

Sooners predicted as the football team to beat

As at UNL, spring football workouts are in full swing at other Big 8 campuses.

The Big 8 has been one of the top football circuits in the nation the past three years, and experts again look for another season of topnotch play in the conference. Here's a look at what's going on at spring camps across the conference.

It looks like the University of Oklahoma will be the team to beat next fall. Nine starters from last year's league total offense leaders return, while the defense, despite losing seven regulars to graduation, will build around brothers Dewey and LeRoy Selmon in the line and All-American Rod Shoate at linebacker. The only problem the Sooners might have is a lack of experience in the defensive secondary.

After tying for second place with the Huskers last fall, Kansas University (KU) again will be a top contender. Emphasis will be placed on finding a replacement for quarterback David Jaynes, to complement super receivers Bruce Adams and All-Big 8 end Emmett Edwards. The Jayhawks return seven

starters on both offense and defense including All-American defensive halfback Kurt Knoff.

The University of Missouri will have two experienced quarterbacks back to direct an offense that must find replacements at five positions in the line. There's nothing wrong with the Tiger defense this spring, as nine starters return.

Colorado University welcomes new Head Coach Bill Mallory and the return of 13 starters from last fall. Mallory's priorities include filling spots left open

certainly miss quarterback Brent Blackman. However, reports from the Cowboy camp say sophomore Charlie Weatherbie is a more than adequate replacement. The Cowboys may have trouble filling positions in their defensive secondary.

In contrast to KU, Iowa State University has two experienced quarterbacks, but a depleted corps of receivers. Thus the usually pass oriented Cyclones may have to rely heavily on their running attack led by backs Mike Strachan and Mike Tyson. The Cyclones also face gaps in their defense and may have to fill skill positions in the secondary with inexperienced underclassmen.

Kansas State University and their coach, Vince Gibson, are faced with a major rebuilding task as only three starters return on offense. Five regulars are back defensively. Quarterback Steve Grogan is the only bright spot in a seemingly bleak outlook for the Wildcats. However, Gibson is optimistic as the Wildcats have some promising material in their freshmen and sophomore classes.

Larry Stunkel on record

by the graduated J.V. Cain, Charlie Davis and Bo Matthews, and rebuilding his defensive line.

Oklahoma State University has three starters back from last season's offensive backfield, but will

sports shorts

The Husker baseball team Tuesday raised its record to 4-14 with a doubleheader victory over Northwest Missouri State University. Scores of the games on the UNL diamond were 9-5 and 8-3.

Women's softball player optimistic

By Steve Taylor

Monday afternoon the UNL women's softball team raised its record to 3-1 with a 16-6 victory over Creighton University. The Huskers have eight games remaining this season and UNL's Pat Osborn thinks they can win them all.

Osborn first started playing softball in the seventh grade, as part of a required physical education (P.E.) course.

Now, as a 21-year-old senior, athletics figure prominently in her future plans. The former Lincoln high student said she has her sights set on a career in P.E. instruction. But first, she said, she would like to lead UNL to the Women's College World Series, held in Omaha.

To reach that tournament, Osborn and her teammates must win the state tournament in Omaha later this year.

Osborn said the team gets along well both on and off the field.

"You need a closely knit team to win games," she said. "You can't have people mad at each other."

During the summer months, Osborn plays for the Triple-A Lincoln M.C.'s. The team plays 60 games including contests in South Dakota, Kansas and Iowa.

Osborn said she prefers the Triple-A season to the college competition.

"You play more games and it's more professional," she remarked. "The University has more restrictions," she said.

John F. Kennedy College in Wahoo offered Osborn a 4-year player contract, but she said she believed UNL would be more beneficial to her career.

"JFK would be a good place to play softball but I want to make playing my profession," she said.

Osborn said she is fairly satisfied with the UNL women's athletic program, though she doesn't think they are getting enough financial aid.

"Whenever we travel, we have to pay everything ourselves. Money is the main problem," she said.

Traveling expenses may be the least of the team's worries when they go to Omaha for the state tournament. Facing them will be Wayne State College, a rival that beat UNL 11-4 earlier this season.

Osborn, however, remains unshaken.

"Our team has a lot of depth," she said, "and each game we'll get better."

The team will try to raise its record to 4-1 Thursday. The opponent for the 5 p.m. home contest on the WPE field will be the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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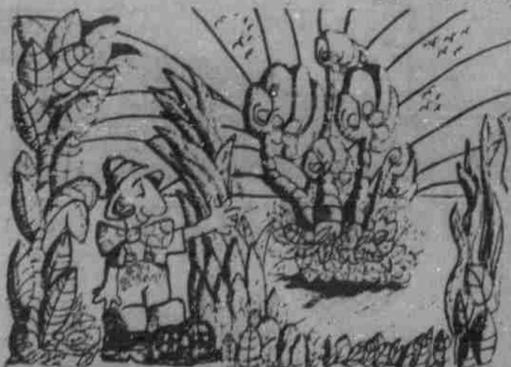
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