

sports



Tech's Sloan may be hoping for repeat of 1966

By Rob Barney

Texas Tech University coach Steve Sloan said he hopes "nobody takes it out on him personally" at the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston, Tex., Dec. 31.

Sloan, in his second year as Tech's head coach, said he was the quarterback that led Alabama to a 39-28 victory over NU in the 1966 Orange Bowl. The victory cinched the national title for the Crimson Tide over the Huskers that year.

Many of this year's Nebraska coaches, including head coach Tom Osborne, were coaches in 1966. This year, however, instead of contending with the on-the-field antics of Sloan, the Husker coaches and players will have

to try to contain Tech quarterback Rodney Allison and the Red Raiders.

Tech finished the season at 10-1 (they were 6-5 in 1975); tying Houston for the Southwest Conference (SWC) title. It was Tech's first conference title.

"I'm real thankful for the fine year we had," Sloan said. "We had good fortune and good breaks and the kids worked real hard."

Allison, a junior, started the season as the number two quarterback behind senior Tom Duniven. However, Duniven was injured in Tech's third game against Texas A&M and Allison took over.

Alternate quarterbacks

"We alternated both quarterbacks at the start of the season," Sloan said, "so we knew Allison could do the job. But we didn't know he could do it quite as well as he has."

Allison is one of seven Tech players to make all-SWC this season. While leading Tech's veer offense, Allison amassed 523 yards rushing (third on the team) and completed 83 or 139 passes for 1,458 yards and eight touchdowns.

Texas Tech's veer has produced results comparable to those of NU's I-formation.

This year the Red Raiders have shown offensive balance, averaging 228 yards per game rushing and 180 yards passing.

"I favor the veer if you have the material," Sloan said. "It gives a chance for the backs to get to the line of scrimmage faster than in the 'I'."

"The veer is conducive to the drop-back pass and it gives the backs good position to release," he said.

Vital cog

Another vital cog in Tech's offensive wheel is all-conference senior running back Larry Isaac. Isaac led the Red Raiders in rushing this year with 685 yards, and in doing so became the school's all-time leading rusher. The record previously was held by former NFL star runningback Donnie Anderson.

Junior running back Billy Taylor was second in rushing with 627 yards. He also was second in pass receptions with 14 for 185 yards and two touchdowns.

Tech boasted an all-SWC receiver in Sammy Williams. The junior hauled in 32 passes for 601 yards and two TD's.

The Red Raiders also have two all-conference perfor-

mers on their offensive line. They are the Mutt and Jeff combination of guards Dan Irons and Mike Sears. Irons is 6 ft. 7 in. and weight 260 lbs. Sears, on the other hand, is 6 ft. 1 in. and weighs 235 lbs.

On defense, the Raiders were just as balanced as the offense. Tech gave up an average of 144.5 yards per game passing and 153 yards on the ground.

"We're not a real physical team," Sloan said, "but we do have quite a bit of balance both offensively and defensively."

Tech set a school record for pass interceptions this season with 22.

Junior defensive back Greg Fraizer led the way with five thefts. Fraizer, a converted quarterback, is another all-conference performer for Tech.

Defensive stalwart

The stalwart of the Red Raider defense is linebacker Thomas Howard. A senior, Howard made this year's Kodak All-American team. He led the team in tackles with 106. He also had two pass interceptions.

Other Texas Tech defensive performers to watch are all-conference performers Larry Dupre, defensive back, and Harold Buell, defensive end.

If the game comes down to the kicking game, Sloan said he will be confident.

"I don't know much about Nebraska's kicking game but ours is the best it's ever been."

Handling the kicking chores for Tech will be Brian Hall and Dave Melott. Hall, a senior, has converted over 90 per cent of his extra point attempts and over 72 per cent of his field goal attempts during his career.

As with UNL, this will be Tech's first appearance in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl classic. This will also mark the first time the two schools have faced one another.

The two teams have one common opponent, Colorado.

Tech downed Colorado in their season opener, 24-7.

The Huskers beat the Buffaloes 24-12.

Overall, the Red Raiders are 12-3 against Big 8 schools. However, they are only 3-10-1 in bowl competition. Their last bowl appearance came in 1974, when Tech tied Vanderbilt 6-6 in the Peach Bowl. Vandy's coach at the time was Steve Sloan.

"We're not disappointed that we're not going to the Cotton Bowl," Sloan said. "We tied for the conference title and that's a step in the right direction."

"We're happy to be playing Nebraska. They have a great team and a fine reputation," he said.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Husker sophomore guard Brian Banks shoots over a defender from the University of Iowa earlier this season. The Huskers have lost to three Big 10 Conference schools this season. Their final shot at beating a Big 10 school will come Monday when the Huskers play at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. The game starts at 8:05 p.m. and will be broadcast by KLIN, KFAB, and KFOR.

sports shorts

Val Martin, a sophomore forward from South Bend, Ind., has quit the Husker basketball team.

Martin earned one letter at UNL while playing in five games for the Huskers during the 1975-76 season. He averaged 1.6 points a game.

Martin may be remembered by most Husker fans for scoring the last basket in the Coliseum on a goaltending call against Iowa State University last spring.

UNL students interested in officiating intramural basketball during second semester should sign up at the Recreation office at 1740 Vine St. before Dec. 21. There will be a meeting at 7 p.m., Jan. 18, in the Nebraska Union Small Auditorium for those interested.

The Lincoln Track Club will sponsor an all-comers practice meet Tuesday. The meet will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be at the indoor track under the stadium.

Events scheduled are the 60-yard dash, 300-yard dash, 440-yard dash, 880-yard run, mile run, three mile run, long jump, triple jump and shot put.

There will be a 50 cents entry fee to cover expenses.

The Nebraska men's bowling team won the Kansas-Nebraska Bowling Conference this semester. UNL finished ahead of Wichita State, Kansas and Kansas State, respectively.

The league has a six-meet schedule with three matches per meet. For the 54-game total, UNL won 430.5 points and lost 289.5

Ray Koziol won the high average for the conference with a 189. Steve Mears had the semester's high series of 654 and the most individual points with 44.5. Jim Krebs had the conference's high game with a 259.

The women's team finished last in the conference.

Ninety-nine days ago, 'long climb to top' began

By Pete Wegman

Ninety-nine days ago, on Friday, Sept. 10, the *Daily Nebraskan* sports page carried an advance of the Huskers' game with Louisiana State University (LSU).

The headline for the story read, "Long climb to the top begins!" It was set in 48 point type, the largest head-

fourth and
twenty



line to appear on the sports page this year, perhaps reflecting the *Daily Nebraskan's* optimism about a national championship season.

I remember listening to that LSU game and how the Huskers marched methodically down the field to score on their first possession. All the preseason number one hopes seemed to be coming true.

The ensuing extra point was not good, foreshadowing the rest of the season, which, of course, is now history.

Three teams finished above the Huskers in the Big 8 Conference. The Big Red will enter the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl ranked about 15th, depending on which poll you look at.

For coach Tom Osborne, the last month has been a nightmare.

Losses to Iowa State University and the University of Oklahoma brought calls for his resignation. The *Daily Nebraskan* published a story about alleged illegal sale of football players' tickets; and now defensive backfield coach Warren Powers has left UNL for another coaching job.

But Osborne might as well get used to such goings on. With the extension of his contract by the NU Board of Regents last weekend, he knows he must be prepared for continuing criticism from Husker fans in the future.

However, Husker fans should have something to cheer for in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl. According to the formula used by many sportswriters late in the season when they get kind of flaky (so and so beat so and so, who beat so and so, etc.), the Huskers should demolish the Red Raiders.

Here's how the computations worked: Nebraska tied LSU 6-6, LSU beat Rice 31-0, Rice beat Utah 43-22, which beat Arizona State by 3, which beat Arizona by 17, which beat Auburn by 12, which beat Tennessee by 10, which beat Georgia Tech by 35, which beat Notre Dame by nine, which beat Alabama by three, which beat SMU by 53, which beat Arkansas by four, which beat Houston by seven, which beat Texas Tech by eight. Therefore, the Huskers should beat the Red Raiders by 213 points.

However, following the same formula by reversing it,

the Red Raiders are big favorites over Nebraska. The formula that way is too lengthy to describe, but involves 35 teams and has Texas Tech being 533 point favorites over the Huskers. I might even bet a spread like that!

With the Big 8 football season completed and since this is the last issue of the paper (hence no more news letters claiming that I lack intelligence), I am printing my preseason conference forecast which appeared in the Sept. 3 *Daily Nebraskan*.

My predicted order of finish, with the actual finish in parenthesis: 1. Nebraska (tied for fourth), 2. Kansas (7), 3. Oklahoma (tied for first), 4. Oklahoma State (tied for first), 5. Missouri (6), 6. Colorado (tied for first), 7. Kansas State (8) and 8. Iowa State (tied for fourth).

In my five semesters of writing sports for this paper, there has been one club sport which has deserved funding by the Athletic Dept.

UNL's crew club has established itself as a dominant force in Midwestern crew and has been giving Nebraska nationwide attention. The program has a winning attitude from top to bottom.

The crew has yet to receive any official support from the university, but deserves it richly. Perhaps in the future the program will receive funding from the Athletic Dept.

One final note: Good luck next semester to coach John and coach Tony!