

# sports

## Area players knit closeness on and off field

By Paul Huscher

The big question mark at the beginning of the season for the Nebraska Cornhuskers was, "Would the offensive line be rebuilt with the loss of three All-Big Eight players?"

Offensive line coach Cletus Fischer answered the question.

"They are probably as good overall as any line that we have ever had," Fischer said. We knew Kelly Saalfeld and John Havekost could play well, but Dan Steiner, Mark Goodspeed, and Randy Schleusener have really come along and played good ball for us."

The starting offensive left guard on this year's line, John Havekost, said the offensive line is a close group of players. "The offensive line is closer now than anytime I've been here," said the 6'4, 240 pounder from Scribner, Neb.

"Everybody gets along with everybody. We're all the same kind of guys," Havekost said. "We joke around a lot and most of us are from the same area."

THREE-FIFTHS of the line is from a 45 mile area in Nebraska. Steiner (right tackle) and Saalfeld (center) are from Columbus which is just 45 miles from Havekost's hometown.

"We also like to get together. We know each other real well and that's got to help," he said.

Line coach Fischer said he hopes the players are close because "they have to play together and that takes cooperation."

"They work hard and concentrate in practice and I think it shows up in the games," he said.

Part of preparing for each game includes hours of watching films, Havekost said.

"We watch films Monday through Friday. We look at the opponent we'll be lined up against to watch for tendencies," he said. "From that point, you go into the game knowing pretty much what he's going to do."

NOT ONLY DOES watching films help win games, but having people who can carry the ball and utilize the blocks the offensive line throws for them is important, he said.

"Anytime we get a lot of rushing yards it makes people realize we have a good offensive line," he said. "That makes you feel good, and it makes us want to try harder the next game."

"They (the backs) make us look good and we make them look good," he said.

Fischer said Havekost has been doing his

part in for Nebraska's fearsome offensive attack.

"John's been playing super for us, he's one of the better guards in the conference," Fischer said.

"He blocks well, he traps well and he's an excellent pulling guard and that's important in our offense," he said.

Havekost said he also considers himself a good pulling guard.

"You have to consider yourself a good pulling guard at Nebraska, because the plays are designed for the guard to get out in front of the back.

"YOU HAVE TO be able to pull or you won't be playing here," he said.

He said because of the many sweeps, pitches and options Nebraska runs, the guards are required to do a lot of pulling. Fischer said it's important for the

second teamers to play well.

"IT'S GOOD FOR the team, and it builds their confidence," he said. "The second teamers get to play in a no-pressure situation when we're ahead and that's a good way to learn."

Havekost, who has spent some time on the second and third strings, said the reason the Huskers are able to rebuild the offensive line despite losing most of its starters every year is because "you have the system down by the time you get a chance to start."

He said his goal this year was to win the Big Eight Championship because "Nebraska hasn't won it outright in a long time."

He also has high hopes for a national championship by the currently second-ranked Huskers.

"You know what they say, when you're number two you try harder," he said.

He added that Joe Adams and Paul Potadle have been playing well as second-team guards.

Havekost agreed that his backups have been playing well.

"I have a lot of confidence in the second stringers and so do the coaches. The coaches tell us if we can't give 100 percent on each play to tell them so they can get someone fresh in there," he said.

"We have good depth and they're getting better every week," he said.

Havekost said he thought the team played well earlier this year, but lately they have been scoring more so the second teamers were playing more.

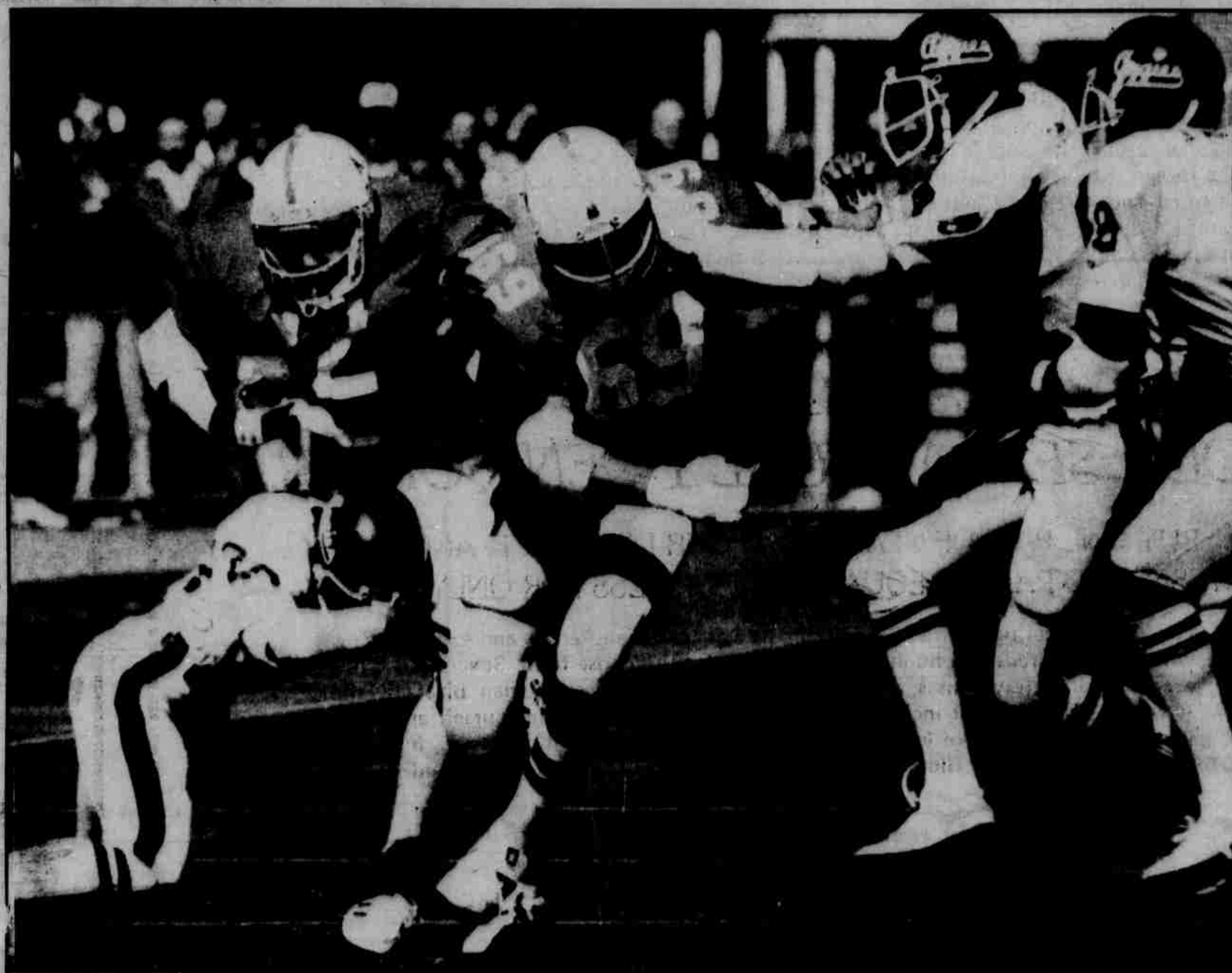


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Nebraska left guard John Havekost (69) paves the way for the Big Eight's leading rusher Jarvis Redwine against New Mexico State.

## Injuries could have been prevented—UNL coaches

By Shelley Smith

Because of the "stupidity" of the officials, other players besides Nebraska's Jarvis Redwine could have been hurt in Saturday's game against Missouri, Husker Defen-

### sports shorts

Anyone interested in becoming a batgirl for the 1980 Nebraska baseball team should attend an orientation meeting at 9 p.m. Nov. 11 in the South Stadium Lounge. For more information call Genon Rost, 477-8598.

\*\*\*

Men's and women's co-rec intramural officials are needed for volleyball and basketball. If interested apply at the Recreation Office. For more information call Intramural Coordinator Stan Campbell at 472-3467.

\*\*\*

The varsity swim team needs timers, judges and officials. For information call Cal Bentz at 472-2271 or 472-2268.

\*\*\*

The UNL Rugby Club beat Missouri Saturday 9-6 in sudden-death overtime.

sive End Coach George Darlington said Monday.

Darlington told about 400 Extra Point Club members that officials failed to call late hit penalties on both teams during Nebraska's 23-20 victory over Missouri.

As a result, he said, the same kind of violations were repeated, mainly by Missouri players.

"All you've got to do is flag one or two of those and they stop doing it," he said.

Head Coach Tom Osborne agreed with Darlington. He said Redwine, who suffered a knee sprain during an extra point kick, was the victim of many illegal hits. One was after he leaped three yards into the endzone to score Nebraska's first touchdown.

"There were two guys (officials) looking to see if Jarvis scored, but neither one saw the late hit," Osborne said.

And, Osborne said, how Redwine, who is scheduled to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated this week along with players from four other undefeated schools received his injury was upsetting itself.

Each time, Nebraska lined up to kick either a field goal or an extra point, Missouri noseguard Norman Goodman shifted to the left end, just outside and across from Redwine.

Osborne said Tiger Head Coach Warren Powers said the shift was designed to clear a path for a defender to get through to the punter.

Each time, however, Goodman did not go for the block, Osborne said. Goodman was aiming at Redwine's legs, Osborne added.

The injury occurred when Goodman, delaying slightly

so Redwine would throw a block, hit Redwine in the right knee, Osborne said.

"It was one of the worst things I've seen in 17 years of coaching," he said.

"Warren (Powers) assured me he had not coached this particular maneuver. I think the player was taking it upon himself," Osborne said.

"They (Missouri) have got the same films we've got so they know what happened," Osborne said.

Redwine, who is scheduled to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated this week along with four other players from undefeated teams, is doubtful for Saturday's game against Kansas State, Osborne said.

After Redwine's injury, Fullback Tim Wurth and I-back Craig Johnson were also victims to similar plays, Osborne said.

Johnson suffered a hip pointer and a bruised hand which "wasn't from they way he ran," Darlington said.

Osborne said he was worried about the officials at Missouri because, according to Bruce Finlayson who is Big Eight supervisor of officials, they were the best.

They are also the same officials that will referee the Nebraska-Oklahoma game scheduled Nov. 24 in Norman.

"We were concerned about whether they can handle it," he said.

Osborne said he called Finlayson Sunday to let him know he was concerned about the officiating. He said he didn't seek any changes, that he was "concerned about the great deal of vacillation and uncertainty" among the officials.

Continued on Page 11