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All systems go for football matchup of the year

By Shelley Smith

Sound the coronets, fire the cannons, shoot the flares—get set for the biggest brass cymbal explosion this side of the Mississippi.

It's showdown time in Lincoln, and Saturday's game between the Nebraska Cornhuskers (9-1) and the Sooners of Oklahoma (7-2) promises to be nothing short of an ear-shattering regal symphony.

The stage is set, the tensions high—all systems are go for the football matchup of the year. A matchup that, when the final gun is sounded, will produce the Big Eight Conference champion—a champion that will have a crack at Florida State and possibly a national title in Miami's Orange Bowl Jan. 1.

It's Dr. Tom Osborne at Nebraska's helm—a coach who's managed only one win in eight attempts against Oklahoma Sooners Coach Barry Switzer. That, bookies reason, automatically gives the Huskers the edge—it's the law of odds.

But for the first time in the Osborne era, Las Vegas has given the Huskers a solid eight-point edge, this time, however, not just because of the Huskers meek won-lost record against OU. This year, it's something different.

Superior talent

"It's the talent," said Nebraska quarterback Jeff Quinn. "I really do think we have the superior talent this year, and I think Oklahoma just might realize it too."

If the Sooners know it, they sure aren't telling. Reports from Norman, Okla. indicate that the Sooners' attitude has been that of utmost confidence.

"We know that Nebraska is a tough, physical team. We will have to contain their running game, but we are good against the run—they won't run over us," said OU nose-guard John Blake.

Despite the fervor of pep rallies, bonfires and ABC's presence in Lincoln, Husker players and coaches insist that Saturday is just another day for just another football game.

"We'll just have to go out and play the best we can," Quinn said. "We can't let this thing get out of wack."

Osborne and Switzer seem to agree, although both have taken a couple of "pot shots" at each other this week about "Sun Bowl Tamales" and oranges.

Increased confidence

Most Husker players agreed that heading into the game as an eight-point favorite has increased their confidence in themselves. After a good week of practice, Quinn said, Nebraska is ready.

Unlike the injury hobbled Sooners, Nebraska is 100 percent healthy—that does include the Husker's most powerful threat—All Big Eight I-back Jarvis Redwine.

Redwine, who has been plagued with injuries this season, said that for the first time since the Florida State game, in which he suffered cracked ribs, he feels strong, and is ready to run—minus some of his earlier cautiousness.

A healthy Redwine makes for a happy Quinn, although Quinn said he knows he can count on both of Nebraska's other I-backs—Craig Johnson and Roger Craig—to lead the Husker offensive attack.

And why not—the Huskers have led the nation in rushing offense all season with an average of 384.7 yards per game, and in scoring offense with an average of 42.2 points per game.

Equally confident

But equally confident of its capabilities is Oklahoma's defense.

Heading up the Sooner defense is All Big Eight tackle Richard Turner, second teamers Keith Gary and Jay Jimerson at tackle and defensive back, respectively. Although statistically, Oklahoma's defense isn't national caliber, statistics don't always tell the story.

Last year, in OU's 17-14 win in Norman, Nebraska's defense led the nation in rushing yardage—as it does this year. OU runningback Billy Sims shredded that statistic

with 247 yards rushing, and OU finished with a whopping 482 total offensive yards.

Oklahoma is without Sims this year, and offensive leaders David Overstreet, Forrest Valora and Weldon Ledbetter are questionable with hamstring injuries.

OU quarterback J.C. Watts is healthy, however, and has become the most integral member of Oklahoma's successful offense.

Looking to stop OU's offensive show is Nebraska's All-Big Eight trio—defensive end Derrie Nelson, tackle David Clark and safety Russell Gary. They said they expect the run from OU's wishbone offense, but are ready too, for just about anything.

Kickoff has been moved to 11:35 a.m. Saturday in order to facilitate ABC's double-header football coverage.

Possible nursing division cut prompts student petition drive

By Patti Gallagher

Students in the Lincoln division of the NU College of Nursing have begun a petition drive to stop considerations of eliminating the college from this campus.

In a booth in the Nebraska Union Wednesday, 350 people signed the nursing school's petition. According to junior Teresa Zeilinger, the petition will be sent to Lincoln and Omaha newspapers to express their opposition to phasing out Lincoln's nursing program.

The petition drive will continue in the union booth today. No petitions were signed on Thursday because the nursing students are not a student organization. Zeilinger said they filed and attained an ad-hoc committee status Thursday to continue in the booth today.

Zeilinger said the Lincoln program began in 1972, by suggestion of NU Board of Regent members Robert Prokop and Robert Koefoot. At that time, the state of Nebraska had a need to supply more nurses to rural areas.

Since 1972, however, the Lincoln program has been targeted as a good budget cut, Zeilinger said. She said that whenever the regents begin considering budget cuts, the Lincoln program has been named.

In the May version of the Five-Year Plan, the regents listed Lincoln's nursing program as a possible reduction or elimination. They instructed NU Medical Center Chancellor Neal Vanselow that the medical school budget will have to be cut by \$500,000 if the university does not get its budget request of an ad-

ditional 18 percent from the Nebraska Legislature.

Vanselow was also instructed at that time to prepare a report for the Dec. 13 regents' meeting, proposing where the half million cut should come from. Zeilinger said Vanselow has made public that the cut will be from Lincoln's nursing program.

According to Zeilinger, it would be premature to close the college before the NU budget is approved by the Legislature.

"Don't eliminate use before we have a chance to fight for the money in the Legislature," she said.

According to the letter to be sent to the newspapers, five times the number of 1979-80 Lincoln nursing school graduates work in Nebraska rural areas as do Omaha nursing graduates.

Statistics compiled by the nursing college indicate that about 35 percent of the 1979-80 Lincoln graduate work in out-state Nebraska, while 7 percent of Omaha graduates have jobs in rural areas.

"Rural Nebraska is being hardest hit by the nursing shortage," Zeilinger said, and the statistics show that Lincoln is obviously serving the needs of outstate Nebraska.

Additionally, the letter says that Lincoln students from rural areas prefer the Lincoln campus because of on-campus living arrangements, smaller-town atmosphere and greater access to campus activities.

Zeilinger urged students to contact their legislator or regent to oppose cutting Lincoln's nursing program. She also said that as an ASUN senator she will introduce a resolution against its removal prior to the December regents' meeting.

Campus voters say vengeful Kristin shot J.R.

Analysis By Patti Gallagher

And now we tune in to "As the Oil Well Drills," where last we found wicked J.R. Ewing, of the Dallas oil dynasty, double-bullied, and slumped unconscious on his office floor, bloodying up the carpet.

We wait with baited breath—with an excess of 300 million other viewers—for the revelation of who, oh who, did shoot J.R.

Could it have been J.R.'s recovering alcoholic wife, Sue Ellen? A likely possibility. Too likely. After all, J.R. has threatened to reinstitutionalize her and take away their only son, Little John. And, of course, a pearl-handled pistol turned up in the lush's purse last week. But Sue Ellen gets her revenge between the sheets, while J.R. gets nothing much. She's got the motive, but hardly the spunk nor steady hand.

Could it have been play-by-the rules brother Bobby? He's long been denied a chunk of Daddy Jock's Southfork Ranch, and J.R. has been less than a benevolent big brother. Perhaps he finally scratched his itchy trigger finger.

Could it have been Sue Ellen's sister, Kristin Shepard? After her short fling with J.R., he chased her out of town and has smutted up her name since then.

Could it have been Pretty Pam? Daughter of long-time Ewing enemy Barnes, and ever faithful to husband Bobby, perhaps there lurks a fiery vengeance behind her batting lashes.

Could it have been Miss Ellie? Maybe she has finally sickened of J.R.'s infernal Oedipus complex.

Could it have been Big Daddy? Maybe he finally realized one slimy conniver in the family was enough.

Or heaven help an oil tycoon, could it have been the leering, sneering John Ross Ewing Jr. himself. Only the victim knows for sure. But UNL students have their own theories.

One-upping CBS's Friday night airing of the "Who Shot J.R.?" episode, the Daily Nebraskan did an informal poll Wednesday in the Nebraska Union and around campus. If the 72 students surveyed have a hotline to Hollywood, the would-be assassin is Kristin Shepard, with 18 votes.

Jim Foley, a junior engineering major, gave the most common Kristin motive.

"She is definitely jealous of her sister Sue Ellen, because Sue Ellen has J.R. and she doesn't," Foley said, adding that "there are some deep-rooted Freudian tendencies" in his theory.

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