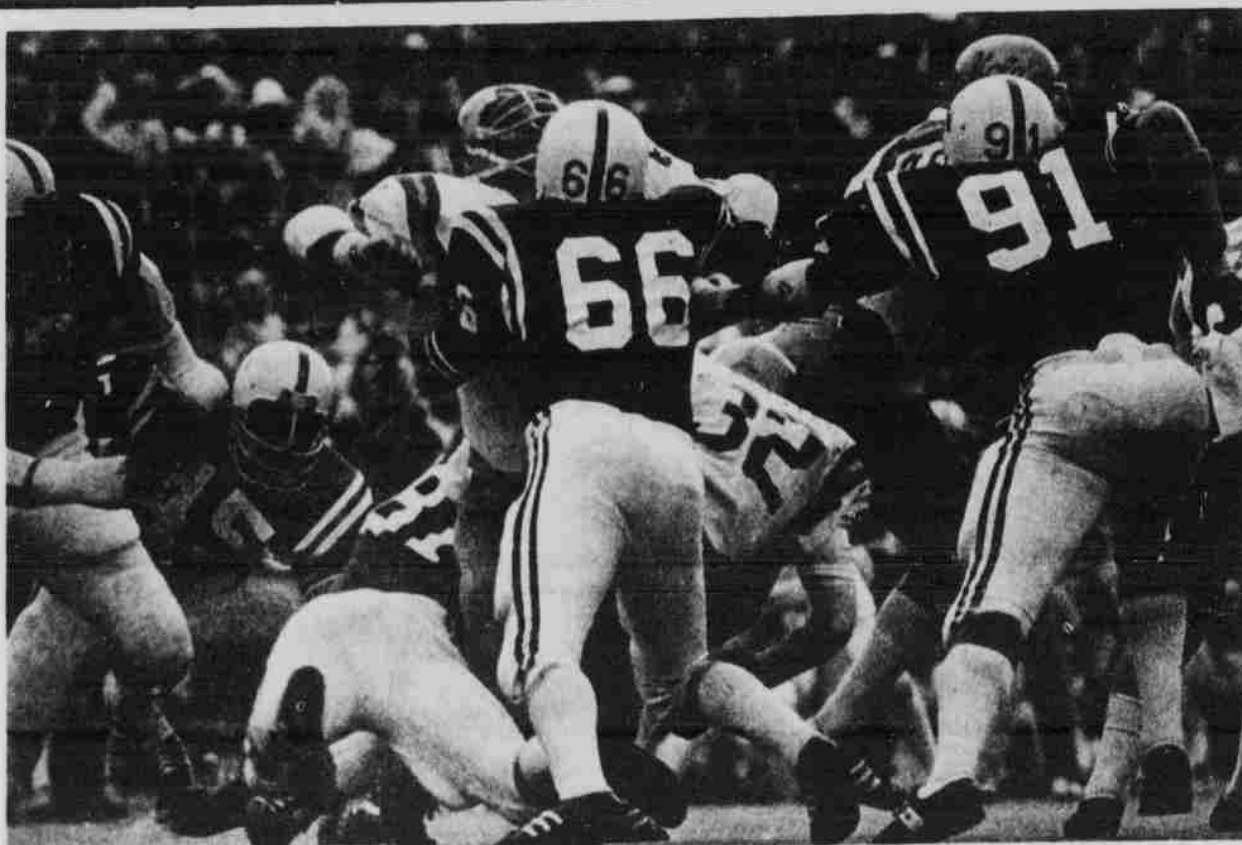
"Starting in a game makes everything you have to take in practice worthwhile," he said.

Bell was asked if he was tired of playing in Glover's shadow. He said, "Rich is gone now. In fact, quite a few star players are gone. But after what we showed Saturday, this team is as good, if not better, than last year's."

"We play as a team," he said. "I couldn't believe the electricity in the locker room after the game. It's the first time I've ever seen that kind of excitement."

Although Bell agrees talk of a perfect season is premature, he said "Nebraska is ready to take on anybody. We have the potential to be a great team."

Nebraska's next game isn't until Sept. 22, but Bell said he doesn't think there will be a letdown against North Carolina State.



Middle guard John Bell (66) and his defensive teammates attack the UCLA offensive line.

Walk-ons star in spite of odds

Many people have a misconception of the walk-on athlete. They think of him as a very nonathletic-type person who tries out for the squad on a whim or in order to impress his peers. In some instances this may be the case. However, for the most part, the walk-on is a very dedicated athlete.

It is true that the Nebraska football recruiting staff has one of the most comprehensive programs in the nation. Yet each year Freshman Coach Jim Ross turns up with some 35-40 walk-ons who survive his final cut.

Although percentages do not favor the walk-on becoming a varsity regular, many have overcome the odds. Former freshmen walk-ons on this year's varsity roster include Randy Borg, Brent Longwell, Dave Goeller, Terry Rogers, Steve Wieser, Ardell Johnson, George Kyros and Steve Manstedt.

"We (the coaches) try to treat all the football candidates the same. In fact, we unconsciously give walk-ons breaks as we like to see a nonrecruited kid trying to make the team," Ross said.

On the average, Ross said, the walk-on works harder in practices than the scholarship player. "This is because he feels

he must prove himself to us (the coaches) to a greater degree," he said.

Football isn't the only sport where walk-ons have gone on to become standouts. Almost every sport has had its share of walk-on stars.

Perhaps baseball offers the best example of this. In the fall of 1964 a 6-ft., 200-lb. pitcher-third baseman stepped into Coach Tony Sharpe's office and requested a tryout. Since Sharpe had never heard of the freshman, he contacted his former high school coach who called him "a fine hitter but not an overly good prospect."

bob hill over the hill

After making the club, he saw quite a bit of action. His sophomore season he reaped All-Big Eight honors, after which he signed a contract with the New York Yankees.

In 1968 he was voted the American League's "Rookie of the Year", just four short years after walking-on to the Nebraska team! His name for those of you who don't already know—Stan Bahnsen.

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LEAGUE BOWLERS

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES TO FORM FALL BOWLING LEAGUES

Form a team or come to the meeting as an individual.
All teams are four man, except two, as noted.

Check the list below for meeting times.

Meeting times at the Nebraska Union:
check daily calendar for room

Mon,	September 10	7:00 p.m.	Student Independent (5 man)
Tues,	September 11	6:00 p.m.	Student Independent
Tues,	September 11	7:00 p.m.	Mixed Doubles
Wed,	September 12	7:00 p.m.	Greek League (5 man)
Thurs,	September 13	6:00 p.m.	East Campus League
Thurs,	September 13	7:00 p.m.	Mixed Doubles

All league bowling will start the following week, September 17, so it is important that those who wish to bowl this season be present at the meeting.

The leagues will all be held on the respective meeting day and at the same time, except for the Tues. & Thurs. mixed doubles, which will start at 8:30.

Tryouts for the mens & womens university bowling team will be held at noon, Sept 15 (men) & Sept 16 (women) all students and grad students.