

## Kiffen's wild antics confined to sidelines

By Rex Seline

Nebraska's defensive coordinator sometimes is mistaken for a male cheerleader as he rants and raves on the sidelines Saturday afternoons. Indeed, many games he garners more field time than some of his reserves. But eighth-year Husker Coach Monte Kiffen harbors no secret desire to join his players against this week's opponents.

"I probably wouldn't be able to set a very good example," he said.

Kiffen, whose field antics have spiced many a dreary, Nebraska-dominated afternoon, said that his enthusiasm stems from his interest in his players.

"When you have good players, it's easy to get enthused," he said. "I wouldn't be if our kids didn't care about the team."

It will be Kiffen's responsibility today to devise a defense to stop Oklahoma's Sooners and their All-American running back Joe Washington.

"The defensive keys to beating Oklahoma are having great pursuit, stopping Washington and taking away their passing game," Kiffen said. "They've got two great receivers in Tinker Owens and Billy Brooks."

Nebraska fans will remember that it was the passing game that pulled Oklahoma from a 14-point halftime deficit two years ago to score a 17-14 victory. But Kiffen expects the Sooners to follow last year's game plan.

"They'll probably try to run at us, although if they fall behind they may again go more to the passing game," he said.

The Wishbone, growing out of its infancy in its fourth year as Oklahoma's offense, continues to change slightly each season, according to Kiffen.

"We make adjustments but things remain basically the same. It still depends on the people who defense it," he said. "With the Wishbone, if you concentrate on stopping the wide game, you give up too much inside."

The Blackshirts' performance has raised a few eyebrows this year with what has been called "the fourth quarter letdown." The vaunted Blackshirts have given up a mere seven points in the first three quarters of all games this year, while fourth quarters have seen them give up 87 points. Kiffen blames this on the use of reserves by Nebraska.

"Other teams may keep their first teams in to maintain the shutout or keep the score low, but we like to play a lot of kids," he said. "They probably don't play as well because of their lack of experience."

Chuckling, Kiffen said he didn't feel "fourth quarter letdown" would be a problem against the Sooners.

Physically, everyone should be able to go 100 per cent against Oklahoma, according to Kiffen.

"But we're pretty banged up right now," he said Sunday.

Echoing the feelings of sportswriters and fans across the nation, Kiffen said, "I think it will be one heck of a football game."

"We feel that the contest is between the number one and two football teams in the nation, and we intend to win it."



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