Mizzou coaster rolls into Lincoln

By Mike McCarthy

If you want to get dizzy, just take a ride on the University of Missouri (MU) football team's fortunes.

The Tiger's ups and downs would put any circus' Ferris wheel to shame. Sometimes, though, the downs put MU to shame.

Last week's 21-17 loss to Iowa State University (ISU) was one such down on the Tiger's season-long ride. A loss to the University of Illinois was another down.

But the Tigers, who have been ranked as high as seventh this year, chalked up ups with upsets over Southern California, Ohio State and North Carolina Universities.

A win over Kansas State University and the loss to ISU puts the Tigers at 1-1 in Big 8 Conference play and 4-2 for the season.

Disappointing loss

"Yes, it was a disappointing loss to lowa State," said Missouri head coach Al Onofrio. "But I was pleased we played as well as we did the second half. We just have to put that game behind us and get ready for Nebraska.

"We have to start taking advantage of the situations and the opposition," he said. "That's a problem trying to get over that hump. We have to get going to be in a position to play a whole new ballgame."

Senior quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz's return from a three-week shoulder injury could put MU back on the

winning track. Pisarkiewicz led the Big 8 in passing last year, and also led last week's near comeback against the Cyclones.

But it was his back up, junior Pete Woods, who engineered the Ohio State upset.

"Pisarkiewicz did very we!l last week with only one week of practice," Onofrio said. "He should help lead the team comeback."

Stewart sharp

Both Pisarkiewicz and Woods have an excellent pass receiver in junior slotback Joe Stewart.

"Joe has made some great catches," Onofrio said. "He has got to be the sharpest around."

Against ISU last week, Stewart caught six passes for 171 yards. Stewart, who runs 40 yards in 4.4 seconds, also caught a 43-yard touchdown pass against the Cyclones.

Senior tailback Curt Brown, the Tiger's leading rusher, should be ready for UNL, although he injured an ankle against ISU.

"I don't think he's hurt seriously," Onofrio said. "Brown can break it all the way anytime."

In last year's 30-7 victory over the Tigers, UNL displayed the "Bummeroosky" play. Although it may not work this year, last year John O'Leary scooted over 40 yards for a touchdown after a Husker fake punt.

But with Pisarkiewicz back and an odor of upset in the air, MU's elevator tendencies may put the Tigers on the top floor today or in the basement.



Photo courtony of Missouri Sports Information Offic Missouri quartesback Steve Pisnekiewicz should be at full speed against the Hunkers today after being slowed by an early season injury.

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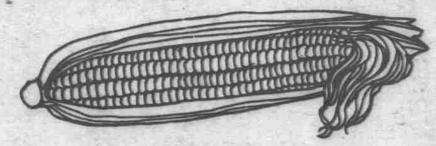
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