



Freshman I-back Monte Anthony (49) leads the Huskers in rushing with a season total of 572 yards.

Huskers to garner share of Big 8 title?

By Pete Wegman

Nebraska's Cornhuskers, picked by nearly every preseason Big 8 poll to finish second behind Oklahoma, are in exactly that position as they face the Sooners today. A Cornhusker victory over Oklahoma would insure the Scarlet and Cream of at least a share of the Big 8 title.

The Cornhuskers, with Coach Tom Osborne at the helm, have posted their 13th consecutive winning record and also will be making their sixth straight bowl appearance this season, meeting Florida in the Sugar Bowl December 31.

The key to Nebraska's success this fall has been quarterback Dave Humm, All-American and Heisman Trophy candidate. The left-handed Humm is leading the Big 8 in passing with a completion percentage of .619, in total offense with 135 yards a game and is tied with Oklahoma signal caller Steve Davis in touchdown passes with 11.

Fullback Tony Davis, who rushed for over 1,000 yards last year as a sophomore, and I-back Monte Anthony, the first freshman to start for Nebraska in recent years, give the Huskers a strong rushing attack. Additionally, junior I-back John O'Leary has recovered from a broken jaw and is pressing Anthony for his starting role.

Nebraska's "big play man" thus far has been senior wingback Don Westbrook. After scoring only one touchdown the last two seasons, Westbrook is leading the team with ten this fall and also leads in pass receptions.

The remainder of the receiving corps has been weakened with injuries to junior split end Dave Shamblin, senior split end Ritch Bahe and junior tight end Larry Mushinskie. Tight end Brad Jenkins and split end Chuck Malito, both sophomores, should see considerable playing time. Malito, won the 440-yard dash in last spring's Big 8 track meet.

All-American candidate Rik Bonness, a junior, anchors the Huskers' offensive line. Bonness is flanked by two preseason All-Big 8 picks, senior tackle Marvin Crenshaw and senior guard Tom Alward.

Junior Mike Coyle leads Big 8 kickers with 53 points. Nebraska ranks first in Big 8 passing offense, second in rushing offense and second in total offense, with over 416 yards a game.

The Blackshirts, second in the Big 8 in scoring and rushing defense and third in total defense, have posted two shutouts this season.

The Blackshirts are strongest at the linebacking position, with seniors Tom Ruud, Bob Nelson and John Starkebaum all two-time letter winners.

Nebraska's defensive secondary, first in the nation in pass defense last season is led by senior Ardell Johnson, the fastest man on the team. Johnson has been aided by junior Jim Burrow, tied for second in Big 8 pass interceptions and fourth in punt returning. Seniors George Kyros and Mark Heydorff both have seen action at safety.

The Cornhuskers record stands at 8-2, with both losses being upsets to Wisconsin (21-20) and Missouri (21-10). Nebraska victories have been over Oregon (61-7), Northwestern (49-7), Minnesota (54-0), Kansas (56-0), Oklahoma State (7-3), Colorado (31-15), Iowa State (23-13) and Kansas State (35-7).

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