

Huskers to take on major challenge

By Steve Taylor

Nebraska football fans will clamour for a position around the TV set Saturday to see if the highly regarded Huskers can withstand their first major challenge of the season.

The opponents will be the Wisconsin Badgers, who last year came within an eyelash of defeating Nebraska in their own backyard. Only a late flurry of David Humm passes saved the Huskers as they pulled out a 20-16 squeaker.

This year the Badgers will have the home field advantage and also several revenge-minded starters of the '73 team.

Tailback Bill Marek rushed for 1,207 yards last season with 145 of them racked up against Nebraska. Marek was held out of the 28-14 win over Purdue last week, but has been pronounced fit for the Nebraska game. Marek was named to the All-Big 10 first team as a sophomore last year.

The man who almost nailed the coffin on the Huskers in the '73 game also returns for another crack at them. Selvie Washington almost won the game for the Badgers when he returned a Nebraska kickoff 96 yards to give his team a short-lived 16-14 lead.

Altogether, the Badgers return 16 starters from a team that finished 4-7 last season. They are coached by John Jardine.

The Huskers have planned no lineup changes for the contest that begins at 12:50 p.m.

I-back hard to please

John O'Leary is a hard man to please. That is, when it comes to self-performance on the football field.

"I'm never satisfied with my personal performance. Sure, I'm always glad when Nebraska wins, but I feel I always should be able to improve myself," the junior I-back said.

O'Leary is constantly trying to improve his running and elusiveness. "Running you do on instinct," commented the New York native. "The rest comes with experience."

O'Leary cited quarterback Dave Humm's performance during last week's 61-7 victory over Oregon. "Dave is going to have an exceptional year. He's more prepared this year. Dave is any easy person to work with; he played extremely well Saturday."

O'Leary said it is too early in the season to judge Nebraska's performance in the Oregon game.

"There's no way to compare (the two teams). Personally I expected them to be tougher. Field position was an important factor in the game. With our position we could do almost anything we wanted, including gamble. The visiting team also has a disadvantage with all those people intimidating them."

A large home stadium attendance is a game factor O'Leary affirmed.

becky morgan jock talk

"After three years, it still amazes me. I remember the first time I ran out, I saw the fans and felt like running back in. It's a thrill, it really is."

Comparing this year's Cornhuskers to the team a year ago O'Leary said he feels the overall attitude is somewhat better.

"Nobody this year has played on a championship team. We want to win and are willing to sacrifice more. Sure the seniors are missed but more personally than otherwise. It's weird not seeing their faces but the transition has been made and their spots filled."

Previewing Saturday's contest, O'Leary said that on film Wisconsin came across as a physical team.

"They have a lot of players back. We made some mistakes against them last year and barely won. We've got to get up for the game and be ready."

Big 8 wise O'Leary feels that the way to a championship is to be up for every game. "Rivalries are built up big, there are so many well balanced teams that you just take them for granted."

O'Leary, a speech communications major, plans a career in either public relations or speech pathology.

In commenting on game aspects O'Leary stressed that besides playing, the people and friends you meet and make will always be around. The relationship between team members is tremendous. "Football teaches ideals and values that are helpful in life."

UNL crew gaining support

No longer is the UNL crew alone in their drive to raise funds for their program.

Their efforts received support Thursday from Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon in the form of a proclamation, and from Jack Thompson of the Cooper Foundation in the form of a \$5,000 contribution to initiate a drive in the city for funds.

Exon's proclamation praised the team's efforts in building a nationally recognized program in four years on their own initiative and urged the people of Nebraska to contribute to fund raising projects the team is sponsoring.

Thompson's donation is part of a drive to raise an additional \$10,000 in Lincoln. Burnham Yates, president of the First National Bank, and Harry Seward, chairman of the board of Bankers Life Insurance are working along with Thompson on the drive.

Thompson said the three plan to write over 3,000 letters to local citizens urging them to match his donation.

Crew Coach Ron Rusthoven said the governor's proclamation will help notify the people about the team's efforts, and give legitimacy to their fund drive.

Rusthoven announced the crew plans to match Thompson's \$5,000 by sponsoring a raffle next month, painting houses and selling party favors for a local business.

Previous to this, the team has had to raise almost their entire budget on their own.

Rusthoven said last year's fourth place finish in the Intercollegiate Rowing Assoc. championships, plus additional publicity from the press has helped make people more aware of the organization.

Rusthoven also complimented Lt. Gov. Frank Marsh for his efforts to encourage support from UNL alumni and people outside of Lincoln, plus giving the crew some ideas for promotion.

"What impressed me and other people is the way the group went out and accomplished what they did on their own before coming to us for help," Marsh said.

Thompson said he supports crew because, "It's a very worthwhile program. They've done a good job of developing their sport on their own."

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