



Photo by Steve Boerner

Ex-Husker Bill Olds (38), now playing for the Baltimore Colts, clears the way for Lydell Mitchell (26) during Saturday's 10-3 loss to Atlanta.

Falcons beat Colts 10-7 Three ex-Huskers play

By Larry Stunkel

Former Husker football players John Dutton, Don Westbrook and Bill Olds returned to Memorial Stadium Saturday as members of the Baltimore Colts of the National Football League, and agreed they: —were disappointed the Colts lost the exhibition game 10-3 to the Atlanta Falcons.

—were excited about playing before the Nebraska crowd of 43,097.

—appreciated the extra loud cheers whenever their names were mentioned on the public address system.

In fact, the antics of Olds, Dutton and Westbrook gave the crowd most of what little there was to cheer about Saturday as both teams, not noted for offensive explosiveness, made numerous mistakes and failed to provide the excitement one expects from professional football.

Dutton, an all-American performer for the Huskers in 1973, started at defensive end for the Colts. Last season, the 6 ft. 7 in., 268 lb. native of Rapid City S.D. was named to the NFL's all-rookie defensive unit.

Made tackle

It seemed as if the Falcons were avoiding Dutton's side of the defensive line most of the afternoon. When the Falcons did run at Dutton, he usually made the tackle.

"I don't really take it as a compliment," Dutton said, "because most teams in the NFL are right-handed and run most plays to the right side."

Olds, in his third season with the Colts, started at running back for the Colts' offense. Since his graduation from Nebraska in 1972, Olds has been the Colts starting running back.

This year, Roosevelt Leaks, an all-American fullback at Texas, joined the Colts and rivals Olds for the starting spot. Leaks looked impressive as a runner and pass receiver Saturday, but it was Olds' blocking which helped the Colts mount their only scoring threat of the afternoon.

With second down on the Falcon's

one-yard line in the third quarter, Olds was given an opportunity to score.

"I was really excited when they called my number on the play," Olds said. "There was only a few inches to go and I figured nobody should stop me. But the linebacker (Tommy Nobis) plugged the hole I was supposed to run through and hit the ball instead of me which caused a fumble."

Colt quarterback Bert Jones recovered the fumble for a three yard loss and Baltimore settled for a field goal.

Olds said his blocking experience at Nebraska has been an advantage over Leaks.

"On pass plays I have to help the tackles block the defensive linemen," Olds said. "I'm also the primary blocker on running plays to the other running back. At Nebraska, where we used the "I" formation, I was also primarily a blocker, whereas Leaks was mainly a ball carrier with Texas' wishbone formation."

Wide receiver

Westbrook, a sixth round draft choice of the Colts, was used as a wide receiver in the second quarter and saw action on Baltimore's kick-off and punting teams.

Disappointed that he was not thrown to while in the game, Westbrook said being used primarily in a defensive capacity on special teams has taken some adjustment.

"I was used to getting the ball as a wingback," Westbrook said. "I'm not used to making downfield tackles. I missed a few tackles today; I'll just have to get used to it."

Unlike Olds and Dutton, there is still a question whether Westbrook will make the Colts final roster. Westbrook said being put on the special teams was a good sign.

Baltimore coach Ted Marchibroda said Westbrook has an excellent chance of making the team, but will know more in four weeks.

Husker Athletic Director Bob Devaney said he was pleased with the turnout and will look into the possibility of a preseason exhibition game next August with the Colts and some other team.

Football tickets go on sale Monday

For those students who haven't purchased student football tickets, there is no need to pitch a tent outside the Coliseum next week when ticket sales begin, according to Jim Pittenger, UNL ticket manager.

"There will be plenty of tickets," Pittenger said. "All new students will sit in the end zone sections, so there will be no need for standing in long lines and sleeping

on the doorstep."

Student tickets will go on sale Aug. 26-29 at the Coliseum ticket office 9 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Cost will be \$17 for students presenting certificates of registration or student IDs.

Those students who purchased tickets last spring will be able to claim them during the same time at the Coliseum.

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