

Fans gave Broncos' head coach walking papers

By Jim Hunt

John Ralston, former coach of the Denver Broncos of the NFL, is out of a job—but hopefully not for long.

"I resigned my position at Denver because of sickness and fatigue," Ralston said Thursday while in Lincoln for a promotional appearance. "The fans were just sick and tired of me."

Ralston, 50, was fired as general manager and head coach of the Broncos Jan. 31, after five years with the team.

"The owners (Gerald and Allen Phipps) suggested we split the (general manager and head coach) job," Ralston said. "I think it was a good idea because it is a big job for one guy."

"They asked me which job I would rather have and I said I wanted to coach a Super Bowl champion. But my assistant general manager (Fred Gehrke) became the general manager and he wanted to hire his own coach."

Ralston does not blame Gehrke for hiring Red Miller as this year's head coach, because Gehrke and Ralston might not have worked well together, he said.

However, Ralston said he still is hoping to return to the NFL as a head football coach, and is proud of his 34-33-4 record with the Broncos.

In 1973, Ralston was named the American Football Conference Coach of the Year.

"It's not going to be easy coming

around the second time," Ralston said of his chances of landing another head coaching job. "I didn't want an assistant job because it is too hard to get a second chance that way. I decided to just wait it out."

Ralston coached Stanford University to two consecutive Rose Bowl victories before taking the coaching job at Denver.

He said he might have been a little ahead of his time when he went to Denver. "I am optimistic and enthusiastic by nature," Ralston said. "When a team is in trouble, the first thing most people attack is the personality of the coach."

"I think I did put myself in jeopardy in Denver. I made some lofty predictions which didn't come true."

Ralston said the NFL players' strike and some key injuries to Otis Armstrong and Lyle Alzado weakened several of his Bronco teams.

During the NFL pre-season, Ralston was a commentator for the Seattle Seahawks' home football games.

"I had hoped to get on with CBS but that didn't work out," Ralston said. "They said I was too serious. They wanted someone that can relate to the man in the bar."

When Ralston entered the NFL, he said he was appalled by NFL players' off-season activities.

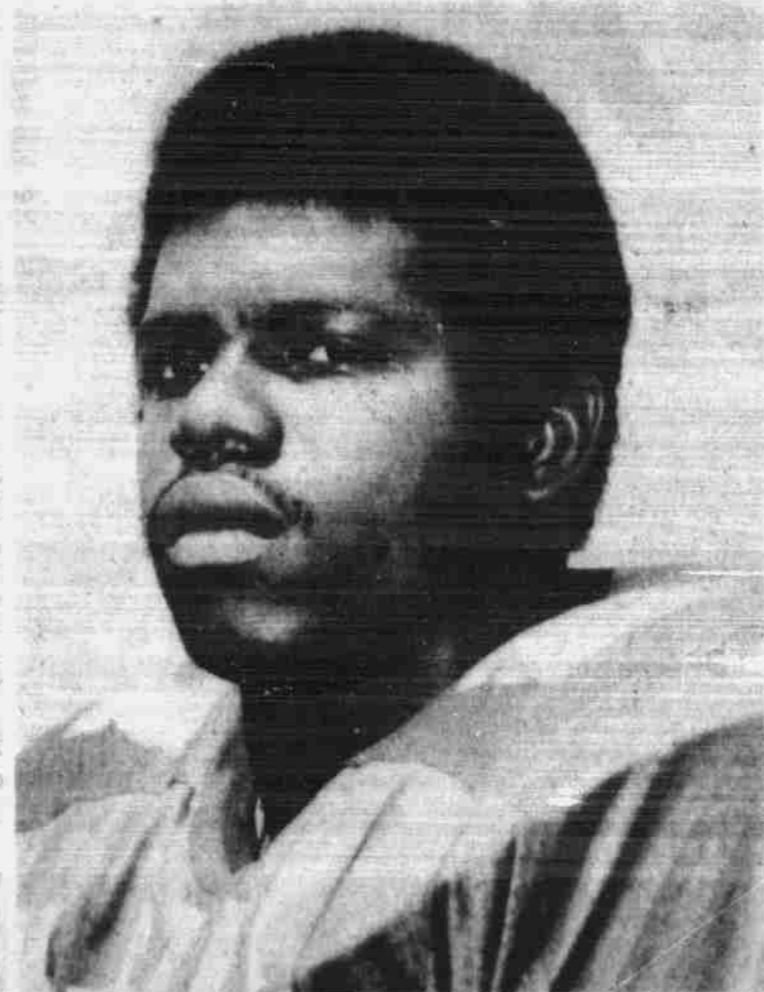
Ralston lives in Denver and travels around the country doing promotional work for Dale Carnegie Courses.



Daily Nebraskan photo
John Ralston, former head coach of the NFL's Denver Broncos, said he quit because of sickness and fatigue. "The fans were sick and tired of me."



Everything will have to go right for Wildcat quarterback Wendell Henrikson (left) and tailback Mack Green if KSU hopes to beat the Huskers Saturday in Manhattan.



Photos courtesy of Kansas State University

Huskers preparing for Wildcats although record indicates kittens

By Lisa Broman

Although Kansas State University (KSU) has a 1-3 record, the Cornhuskers are not taking Saturday's foe lightly.

In fact, Husker Head Coach Tom Osborne said his football team is preparing for the Wildcats as if they were a national powerhouse.

"It is going to be a tough game and we can't afford to be complacent," Osborne said.

Osborne described this year's Wildcats as the best KSU team in the last several years.

"They had 500 yards against nationally ranked Mississippi State (University, MSU) last week. It was a little bit like our Washington State game," he said. KSU lost to MSU, 24-21.

Osborne said Wildcat tailback Mack Green is "close to being as good as I.M. Hipp."

Green gained 181 yards in 37 carries last week against Mississippi State.

Wildcat Coach Ellis Rainsberger said he hoped Green can make the big plays against the Huskers.

"If we can get the big plays, we can definitely be in the ball game," he said. "We need the big plays because I don't think Nebraska is the kind of team we can consistently run it (the ball) down their throat."

Offensively, KSU is in good shape, Rainsberger said. But there are two doubtful starters on defense, he added.

Linebacker Gary Spani, who had eight unassisted and seven assisted tackles in the MSU game, and nose-guard Greg Brown are both injured.

The Huskers suffered few injuries in last week's Indiana game, Osborne said.

Husker receiver coach Gene Huey, who scouted the KSU-MSU game, said the Wildcats strength is in an aggressive defense.

"UNL has everything to gain and everything to lose. We can't be complacent against KSU," Huey said. "In Big-8 conference play you have to be ready to play every week."

Rainsberger said the loss to MSU took some spirit out of the Wildcats.

"We have not been as sharp this week," he said. "Hopefully practices will pick up Thursday because we are not up like we want to be."

Rainsberger said to beat the Huskers the Wildcats must protect their quarterback, Wendell Henrikson.

"Offensively, they (UNL) will put a lot of pressure on us because of their mixed attack," Rainsberger said.

"I'm sure it will be our interior line's biggest test. However, if we can come up with another great effort, we definitely can be in Saturday's ballgame."

Saturday's game starts at 1:30 p.m., and will be broadcast by KFAB, KLIN, WOW, and KFOR radio stations.

sports shorts

Husker reserve fullback Keith Steward quit the football squad Wednesday. Steward was first string during spring practice but played behind seniors Monte Anthony and Dodie Donnell when the season began.

Football tickets for the Husker-Kansas State University game Saturday in Manhattan can be purchased at the ticket office in the South Stadium's ticket office.

UNL's soccer club, 2-0 this year, meets UNO soccer club 2 p.m. Saturday at Mabel Lee Field. The Huskers then travel to Manhattan, Kan. for a 1:30 p.m. Sunday match with Kansas State University. UNL faces York College in York 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Crimes, thefts or vandalism reported with losses of more than \$20 for the week of Sept. 28 to Oct. 5:

- Sept. 29,
 - Vandalism, Abel Hall, glass broken out of door-\$35
 - Larceny from building, Temple Bldg., wallet-\$23
 - Larceny auto accessory, Area 3, 17th and Holdrege, canvas tarp for pickup-\$60
 - Larceny from building, Abel Hall, refrigerator-\$20
 - Larceny from building, Sports Complex, supplies-\$880

campus police weekly report

- Larceny from auto, Area 3, Harper, cassette, tapes and speakers-\$365
 - Sept. 30,
 - Larceny from auto, Area 3, 19th and Vine, citizens' band radio-\$30
 - Vandalism, Cather Hall, window-\$30
 - Vandalism, Cather Hall, damage to elevator door-\$75
 - October 1,
 - Larceny from auto, Area 2, 17th and R, car battery\$40
 - Larceny from building, Love Library, typewriter-\$420
 - October 2,
 - Larceny, Area 3, 19th and Vine, parking sign-\$25
 - October 3,
 - Larceny from building, Pound Hall, lounge furniture\$50
 - Larceny, 14th and R, stop sign-\$25
 - October 4,
 - Vandalism, Tractor test site, tractor tire-\$30
 - Vandalism, Cather Hall, window-\$300
 - Larceny from building, Harper Hall, carpet-\$54
- Total value of property stolen or destroyed during the week, \$2, 618. Information courtesy of Campus Police.