

sports

Cowboys shootin' to corral Cornhuskers Saturday

By Jim Kay
Sports editor

If a football team can win on desire alone, then UNL should have its hands full with the Oklahoma State Cowboys Saturday afternoon in Memorial Stadium.

OSU got off to a dismal 0-5 start this season with three of the losses coming to Wichita State, North Texas State and Kansas State. The Pokes had no where to go but up.

But successive home victories against Colorado and Kansas have turned OSU around and the Cowboy's willingness to not give up may be the key to their comeback.

"We started out kind of slow and got stronger as things went along," guard Reggie Richardson said. "Frankly, I think we put things together pretty well. As long as our offensive line stays free of injury, we'll do okay."

"As for the Nebraska game, we've got to keep coming off the ball for 60 minutes. If we do, we have a good chance to take them."

Amusingly optimistic

Richardson's words might seem optimistically amusing to most Husker fans, but UNL head coach Tom Osborne will not take anything for granted.

"Colorado analyzed their films (of the OSU game) and concluded they hadn't played poorly against Oklahoma State, they just got beat," Osborne said. "They have some great players."

Osborne had high praise for Cowboy linebacker John Corker, calling him possibly the best linebacker in the country.

Corker already has 126 tackles this season in just seven games for an average of eighteen tackles a game. Lee Kunz leads the Huskers with 76 tackles in seven games.

"You know, there's still a lot of people who don't believe we are for real," Corker said. "Nebraska will be a real test. The guys on our team know we're going to have our 'bowl games' in three of the next four weeks."

League leaders Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma are three of the Cowboys last four opponents.

Advance warning

Oklahoma State scout Rod Dixon has given head coach Jim Stanley and the Cowboys plenty of advanced warning on UNL.

"As far as I'm concerned Nebraska's the best team in the Big Eight right now," Dixon said. "Offensively they haven't slowed down yet. They have two great running backs in (Rick) Berns and (I.M.) Hipp. But I'd take Berns before Hipp. He's a big, tough, rugged ballplayer. He runs like a mule."

"Defensively, they're a lot better than they were last year," he added. "Their noseguard (Kerry Weinmaster) is quicker than a cat and that defensive end (George) Andrews is a killer. Kunz and (Jim) Pillen are great players too."

Despite the fact the Huskers have been made 19 to 25 point favorites, OSU's players feel that on any given Saturday...

"I remember the '75 game against Nebraska," said quarterback Scott Burk, "when I thought I had thrown for a touchdown. The official closest to the play called it a touchdown and the guy from the other side of the field said offensive interference."

"So what if the odds are against us at Lincoln. I'm sure we'll be ready to give it our best shot."

Offensive job

Fullback Worley Taylor said, "Nebraska is tough but I can't see up giving in to them. We know we're going to have to do a job offensively."

"We'll be prepared for Nebraska," said safety Peter

Coppola, "because our coaches always do a great job of getting us ready for a game. Nebraska's big, strong and fast. I think Berns is one of the toughest backs to bring down in the Big Eight."

Coppola's fellow safety, Darnell Scott, added, "I know Nebraska danced on Colorado in the second half and that means we'll have to play a whole lot better than we did (last week)."

Stanley has told his team they are now in their "second season." And if optimism continues to run high, Oklahoma State may challenge UNL in their first "bowl game" on Saturday.



Photo by Bob Pearson

Linebacker Tom Vering (47) puts a rush on Oklahoma State quarterback Harold Bailey in last year's 31-14 UNL win. The Cowboys come to Lincoln Saturday seeking an upset over the fourth-ranked Huskers.

Spiritual vision prompts writer to predict Husker scores

Jimmy the Greek, Fred Roth, Bob Deane, Charlie the Computer and Rick Dale—all immortals in the field of predicting college football games. So is the common belief.

But these men, except for Charlie perhaps, are like any other men. They breathe the same air, drink the same water and put their pants on one leg at a time. But somehow these men don't know how to accurately predict the score. Sure, they can say that Nebraska will beat Kansas State, but how about the final score?

kevin schnepf

In order to predict the final score on the nose, one must reach out for his psychic possession, the spiritual element which one owns but seldom uses. In other words, an accurate predictor must respond to his gut feeling.

If you're going to place a bet on a college game, don't rely on "the Greek" or Huls, rely on your own gut feeling. Anyone can be a predictor, especially if the spirit tells you the score.

As for me, I never proclaimed to be an expert in the field. But now I've focused my life on telling everyone what will happen to their favorite football team on Saturday afternoons. As a sportswriter for the past four years, I have been revealing the game's outcomes—but forty-eight hours after the game.

Now, I intend to reach deep into my soul in search of spiritual information to help me predict the score—before either

team begins to think about ripping each others heads off. Like an intense Christian believer who sheds the light on unwilling listeners, I will force my predictions as gospel down the throats of *Daily Nebraskan* readers. I may preach my predictions, but probably no one will give a damn. But I don't care, because I am joining the elite company of "the Greek," Roth and Huls.

Harris humanoids

How did I find myself with predictions, you ask? Well, the spiritual awakening occurred in a place known as Harris Laboratories—where a wide range of humanoids subject their bodies to the testing of drugs. In my case, griso-fluven, an over-the-counter drug used for the treatment of ringworm and rash, was put into our bodies for over a week. Reactions were tested on three day weekends when subjects were locked up in the "Harris Hilton."

I must make it clear that I suffered no side-effects from the griso-fluven. The 18 blood draws, the five urine samples, and a daily diet of soy-bean burgers and chile did in no way promote my inclination to be a predictor. My discovery was natural.

Look out Jimmy

Last Saturday's Colorado-Nebraska football game made me realize that my purpose in life is predicting. It was the unusual start of the game, the unusual mixture of Harris Lab subjects, and the unusual feeling that overcame me that led to my discovery. "The Greek" never had it so good. I heard that "the Greek" was put into such a hypnotic trance by his cigar smoke that he felt he could predict. Nothing like my natural and spiritual revelation.

After Harris Lab subjects watched Texas

defeat third-ranked Arkansas on television, they realized that Nebraska could move up a spot in the national ratings—provided Nebraska beat Colorado. A Nebraska victory seemed to be as sure as a Harris Lab blood draw at one o'clock.

In vain, in vein

Enthusiasm was high when Lyell Bremser began to broadcast the Colorado-Nebraska game. But then disaster struck. The enthusiasm drifted away when Colorado was ahead, 14-3. Arkansas' loss was all in vain. The blood draw at 3 o'clock seemed to be more painful for the subjects as the nurse stuck the needle in the veins. It seemed as though a Nebraska loss was already accepted.

This is when the predicting revelation hit me. I observed the long faces. I observed how Colorado had luckily scored their points, and I observed how Nebraska's offense and defense had not been given chances to prove themselves. More importantly, I reached out for a solution to help not only the Harris lab subjects, but the rest of the poor souls whose lives were in shock at the moment.

'Kick 'em'

The answer was predicting. I was so spiritually enhanced, I blurted, "Colorado isn't going to score another point. Nebraska is going to kick 'em."

My confidence in that statement reflected the feelings of the Nebraska players themselves. I had psychic communication with Nebraska players who were 500 miles away. Now, I know what "the Greek," Rosenthal, Devaney, and Huls must feel when the predict Oklahoma is going to demolish Rice.

Improvement is always a positive goal so my predicting will not only be rash statements, but precise scores. After intense study and spiritual communication with each remaining Nebraska opponent, I am going to reveal my predictions for the rest of the Nebraska season.

Visions of the future

Nebraska-97, Oklahoma State 0: OSU coach Jim Stanley's spirit told me that he wants to lose big so he can get out of Stillwater. The nasty spirits of the Nebraska blackshirts tell me they want another shut-out.

Nebraska-80, Kansas-3: I didn't even have to communicate with Kansas spirits to figure this one out.

Nebraska-52, Oklahoma-17: This one has taken a lot of meditation, folks. Although the Huskers will only be able to muster up only 860 total yards, their long awaited victory over the Sooners will be attained. Note: A mass orgy will take place on the field after the game.

Nebraska-61, Missouri-10: Former Nebraska coach Warren Powers cannot make it a second upset in two years. Power's spirit tells me that he isn't even going to accompany Warren to Lincoln.

Orange Bowl: Nebraska-61, Penn State-60: The Huskers will come out winners with a 73 yard field goal by defensive tackle Bill Barnett, replacing an injured Billy Todd. The victory will give Nebraska a national championship, visits by President Carter and Richard Nixon, great student rioting, and a return to the good old days.

You may think I'm only a guinea pig for Harris Lab, but it's where I got my start as the man who will replace "The Greek."