

Offensive Wolfpack

By Bill Bennett

Nebraskans call them the North Carolina State Wolfpack, but the fans in Carolina simply call them State. Whatever the name, the visitors from Raleigh bring to Lincoln today a team with a good offense.

"They have a very fine offensive team," said Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne. "N.C. State does more things with the ball than UCLA. They get their yards in big chunks, not by ball control."

Nine starters return from last year's offensive squad which scored 360 points and amassed 4,758 yds. It will be led by five 1972 All-Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) players, guard Bill Yoest, tackle Rick Druschel, fullback Stan Fritts, halfback Willie Burden and quarterback Bruce Shaw.

Backing up Shaw will be sophomore Dave Buckey. As a freshman, Buckey led the Wolfpack to a 49-13 win over West Virginia in the Peach Bowl. Buckey's twin brother Don starts as a wide receiver for N.C. State.

The 1972 Wolfpack were 8-3-1, finishing second to North Carolina in the ACC which earned them a 17th place finish in the final Associated Press (AP) College football rankings.

State comes into today's game with victories over East Carolina University,

57-8 and Virginia, 43-23. They also are ranked 14th in the recent AP college rankings.

Second-ranked Nebraska challenges the Wolfpack offense with a defense that gave up 13 points in the first game to UCLA. UCLA averaged over 28 points a game during 1972.

John Dutton, a 6 ft., 7 in., 248-lb. tackle, leads the defense, with help from end Steve Manstedt, middle guard John Bell and defensive back Randy Borg.

N.C. State's defense gave up 20 points a game last year. It's an area head coach Lou Holtz said he would like to improve.

Twelve lettermen return to bolster the defense, but only five of them are starters from last year's team. They are defensive end Brian Krueger, tackle John Goeller,

linebacker Mike Daley, cornerback Mike Stultz and safety Bob Divens.

Osborne said the Wolfpack defense plays with emotion and are gang tacklers.

Against UCLA, the Huskers scored 40 points, rushed for 305 yards and passed for 105.

Sophomore halfback Tony Davis got half of those rushing yards as he ran for 147 yards and junior wingback Ritch Bahe ran for 49.

Senior quarterback Steve Runty, filling in for injured Dave Humm, responded by completing nine of 11 passes and rushing for 19 yards and a touchdown.

Osborne said early this week that the starting quarterback would not be announced until game time.

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