

sports

'Comeback kids' press guide full of scary stats

Iowa State University's (ISU) press guide perhaps offers the best description of the Cyclones, who are turning heads with their play this year.

Veteran, sophomore-dominated, small, fast, dangerous and burly with questionable speed is its description. The Cyclones have 12 seniors starting, but they also have seven sophomores listed number one on the depth charts.

Freshman coach Guy Ingles told those at Thursday's Review/Preview Breakfast, sponsored by the UNL Extension Division and KLIN radio, that Iowa State has everything ahead of them.

"If they win their last two games, they can win the conference championship," he said. "They have to beat Nebraska and Oklahoma State, which is a pretty rough road to go. But they do have a chance."

Offensive threats

ISU's offensive threats include Dexter Green, Jeff Curry, Mike Williams and Ray Hardee, who are all under 6 ft. tall and weigh less than 200 lbs. But senior split end Luther Blue perhaps fits the Cyclone mold best.

The pre-season all-Big 8 selection is proving himself to

be just that. He is second on the Big 8 receiving list with 28 catches for 557 yards. The University of Missouri's Joe Stewart is first with 32 catches for 662 yards.

"I thought two years ago he was the best wide receiver I had seen in the Big 8 Conference," said Husker coach Tom Osborne.

ISU's quarterbacks, Wayne Stanley and Buddy Hardeman, are described by Osborne as two of the most versatile quarterbacks around.

"They will go out and mix it up real good," Osborne said. "They're not afraid to throw the ball 30 times in a game."

Comeback kids

ISU, the comeback kids of the Big 8 this year after last year's 4-7 record, holds the second best mark in the Big 8 at 7-2.

Ingles said ISU is basically the same team as last year. "But this year they don't have five or six key injuries like they did last year," he said. "I don't look for it to be a 52 point difference this year," referring to Nebraska's 52-0 rout in Lincoln last year.

UNL has the best mark at 6-1-1, but the teams switch

first and second places when it comes to total offensive yards per game in the Big 8. The Cyclones roll up an average of 448 yards per contest while the Huskers are second, averaging 403 yards a game.

Tables turn

However, the tables turn again with UNL leading the Big 8 in average passing yards a game with 187. ISU is second, averaging 177 yards a contest.

UNL also leads the Big 8 with a 4-1 record, while ISU, again, is second with four other Big 8 teams at 3-2.

ISU coach Earle Bruce, who has guided the Cyclones to their best start since 1971, balances his small backs with "burly" defenders.

Sophomore Mike Stensrud, junior Tom Randall and senior Ron McFarland bolster an ISU defensive front that gets as tall as 6 ft. 6 in. with McFarland, and as heavy as 270 lbs. with Stensrud.

ISU senior Jerry Jaksich and sophomore Tom Boskey also rank among the Big 8's top 10 interceptors. Each player has had three, which may be enough to make Husker quarterback Vince Ferragamo, the Big 8's leading passer, think twice before throwing.

'Beat up' wrestlers to start season today

A battered and bruised UNL wrestling team will open its 1976-77 season this weekend at the Great Plains Open to be held in the UNL Sports Complex track area.

"The team is beat up," said Husker wrestling coach Orval Borgiagli. "We have a lot of sprained ankles and that sort of thing."

The Great Plains Open, sponsored by the AAU, is expected to draw about 250 wrestlers, Borgiagli said. Other teams entered in the tournament include the University of Missouri, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Southern Illinois University and Arizona State University.

Two NCAA champions, Tom Hazel of Oklahoma and Jimmy Jackson of Oklahoma State, are entered in the meet.

Borgiagli said the Great Plains meet is one of the bigger AAU meets.

"The Great Plains meet is probably next in line to the AAU national meet size-wise," Borgiagli said.

The Great Plains Open will feature freestyle wrestling, he said.

"Not too many of our wrestlers are freestylers," Borgiagli said. "We haven't been concentrating on freestyle wrestling too much, but we're not going to take this meet lightly."

Borgiagli said UNL will enter 34 wrestlers in the Great Plains meet.

"We sent one wrestler home with the flu Wednesday," Borgiagli said. "We hope it (the flu) doesn't spread too far."

Champions from the Great Plains meet are eligible to compete in an international meet in Tblisi, Russia.

The Great Plains meet will consist of four two-hour sessions starting at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. both today and Saturday.

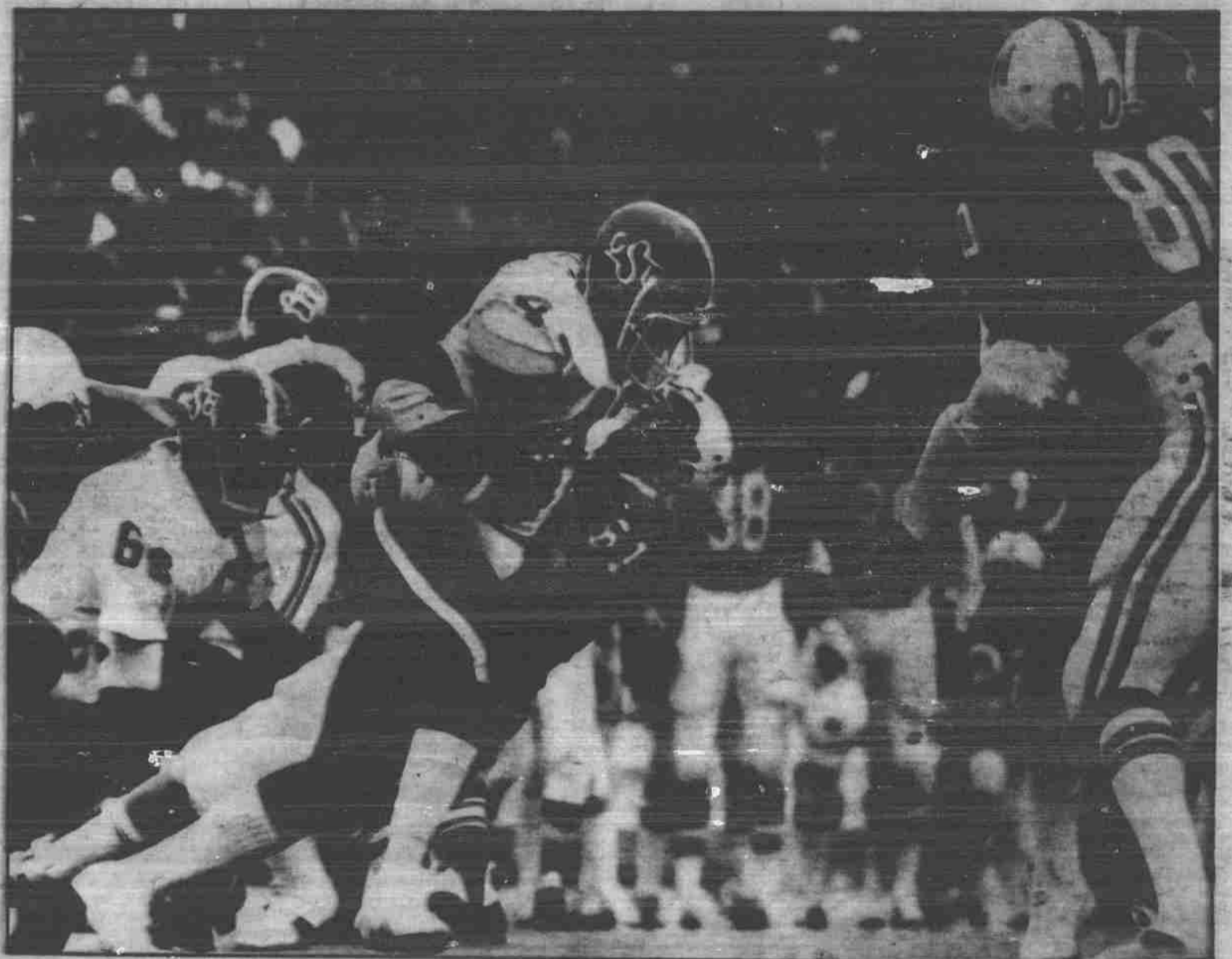


Photo by Ted Kirk

Clete Pilleen sparked Nebraska's defense against Oklahoma State University last Saturday, making 30 tackles. Pilleen may need more help from his teammates Saturday, however, when they face Iowa State's balanced attack.

Formula shows No. 2 Huskers to play Orange Bowl

By Pete Wegman

When Purdue upset Michigan last Saturday and Pittsburgh subsequently was ranked number one this week, Orange Bowl officials must have done cartwheels.

For nearly two months of the 1976 collegiate football season, it had appeared that the Rose Bowl would feature the game for the national championship, between Michigan and either UCLA or Southern California.

However, the Orange Bowl suddenly has found it may have "THE GAME." Pittsburgh, a strong contender for the Orange Bowl bid, is 9-0 and with only West Virginia and an uncharacteristically weak Penn State team to play, the Panthers should be 11-0 entering post-season play.

If things remain the same in the Big 8 Conference (and that is a mighty big if), Nebraska should go to Miami as the conference's representative. Husker wins in the final three games this year would send Nebraska to the Orange Bowl with a 10-1-1 mark, undoubtedly a higher ranking than the current number nine spot.

The Orange Bowl's luster would further increase if the following would happen to the teams rated above Nebraska:

- No. 2 UCLA (8-0-1)—loses to Southern Cal Nov. 20.
- No. 3 Southern Cal (7-1)—beats UCLA Nov. 20; loses to Notre Dame Nov. 27.
- No. 4 Michigan (8-1)—loses to Ohio State Nov. 20.
- No. 5 Texas Tech (7-0)—loses to Houston Nov. 20; loses to Arkansas Nov. 27.
- No. 6 Georgia (8-1)—loses to Auburn Saturday.
- No. 7 Maryland (9-0)—loses to Clemson Saturday; loses to Virginia Nov. 20.
- No. 8 Ohio State (7-1-1)—loses to Minnesota Saturday; beats Michigan Nov. 20.

If all of the aforementioned possibilities occur, the Orange Bowl could have number one Pitt against number two Nebraska.

Although expecting that many upsets is illogical, the top teams do finally start playing each other the next few weeks and someone has to lose. If the Huskers continue their winning ways, they will begin to climb in the polls.

However, any outside chances Nebraska has of backing into the national championship (a la 1970 season) hinge

fourth and twenty



on playing Pitt in the Orange Bowl. The big question is: would Pitt risk a national title by playing the Big 8 champion?

Remember last year, Alabama was 10-1 and in the running for the coveted national crown. However, Alabama coach Bear Bryant "chose" Penn State to play in the Sugar Bowl.

The Bear was criticized from coast to coast for ducking the Big 8 champion and playing a weaker team. Husker coach Tom Osborne even called Bryant "a son of a gun."

Pitt coach Johnny Majors doesn't need to be told how tough the Big 8 is—he used to coach here. Majors was head coach at Iowa State from 1968 to 1972, compiling a 9-25-1 conference mark.

Pitt to Cotton Bowl?

All Pitt will have to do is go to a major bowl, win and the Panthers will be number one. Pitt, for example, could pick the Cotton Bowl and play the Southwest Conference champion.

The leader in that conference is Texas Tech. Although

Tech is undefeated and rated above the Huskers, which team is better?

Last week Texas Tech held Texas Christian University (TCU) to 10 points, exactly like the Huskers did. However, Nebraska managed to score 64 points against TCU, not 14 like Texas Tech.

This writer has heard a number of fans comment that Pitt would not duck the Big 8 champion because the Orange Bowl is just too lucrative, financially, to pass up.

However, the Cotton Bowl has been paying as much as the Orange Bowl, if not more, to participating teams. Last year, for example, Georgia received \$215,000 more for playing in the Cotton Bowl than Oklahoma got for playing in the Orange Bowl.

Entirely possible

This writer believes that it is entirely possible for Pitt to pass up the Orange Bowl in favor of another bowl. I wouldn't like to see it happen, but it's a possibility Husker fans must consider while pondering the slim chances for another national championship for Nebraska.

Two weeks ago "Fourth and Twenty" applauded the University of Minnesota (MU) for filing a lawsuit against the NCAA. This week it applauds the MU student body.

Since learning of the NCAA-imposed probation on their school's athletic program, the MU students have rallied behind the university.

A group called the Students for Fairness, Inc., has been formed. The group raises funds to support MU's lawsuit against the NCAA.

Last Friday, Students for Fairness, Inc., sponsored a "Be True to Your School" party. About 4,000 MU students who attended may have been feeling a bit blue the next morning. The party featured 6,400 gallons of beer (400 16-gallon kegs). Advertisements promised 115 taps.