

# Tenacious Cyclone defense to test NU ground attack

By Dennis Onnen

It may be a case of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object when the Husker offense lines up against the Cyclone defense today.

The Huskers are second in the Big 8 in total offense and seventh in the country in rushing offense with 299.6 yards a game, well over the Husker record of 252.5 yards a game set in 1971.

But Iowa State, noted mainly for its offense last year when it led the Big 8 with 439.6 yards a game, has developed a surprisingly strong defense in compiling a 4-1 record.

Sparked by All-Big 8 candidates Mike Stensrud and Tom Randall at tackle and Ron McFarland at nose guard, the Cyclones have limited their opponents to 114.2 rushing yards a game, best in the league. They also rank second in total defense (245 yards a game) and scoring

defense (11 points a game).

If Husker backs manage to get past the Cyclone line, they will be met by standout linebackers Tom Boskey and Mark Settle. Boskey had 107 tackles to lead Iowa State last year and should be recovered from a sore ankle. With Boskey sidelined during the win over Dayton, Settle pitched in for 17 tackles.

On offense, the Cyclones were dealt a blow when starting quarterback Mike Tryon separated his shoulder in the first quarter of the first game. Sophomore Terry Rubley has filled the void, however, and now stands third in the Big 8 in passing with 384 yards. He has completed 58 per cent of his passes, best in the league.

His top targets are split ends Ray Hardee and Stan Hixon, who have 10 and 9 catches respectively. Hardee is also a threat on kickoff returns, averaging 28.2 yards a

return to rank first in the Big 8 and seventh in the country.

The Cyclone rushing attack is only seventh in the league, but tailback Dexter Green and fullback Cal Cummins each have 100-yard games to their credit this year. Green rushed for 1,074 yards last year to finish third in the Big 8, and he has scored eight touchdowns this year to lead the league in scoring.

One of the Cyclone strong points has been the kicking game. They have scored two touchdowns on punt returns, and Rick Blabolil has averaged 41.8 yards a punt to lead the league. Scott Kollman kicked 11 field goals last year, but has been successful on only two of seven attempts this year.

The Cyclones have beaten Wichita State (35-9), Bowling Green (35-21), Dayton (17-13) and Missouri (7-0). Their only loss was to Iowa in a 12-10 squeaker.

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