

Blackshirts to confront wishbone once more

By Bob Hill

The University of Nebraska's defensive football unit will face an old nemesis when they meet the University of Texas in the 38th annual Cotton Bowl Classic on New Year's Day—the wishbone offensive formation.

The wishbone, which was first introduced to college football by Texas in 1968, was created by Longhorn Head Coach Darrell Royal. Since installing the formation, Texas owns a 55-9-1 record, two national championships and six straight conference titles and Cotton Bowl appearances.

The Huskers this season have faced three other wishbone formations. They were able to crack UCLA's, winning 40-13 in their season opener. However, the wishbones of Oklahoma State and Oklahoma proved much more menacing to the Huskers. OSU tied Nebraska at 17-17 and OU was a 27-0 victor.

"Texas runs a lot of the same plays as Oklahoma does, although they can't be as strong, offensively. Both are wishbone teams, but they run

different styles of the wishbone," said Jim Anderson, Husker graduate assistant coach. He noted that the Sooners are more speed-oriented whereas Texas is a power running team. "They will line up and try to run through us as they have tried with every other team they've faced," he said.

Nebraska's power-I offensive formation stresses a balance between yardage gained rushing and passing, while the Wishbone is geared for a rushing attack. Seasonal statistics prove this to be true. The Huskers have averaged 225.4 yards per game on the ground and 170.6 aerial yards per game. This compares with Texas' average of 350.2 yards per game rushing and only 71.6 passing.

Sophomore quarterback Marty Akins has been important in the 8-2 Texas campaign. He is the second leading rusher on the team with a 4.2 per carry average. Akins hit 50 per cent of his passes for the year, with only three interceptions.

However, no one can take the spotlight from junior fullback Roosevelt Leaks. The All-American

established new Southwest Conference game rushing (342 yards) and season rushing (1,415 yards) records, breaking ones that had stood for 23 years. Leaks led his conference in rushing with a 141.5 yards per game average.

Tragedy befell him in the Longhorn regular season finale against Texas A&M, however, as he suffered a knee injury on the second play of the second half of the contest. Texas fans

will be relieved to know that doctors now list Leaks as a possible starter in the Longhorn showdown.

"Leaks is important to the Longhorn offense, he makes them click. It would sure be a blow to (Coach) Royal and his staff if Leaks were unable to play," Anderson said.

Odds makers have labeled the Longhorns a 2.5 point favorite to snap the Huskers' string of four bowl victories in the last four years.

Wolfpack to test Bruins in cage Game of Century

I'm sure every sports fan remembers college football's Game of the Century when Nebraska beat Oklahoma 35-31 in Norman on Nov. 25, 1971.

Saturday in St. Louis, Mo., college basketball will offer its own Game of the Century when the UCLA Bruins take on the Wolfpack of North Carolina State.

Unfortunately, this game didn't take place last year. In 1972, UCLA dominated West Coast collegiate basketball by capturing the Pacific 8 title with an undefeated record, winning its 75th consecutive game and claiming a seventh consecutive NCAA national championship.

But on the East Coast in 1972 it was all North Carolina State. The Wolfpack went undefeated in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), which in my opinion is the best conference in college basketball, and finished with a perfect 27-0 record. However, State couldn't compete in the national playoffs because the NCAA placed them on probation for recruiting violations.

So what didn't occur last year in the NCAA championships will take place at 4 p.m. Saturday. The game can be

seen on Channel 7 during ABC's Wide World of Sports.

UCLA is ranked No. 1 in the nation with a 3-0 record, beating Arkansas, Maryland and Southern Methodist. Maryland, another ACC team, almost pushed the Bruins past the breaking

bill bennett
on the bench

point on Dec. 1 before losing 65-64.

State is ranked No. 2 in the country with a 2-0 record, beating East Carolina and Vermont. After Saturday, I predict State will be 3-0 and well on their way to another undefeated season, a second straight ACC title and an NCAA championship.

Last year, State did something I don't think UCLA could have done and that's go undefeated in the ACC. The toughness that the Wolfpack acquired through that conference dogfight will become apparent Saturday.

Cagers to face Northeast Missouri

Settled in the midst of a four-game home stand at the Coliseum, Coach Joe Cipriano's Husker cagers will host Northeast Missouri State College and MacMurray College this weekend in an attempt to keep their home slate perfect.

The Huskers are 3-2 this season, with both losses coming on the road in the Vanderbilt Classic.

Northeast Missouri State, from Kirksville, Mo., will bring a 3-0 record to Lincoln Friday night.

Three newcomers lead the Bulldogs, who over wins over Washburn, Peru (Neb.) State, and Quincy, Ill. Freshman guard Bob Young is the scoring leader at 14.7 points per game, followed by junior college transfers Dan DeMartin (14.3) and Jim Moton (14.0). Senior center Lee Smith is a fourth starter in double figures (11.3).

MacMurray College of Jacksonville, Ill., a school with an enrollment of only 900, dropped its first three games this season.

Veteran coach Bill Wall returns seven of nine lettermen from last year's 2-21 team. The defensive improvement he had hoped for apparently was missing, though, in the Highlanders' first three losses—117-56 to Bowling Green, 131-111 to Defiance and 92-84 to Lewis College.

MacMurray is led by 5 ft. 8 in. guard Jim Hawkins and frontliners Jeff Kinnemann and Bob Evans, all double-figure scorers last year.

A meeting next Thursday with Northern Iowa will close the current Husker Home stand and will be Nebraska's last action before the Big 8 holiday tournament in Kansas City (Dec. 26-29).

sports shorts

Intramural basketball entries are due today at 4 p.m. at the Recreation Office, 1740 Vine St. . . .

There will be a UNL women's gymnastics meet Saturday at 10 a.m. against Iowa State in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. . . .

Nebraska's hockey team will host UNO tonight at 10:30 at Ak-Sar-Ben rink in Omaha.

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