

Husker potential fools oddsmakers

In the recent Associated Press (AP) college football rankings the University of Southern California was chosen first and Nebraska second. Ohio State was third, followed by Texas, Michigan, Alabama, Penn State, Notre Dame, Tennessee and Colorado.

The AP rankings were given after the Huskers' 40-13 victory over UCLA by a poll of sportswriters and sportscasters from around the nation. But would the sports journalists from this area have chosen Nebraska the No. 2 ranked team in the nation before the Bruin game?

Unfortunately, the answer is no. Many thought Nebraska would lose, and others, like myself, were hoping for a Nebraska victory. Why were we so wrong?

My biggest mistake was believing everything I heard from Los Angeles about the unstoppable Bruins. Also, after watching Husker practices for almost a month, I failed to see the potential Nebraska really has.

Nebraska's next game isn't until Sept. 22 against North Carolina State, but all other Big Eight schools except Iowa State open their 1973 grid seasons tomorrow. My predictions are:

bill bennett on the bench

Florida 35, Kansas State 7, at Gainesville, Fla.—The Wildcats must test their new "get tough policy" against a highly touted Florida team.

Oklahoma State 35, University of Texas at Arlington 0, at Stillwater, Okla.—If this is the Cowboys' year, they must show their stuff off against a team that's in only its third year of major college competition.

Louisiana State 17, Colorado 14, at Baton Rouge, La.—The Buffs are starting a freshman halfback instead of Charlie Davis and a sophomore quarterback in place of Ken Johnson, but the youth movement won't stop the Tigers.

Kansas 21, Washington State 14, at Lawrence, Kan.—The Jayhawks need an early win to restore their confidence. If they lose, Kansas could be 0-4 after road games at Florida State, Minnesota, and Tennessee.

Missouri 28, Mississippi 14, at Columbia, Mo.—The Tigers will use a power-I offense and a 5-2 formation defense which should defeat the Rebels.

Oklahoma 21, Baylor 10, at Waco, Tex.—It could be a lot closer. Sooner Head Coach Barry Switzer calls the game a "dogfight" which could be indicative of future Sooner problems.

North Carolina State 35, Virginia 7, at Raleigh, N.C.—The Wolfpack should prepare for a tough football game Sept. 22 against the Huskers.



Senior quarterback Steve Runty

Osborne: quarterback decision to be made after scrimmage

After senior quarterback Steve Runty's outstanding performance in the 40-13 victory over UCLA and as junior quarterback Dave Humm's knee continues to improve, the question is "who will Nebraska start against North Carolina State on Sept. 22?"

"We're going to go strictly on merit," Head Coach Tom Osborne said. "Runty did a fine job against UCLA, but I don't think you can ignore the fact that Humm had about nine good games last year, and that's not a bad average."

"We'll have a scrimmage on Friday, then grade the films and make our decision," he said. "But we won't announce it until just before the game."

Osborne said, "Our players need to know who will start, but I don't think North Carolina State needs to."

Against UCLA, Runty completed 9 of 11 passes, rushed for 19 yards, scored one

touchdown, and threw a touchdown pass to senior split end Frosty Anderson.

"Starting against UCLA was the greatest thing that's ever happened to me in my life," said the 5 ft. 11 in., 196 lb. Runty. "I'm just glad we could put everything together to win the game."

"Our coaches did a fine job, because they prepared the offense for everything that the UCLA defense might do," he said.

Runty came to UNL in 1969 after graduating from Ogallala High School. After playing freshmen ball, he was redshirted in 1970, directed the scout squad in 1971 and served as Humm's backup in 1972. Saturday was Runty's first start.

"Against UCLA, we had a team effort, an error free victory," he said. "If we keep playing like that, we should win a lot of games this year."

sports shorts

All students interested in a judo club should call Dale Yamamoto at 477-2562.

Golf, horseshoes and tennis singles entries are due today at 4 p.m. in the Recreation Office, 1740 Vine St.

UNL men's and women's bowling team tryouts are this weekend. Men's tryouts are Saturday and women's tryouts are Sunday. Tryouts start at 12

noon at the Nebraska Union lanes.

The UNL Soccer team opens its season this weekend when it plays York College Saturday and Tarkio College Sunday. Both contests start at 1 p.m. at Memorial Stadium and admission is free.

Any student interested in the team or the UNL Soccer Club should contact Ron Wheeler at 477-5161.

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