



These two Husker fans somehow managed to hold down their enthusiasm during the parade of touchdowns.

## 'Huskies had the breaks'

By Bob Cullinan

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne is coming off a resounding 61-7 victory over Oregon last week, but now must face the strong Wisconsin Badgers.

"We aren't necessarily 54 points better than Oregon," Osborne said. "We just had the good breaks."

"The game would have been much closer if Oregon had gotten a few of the breaks we got," he said. "We played errorless football, without any fumbles, penalties, or interceptions."

Osborne said he hopes the Husker gridgers can keep up the momentum for Wisconsin. Last year, they defeated UCLA and North Carolina State and went on to squeeze past Wisconsin 20-16.

"We're in the same position now that we were in a year ago. People get their hopes built up awfully high," Osborne said. "There's a lot expected from us."

Wisconsin sets up in the same basic offensive and defensive alignments as the Cornhuskers. Their offense is run from an "I" formation, and the defense is the same as the Huskers five-two set with five men on the line and two linebackers.

These formations are more familiar to the Nebraska players than the Oregon Veer-T, but Osborne sees no definite advantage in this knowledge.

"We'd just as soon play against a Veer, if it's the same kind as Oregon's."

"In the long run, it's the quality of the people playing, not the formations, that win football games. The execution of the play is the big thing," Osborne said.

Osborne said he was pleased with the play of senior quarterback Dave Humm and senior wingback Don Westbrook, who were very much involved in the Huskers' opening drives.

Also cited for outstanding effort were reserve I-backs Jeff Moran and Dave Gillespie, and second team fullback Gary Higgs. Osborne said he was especially pleased with the defensive line play of John Lee, Mike Fultz, Bob Martin, and Tom Pate.

Two injuries continue to plague the Huskers from last week's game. Defensive tackle Dean Gissler is hospitalized with an eye injury and defensive end Dave Redding sustained a shoulder separation. Both are doubtful for Saturday's game.

## Cross-country kick-offs

Right behind the kick-off of Cornhusker football another UNL fall sport makes its debut this month.

Coach Frank Sevigne's cross-country seven will travel to Wisconsin Oct. 28, for their opening run of the season.

"We're an extremely young team, but with talent," Sevigne said. "It will take time for our kids to adjust to the new five-mile distance. In 1973 the NCAA cross-country distance was four-miles."

"It will be a tough opener with Wisconsin who is always a tough Big 10 opponent. But hopefully, by conference time, we can be pushing up near the top of the Big 8."

Besides handling the coaching duties of cross-country, Sevigne is a successful indoor and outdoor track coach. He has an indoor mark of 44-11-1 and an outdoor mark of 40-19.

A successful fall for the harriers primarily will be shouldered by single returning letterman Keith Whitaker. Sevigne also laid walk-ons Dave Johnston, Gale Wheeler, Dennis Katzer and returning sophomore Matt Rechmeyer have been looking impressive in practice sessions.

Whitaker, a native of Norwell, Mass. was his state's cross-country champion when he was a junior in high school.

Also a miler, Whitaker owns the current New England high school record with a time of 4:12 minutes. Representing Nebraska at the Junior Nationals in Florida this summer, he ran the distance in 4:08.

According to Whitaker, his high school coach Peter Scott had the greatest influence on his running, he said.

"I wasn't running very well," Whitaker said, "until my junior year when Scott took over. I got the running experience and work-outs I needed. Until then I had been instructed by our high school basketball coach."

Scott is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and excelled in Sevigne's track program.

Running cross-country has a double purpose for Whitaker, he said. One is to excel and represent UNL in distance running. The other is to keep in shape for the mile in spring track.

"It's the endurance factor. It will give me more strength in the mile, those last two laps."

"Cross-country is a five mile race now and torture on the brain. You need self-discipline to pace yourself. You want to be relaxed and run the best you can."

Whitaker practices twice daily and runs an average of 15 miles per day.

Although he says he likes cross-country, Whitaker admitted that he prefers the mile event. Most people don't understand how to follow cross-country, he said.

"It can get difficult. You can run seven men in each meet, but only five count pointwise."

Pointwise the lowest score wins. If a runner crosses the finish line first he is given one point, the second man to finish receives two points and so on. The score of each team's first five finishers is added up and the lowest tally determines the winner.

The five mile race is run over rough terrain. Each course is physically different to enhance competition.

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