

sports

Husker seniors meet Sooner challenge with optimism

By Mary Ryan

It has been seven years since the so-called "Game of the Century" when the Cornhuskers defeated the Oklahoma Sooners 35-31 in Norman. Since that game, the Huskers have lost six in a row to the Sooners and three classes of seniors graduated without beating OU.

The members of this year's senior class are hoping they don't become the fourth.

In interviews with the 18 seniors on this year's squad many players used words like "great" and "quick" to describe the Sooners, but they also expressed confidence that the Huskers can win Saturday.

In the following statements, the seniors tell what they think about Oklahoma and how they are looking at the game.

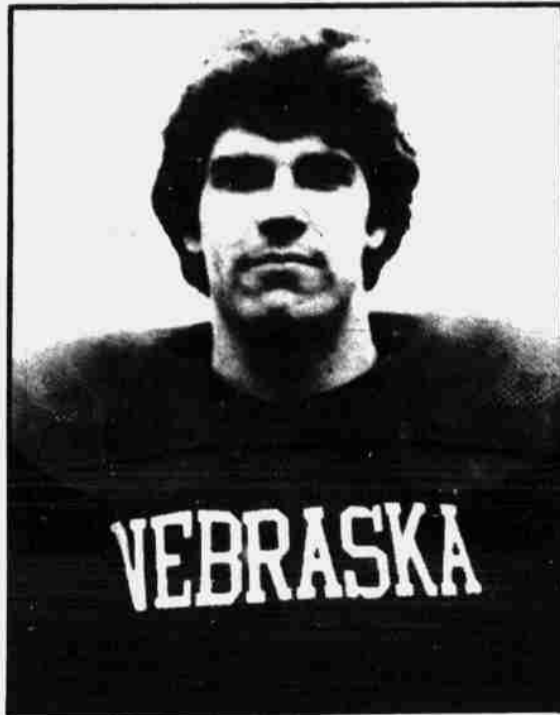
George Andrews: "I look at the offense and they have a fine offense, second in the country behind ours. It is going to take a great job from everyone on defense to shut them down. We have to cause turnovers and have very few mistakes."

Rick Berns: "We have to get more points on the scoreboard then they do. It all gets down to fundamentals. We have to be aggressive and take the ball to them. They are quick defensively. If our offense has something to prove and we haven't proved it already, well... I think we can score. I know it is a pretty good rivalry but whoever can hit the other more will win. We have to play good basic football and be consistent."

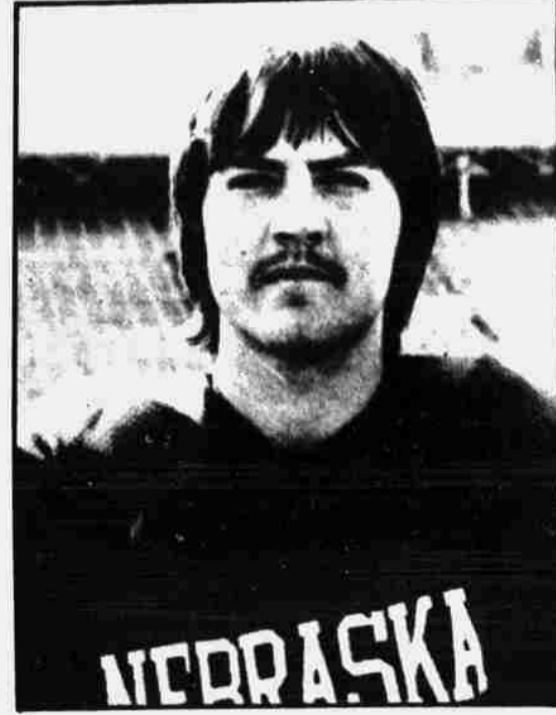
Bill Bryant: "Well, there is no doubt they are a good football team and they have shown the ability to rise to the occasion in tough games this year. But I am confident we will also rise to the occasion. We probably stand a real good chance to win and finish first in the conference. Personally it would be really rewarding to the seniors who have been here four or five years to leave with one Oklahoma victory under our belts."

Kelvin Clark: "They are the typical Oklahoma team. They are quick, have great size and are well coached. We have been tight in the Oklahoma game in the past. This year we are going to stay loose in practice. If we play the best ball we can, we'll win."

Lawrence Cooley: "Oklahoma is probably one of the finest teams I've seen



George Andrews



Tom Sorley

in the five years I've been here. I think they'll be a real challenge but I think we've got the finest team since I've been here. I'd be a fool if I didn't think we could beat them. The team that wins will make fewer mistakes and hit harder. We'll be the ones doing the hitting. I honestly feel we can win."

Barney Cotten: "I think a lot of people make a lot of stuff out of us not beating them for six years in a row. From my standpoint, I don't think about it that way. I think we have to stay loose. I know a lot of guys are going to be tight, probably justifiably so because they haven't played a lot. The main thing the seniors have to do for the rest of the team is show leadership and keep loose. I honestly think if we are picked as underdogs, realistically the pressure is not on us, it is on them because they are number one and we are knocking on the door. We have just got to go out and play hard as we can and if we do that, we can be satisfied no matter if we win or lose."

Tim Fischer: "They're just a real sound football team with a lot of great athletes and they're well coached. They're unbeaten and that speaks for itself. I think we'll have to play an error free game and our defense will have to slow down their wishbone and I think our offense will

score. If we slow them down we should beat them."

Steve Glenn: "It'll come down to who makes the fewest mistakes. If we execute well and have fewer fumbles and mistakes, we'll win. This game means a lot and the winner will go to the Orange Bowl and we're going to do everything we can to win."

Jeff Hansen: "I think it'll be both an offensive and defensive struggle and I hope our defense will outplay them. If we do that, we'll win. There is one thing this year that I like and that is the positive attitude we have. It seems like in the past we haven't had it. This will be the fourth time I've played them and I'm sure looking forward to a win."

Lee Kunz: "They are an excellent football team. They are a totally balanced team and have a good offense and defense and their kicking game is good. Their running backs, of course, are talented and they have a lot of impressive linemen—the best we have played against this year. We have to have a total effort offensively and defensively and cause them to fumble."

Steve Lindquist: "I have respect for them, they've beaten me three years in a row and this is the fourth time I've played them. I'm hungry for them and want to beat them before I leave. We have to take

it as another game like we have been going and not be tight and tense and I think we can beat them."

Frank Lockett: "I think Oklahoma is a good team, like we are. It is a tossup and anybody can win and I hope we win. I think we have a better passing game, that is the only thing we have over them."

Tom Ohrt: "We have to play a perfect game and not have any turnovers. It'll take the same great effort we've had the past few weeks. They have a great team. Their defense is quick and they play a long way off the ball. I think it will be easy to run up the middle on them because they play so far back. They're quick and they pursue the pitch man very well."

Jim Pillen: "There's no question, they have a great football team, but we're in that category too. I think we can win if we curtail their wishbone and cause turnovers, and if our offense keeps turning out yards like they have been."

Randy Poeschl: "I think they are beatable this year... They have played a couple of close games like the one with Kansas. They are more beatable this year because we've got more momentum coming off a game like last week... The offense should run plays right at people instead of the pitch and option because they have such good lateral coverage. The defense has to shut down the fullbacks because they are not much of a threat to pass. I just hope they don't pull any lucky things like two years ago (flea flicker play)."

Tom Sorley: "I feel if we execute well and we play with the intensity and aggressiveness we have in the last few weeks, we'll win."

Billy Todd: "I think they're a good football team, probably one of the best in the country and they probably will be one of the best we will play this year. I also think they can be beaten. They have had a couple of close games. I think we can win if we minimize turnovers and play up to our capabilities."

Darrell Walton: "They've got good backs but I don't think they've played a team with the talent and depth that we've got. It'll be a good game, probably the best of the year. We will win."

About half of the players asked would predict a final score. The average score of the picks was Nebraska 27, Oklahoma 20.

Rec department to sponsor backpacking, climbing trips

Thinking of the long, cold, gray winter ahead? Dreading that morning when you have to crawl out from under your nice, toasty electric blanket and place your bare feet on the cold, cold tile of your bedroom floor?

UNL students will have an alternative this winter with a trip south to sunny Mexico over semester break. The trip is being sponsored by the Recreation Department, which will hold an informational meeting Friday at 2:30 in the Nebraska Union.

Two trips are being offered by the Recreation Department, according to Outdoor Coordinator Mark Ebel.

This first trip being offered is a canyon backpacking trip to Barrancas del Cobre Canyon in Northern Mexico. The trip is limited to ten persons.

"The canyon trip will be similar to past years," Ebel said. "Included in the trip will be a visit to the world's largest single drop waterfall; it's approximately 980 feet."

The backpacking trip will last 18 days (Dec. 27-Jan. 13) and the cost is \$225. Bill Burmester and Jim Fullerton will be the UNL Recreation Department guides.

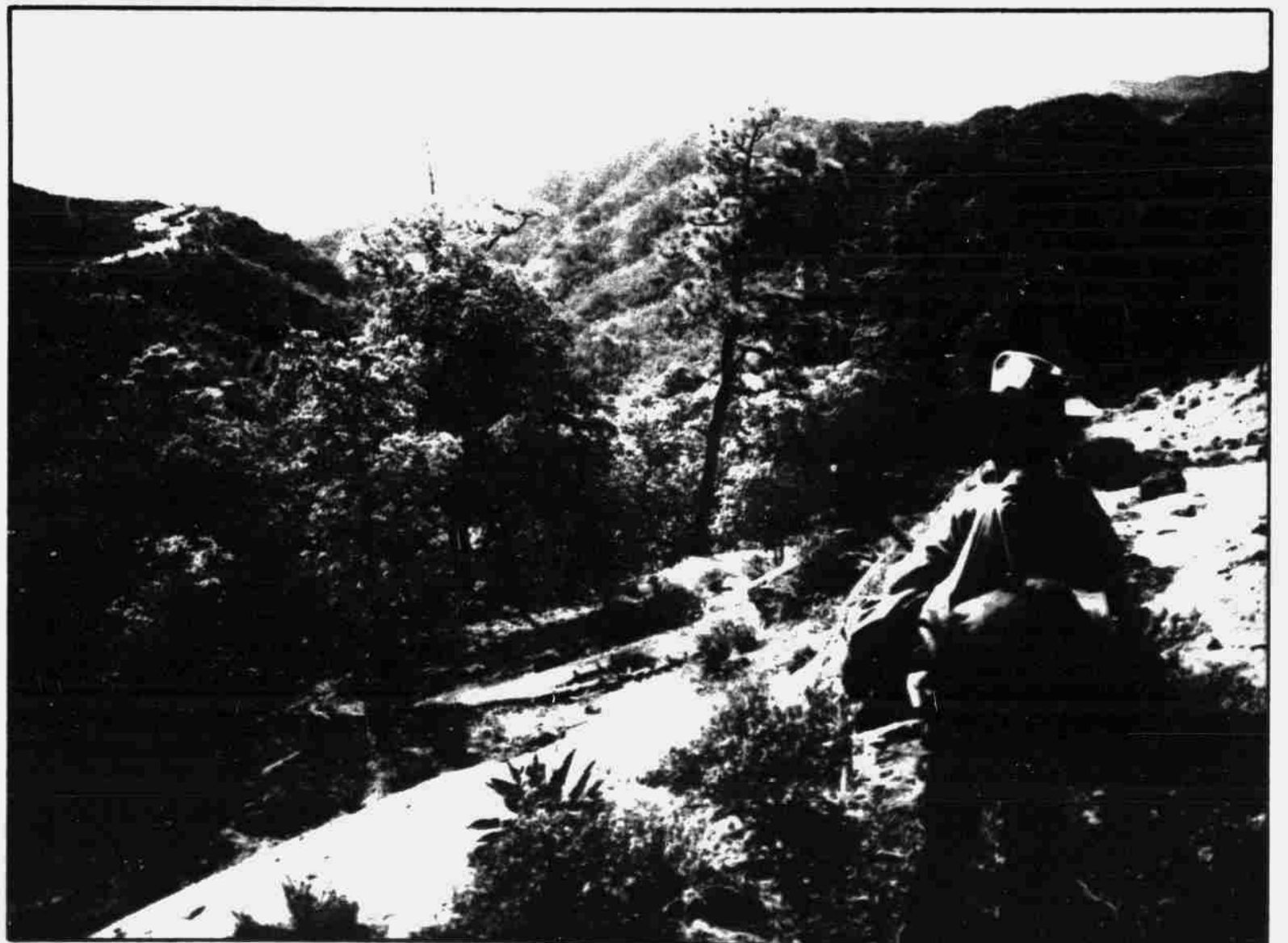
Ebel said the other trip will be a climbing tour of some of the highest peaks in Mexico.

"These will be snow and ice climbs of the third, fifth, and seventh highest volcanoes in Mexico," Ebel said of the first-year trip. "One should have a minimum of our basic rock-climbing class and we recommend added experience."

"It's a long, arduous trip but not technically difficult. You should be in good shape and have some background in climbing," he said.

Also included in the trip, which lasts from Jan. 1 to Jan. 14, will be a visit to Mexico City and excursions to the University, Pyramids of the Sun and museums. The cost of the volcano climbing trip is \$250, and it is limited to six persons.

Ebel and UNL professor of geology Paul Krutak, who is experienced in climbing and mountaineering, will guide the tour.



A native guide overlooks the Barranca del Cobre Canyon in Mexico on last year's UNL Recreation Department sponsored trip.

Photo by Mark Ebel