

Husker reputation attracts center

By Bill Bennett

"Rik Bonness is from Bellevue, not from Omaha," wrote the mayor of Bellevue in a letter. He was correcting an error on the First Down roster, which said Bonness was from Omaha.

Well, the 6 ft. 4 in., 210 lb. sophomore is from Bellevue, but he also has another home, and that's in the middle of the Nebraska offensive line at center.

Bonness is a 1972 graduate of Bellevue High School where he was an All-State center. He said he wasn't recruited by many major colleges.

"I had my mind set on going to Nebraska anyway," he said, "because it was my home state and because of its football reputation."

In 1972 Bonness was the starting center on the undefeated Husker freshman team. He entered spring practice in competition with juniors Rich Duda and Tom Thomas for the starting job.

Bonness earned the job and has started every game.

"Of course it is a big thrill being able to start for the University of Nebraska," he said. "But playing varsity center is a bigger job with more responsibility compared to playing freshman center."

One of those responsibilities is playing against bigger and more experienced middle guards. Two of the better guards he has faced this year are Herrie Butler of Missouri and Mike Lemon of Kansas, he said.

Bonness said it would help him against the bigger middle guards if he could put on more weight.

"Right now, I'm at 210 pounds, and I have trouble putting on weight," he said. "It would help me a lot if I could add another 10 to 15 pounds."

Bonness and his offensive teammates realize they have been having problems, he said. Nebraska's offense has scored 22 points in the last two games.

"We know we've been having a little trouble lately," he said. "But we're working hard on the problems this week, and we hope to do better Saturday."

According to offensive line coach Cletus Fischer, "Bonness already has faced about every type of defense, and he has done very well for us."

Regarding Nebraska's offensive problem, Fischer said the biggest problems are "fumbles and interceptions."

"However, our offense has been up against some pretty good defensive teams," he said. "Missouri, Kansas and now Oklahoma State have all been known for their defense."



Rik Bonness (54) and his offensive teammates huddle up before beginning another play.

Ten Husker matmen return

By Bob Hill

Orval Borgialli begins his ninth season as Husker head wrestling coach with what he said he feels is the "strongest group of overall recruits I've ever had."

With 10 lettermen returning, including six sophomores, he said the team will have "excellent back-up depth." He has never had much back-up before, he said.

The Husker mat schedule includes 13 dual meets and six tournaments. The grapplers open their slate Nov. 17 in the Bison Open at Fargo, N.D., and close with the NCAA championships March 14-16 at Iowa State.

The Huskers' opening dual is Dec. 7 at Iowa State, a school that has captured five NCAA titles since 1965, including four of the last five. Oklahoma State, absent from Nebraska's dual card since 1960, returns this year.

"The Cowboys have won 27 of 42 NCAA titles and always possess a solid team," Borgialli said.

"Certainly this year's schedule is as

challenging as any I have ever had. I think we should easily be a first division conference team," he said.

Team veterans realize the price one must pay for quality and returned in fine condition, he said.

"The freshmen require more time. This entire first week of practice has been devoted to conditioning exercises," he said.

Seniors Jeff Class, Lenny Dickinson and Ralph Manning will lead the grapplers. Gary Harnisch is the only junior letterman. The sophomore letterman crop includes Mark Borer, Kerrey Buser, Joe Carr, Tony Jennings, Bob Johnson and Cliff Myles.

Borgialli said some of the promising freshmen include Bruce Conger, a former Nevada and Washington state heavyweight champion, National AAU heavyweight champion and National AAU Greco-Roman champion, Paul Medina, a 118 lb. New Mexico state champion, and Thomas Salazar, a 142 lb. Nevada state champion.

Hawks rated pick of week

Hawks, three-point victors over previously ranked Nads, earns Daily Nebraskan Class A flag football team of the week honors.

The victory increased Hawks' season record to 5-0 and elevated them into eighth position in the Daily Nebraskan poll.

Hawk quarterback John Cooper said

most of his teammates are upperclassmen.

"Many members of our squad have the benefit of having played on dormitory championship teams," he said.

"This experience will be a valuable asset in the playoffs."

"We scored four touchdowns against a very fine Nads team. Our offensive strategy simply consists in trying to find our opponents' defensive weaknesses and capitalizing on them," he said.

The Daily Nebraskan poll of Class A teams is determined through the joint efforts of Phil Sienna's intramural staff and the Daily Nebraskan sports staff.

Team of the week selections are made by the sports staff.

The Top 10:

1. Phi Delta Theta (4-0)
2. Pro Students (4-0)
3. Alpha Gamma Sigma (5-0)
4. Acacia (6-0)
5. Phi Delta Phi (6-0)
6. Delta Upsilon (5-1)
7. Gus II (5-0)
8. Hawks (5-0)
9. Glenn VII (6-0)
10. Rogers II (6-0)

Honorable mentions are given to Abel X (4-1), Beta Sigma Psi (5-1), Alpha Tau Omega (4-1), Harper VI (5-1) and Sigma Phi Epsilon (4-1).

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