

## sports

# Devaney: '1971 Oklahoma conquest my top thrill as Husker grid coach'

By Shelley Smith

OMAHA—He said it was the most thrilling game of his coaching career—and his game of the century.

That's how Bob Devaney, UNL athletic director and former football coach, described the 1971 35-31 UNL football victory over number two Oklahoma.

The game, dubbed as "the game of the century" was replayed on NETV Tuesday night. Although Devaney had made a commitment to the Nebraska touchdown club, he managed to sneak a peek or two at the game he calls his favorite.

"It was the best team I've ever seen at Nebraska," he said, amidst the cheers of touchdown club members watching the television set.

"I was tense and nervous all through the game, and I liked the outcome the best," he added.

BECAUSE OF OKLAHOMA'S loss to Nebraska, Alabama became the second-ranked college football team in the U.S., and fans were hoping for a repeat "Game of the Century" between the two top teams.

However, Nebraska smeared Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide, 38-6, to settle the issue.

"It was a very important victory against a very strong team," Devaney said of the Oklahoma game.

"We were able to execute plays without too many mistakes," he said. He added that he knew the team who held the ball last would win.

And it was the Huskers who had the ball the last play of the game.

OU hadn't lost in 15 games—the last time had been to Nebraska in 1969.

At the end of the first quarter, Nebraska led, 7-3. Devaney said he felt good then and the tension was eased somewhat by wingback Johnny Rodgers' 72-yard punt

return. NU then took a 14-3 advantage on a short run by I-back Jeff Kinney, the first of his four touchdowns.

But Oklahoma stormed back for two touchdowns, including one on a pass by Jack Mildren, to take a 17-14 halftime edge. It was the first time Nebraska had been behind all season.

"We were very disappointed that they threw that well against us," Devaney said.

Oklahoma used a wishbone offense, as they do now, which is basically a running offense, he explained.

"They sure surprised us with some of those passes," he said.

In the second half, Nebraska, on two more dives by Kinney, jumped to a 28-17 lead, but Oklahoma, as before, stormed back to take a 31-28 lead.

BUT NEBRASKA WAS not to be denied, as Kinney scored the last of his touchdowns on a two-yard run and Nebraska held off a desperation try by OU to seal the win.

Defensively, Devaney said, if he could have, he would have done things somewhat differently.

"We had moved one of our safeties and went into a man-to-man defense," he said.

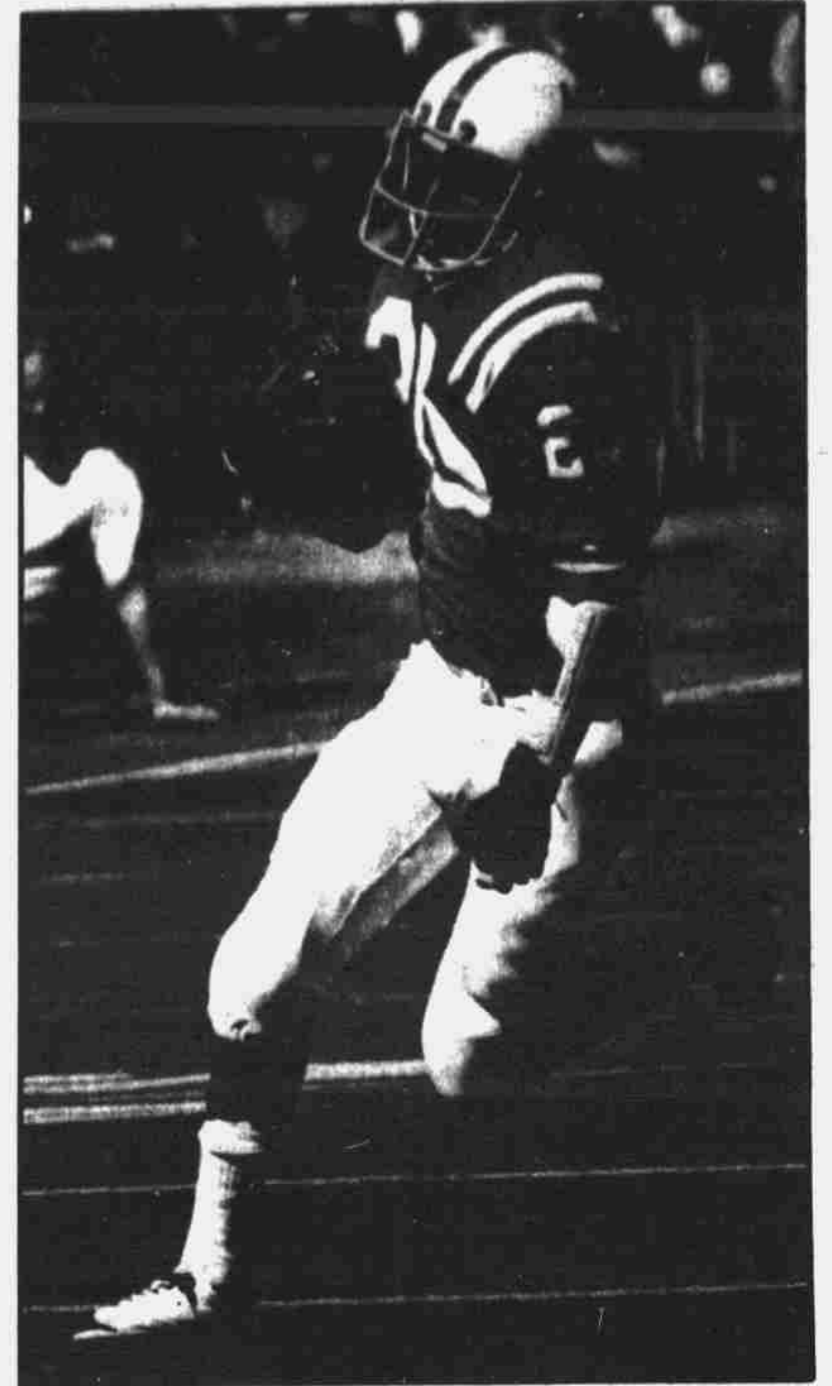
"It wasn't effective and I wouldn't have done it again if I had the chance," he said.

Other than that, Devaney said that now, eight years later, he wouldn't change a thing about the way he handled the game.

It was Kinney, who sparked the Huskers to their victory, Devaney said.

Kinney... Devaney said Kinney was "an excellent ballcarrier and a definite asset to the team."

Devaney said "it was the high point of his career as coach." He compiled a 136-30-7 won-lost record, including champions in 1970 and 1971.



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Nebraska fans were reminded of former NU running back and Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers last night, after the replay of the 1971 "Game of the Century" versus Oklahoma. Rodgers was waived by the San Diego Chargers of the NFL Tuesday.

## Coach Fairbanks ponders Colorado question marks

By Ron Powell

Editor's note: This is the third article in a seven-part series reviewing Nebraska's Big Eight conference football opponents.

Last winter, the unanswered question about the '79 Colorado football team was whether New England was going to let Chuck Fairbanks move to Boulder.

Now the Buffaloes' question marks are on the field, according to Fairbanks.

"We have a lot of unanswered questions we need to solve before we can consider ourselves contenders for the Big Eight title," Fairbanks said. "It's been an uphill fight so far."

It took some legal battling, but Fairbanks, who guided the Patriots into the AFC playoffs two of the past three years, is now settled in Boulder.

He may have inherited a tough rebuilding job. Although 37 lettermen and 14 starters return from a 6-5 '78 squad, Fairbanks said he has some tough problems to face.

First, injury problems during the spring have caused some concern, Fairbanks said.

"There are 15 to 20 players that missed spring practice that are starting from scratch this fall," Fairbanks said. "They are coming in with no idea of the system, and the first game is Sept. 8 (at home against Oregon)."

Another problem, Fairbanks said, is a lack of talent at the offensive skilled positions.

"Right now we have no running backs or receivers that have great speed that could be considered a game breaker," Fairbanks said. "No one of Big Eight caliber has surfaced in these areas yet."

TIGHT ENDS Bob Niziolek (6-6, 216) and Greg Howard (6-6, 225) return, but both are recovering from knee surgery. Howard, a senior caught a team-leading 28 passes for 374 yards a year ago. Niziolek, a junior, caught 29 passes in 1977, but was cut down last year with a knee injury.

Senior Kazell Pugh (5-10, 159) returns at wingback after catching 15 passes for 266 yards last year. Pugh's '78 back-up, senior Tom Haigh (6-2, 191), will open at split end.

The Buffaloes must replace both starting running backs from last year. The fullback job is a toss up between junior Bob Humble (6-1, 205) and sophomore Willie Beebe (6-1, 194).

Junior Eddie Ford (5-11, 207) is the top tailback with junior Lance Olander (6-1, 194) his back-up.

Senior quarterback Bill Solomon (6-2, 205) returns to claim his starting role. In '78, Solomon rushed for 489 yards and connected on 77 of 158 passes for 944 yards.

Two starters return to spearhead an offensive line which Fairbanks calls "young, but with potential."

BOTH RETURNEES will start at tackle. Junior Brant Thurston (6-5, 242) has moved from guard to play tackle while senior Stan Brock (6-7, 279) returns to occupy the other tackle spot.

Fairbanks said the strength of the '79 Buffaloes will be in the secondary and linebackers positions Fairbanks said "look above average."

The secondary returns all of the '78 starters, but there will be some adjustments in position, Fairbanks said. Three of four starting linebackers return.

Seniors Laval Short (6-3, 257), a noseguard, and George Visger (6-5, 246), a tackle, also are returning '78 starters. Short had 108 tackles and 11 sacks last year while Visger had 36 stops and five sacks.

Fairbanks said he has installed a 3-4 defense, the same defense he used at New England. The defense accents Colorado's good linebackers and secondary, he said.

Fairbanks said he doesn't expect his team to break Nebraska's 11-game win streak over the Buffaloes.

"If we do," Fairbanks says, "it will be an upset."

### Colorado Schedule

Sept. 8 - Oregon, Sept. 15 - Louisiana State, Sept. 22 - Drake, Sept. 29 - at Indiana, Oct. 6 - at Oklahoma, Oct. 13 - Open, Oct. 20 - Missouri, Oct. 27 - at Nebraska, Nov. 3 - at Iowa State, Nov. 10 - Oklahoma State, Nov. 17 - at Kansas, Nov. 24 - Kansas State.

## sports shorts

A meeting for all women athletes, including freshmen and transfer students who wish to try out for a women's varsity team, is scheduled for Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. in the South Stadium auditorium, second floor. All athletes must attend.

Women planning to try out for a varsity sport, must also take a physical. Physicals for the women will begin at the University Health Center on Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. Women who can't be there at that time should contact Karen Knortz at 472-3465.

University of Nebraska Women's Head Basketball Coach Lorrie Gallagher has announced that a team meeting for prospective freshmen, returning players and other interested people will be held on Aug. 29 immediately following the all athletes meeting.

The basketball meeting also will be held in the second floor meeting room. Basketball prospects should plan to attend the all athletes meeting before the basketball meeting.

Nebraska Head Baseball Coach John Sanders has announced that a meeting for all people interested in trying out for the 1979 NU baseball team will be held Aug. 29 at 3:30 p.m. in the baseball office, Room 200, in the South Stadium.

A practice for all persons interested in trying out for the Nebraska Women's Field Hockey team will be Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. behind Mable Lee Hall. If anyone has questions, call 477-9951. Bring shorts and sticks for practice.

## Husker football depth chart

### NU Depth Chart

#### Offense

Tight end - Junior Miller, Jeff Finn, Steve Davies-Jamie Williams; Left tackle - Mark Goodspeed, Gary England-Calvin Anderson, Tom Carlstrom-Randy Thiess; Left guard - John Havekost, Joe Adams-John Keuten, Mike Mandelko; Center - Kelly Saalfeld, Jeff Bloom-Dave Rimington, Brad Johnson-Trey DeLoach; Right guard - Randy Schleusener, Paul Potadle-Dan Rice, Matt Brandl; Right tackle - Dan Steiner, Mike Bruce-Dan Hurley, Peter Boll; Split end - Tim Smith, Scott Woodard-Todd Brown, John Noonan; Quarterback - Jeff Quinn, Mark Mauer-Tim Hager, Bruce Mathison-Chris Gebert; I-back - Isaiah Hipp-Tim Wurth, Craig Johnson-Jarvis Redwine, Randy Landwehr-Walter Wallace; Fullback - Andra Franklin-Wurth; Jim Kotera-Phil Bates, Mark Moravec; Wingback - Kenny Brown, Anthony Steels-

Tim McCrady; Dave McCue; Kicker - Dean Sukup.

#### Defense

Left end - L.C. Cole, Jimmie Williams, Gordon Thiessen-Daryl Holmes; Left tackle - Rod Horn, David Clark, Toby Williams-Tom Gdowski; Middle guard - Kerry Weinmaster, Oudious Lee-Curt Hineline; John Minor-Felix White; Right tackle - Bill Barnett, Dan Pensick, John Stromath-Henry Waechter; Right end - Derrie Nelson, Dan Lindstrom, Donnie Bess; Strong-side linebacker - Tom Vering-John Ruud, Steve Damkroger-Kim Baker, Brent Evans; Weakside linebacker - Brent Williams-Ruud, Steve McWhirter-Baker, John Zuta-vern; Left cornerback - Paul Letcher, Ric Lindquist, Dan Fischer; Monster - Mark LeRoy, Sammy Sims, L.G. Searcy; Safety - Russell Gary, Jeff Krejci, Kris Van Norman; Right cornerback - Andy Means, Dave Liegl-Rodney Lewis, Phil Trent; Punter - Tim Smith.