

sports

Basketball team loses opener to Wyoming

The Nebraska men's basketball team opened its season with a 62-48 loss to Wyoming Friday night in War Memorial Field House at Laramie, Wyo.

The Huskers scored the first points of the game but the Cowboys came back to take the lead and never trailed from that point.

Wyoming held a 31-18 lead at halftime. Things got worse for the Cornhuskers in the second half as they scored only six points in the first 10 minutes of the third period to allow the Cowboys to take a 50-24 lead.

Nebraska staged a mild rally in the final minutes to fall back to within 14 points.

The Huskers were plagued by poor field goal shooting as they hit on only 32 percent of their shots while the Cowboys connected on 48 percent of their attempts.

Kenny Walton led Nebraska with 10 points. Jack Moore and Leonard Johnson had eight each and Ray Collins and Claude Renfro had six each.

The Cornhuskers will play their first home game tonight against Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Tipoff is set for 7:35 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

NCAA to discuss limitations

The NCAA will have a special convention Wednesday through Thursday in St. Louis, Mo., to discuss possible reorganization of Division I.

One of the proposals which has been supported by several College Football Association member schools is to limit the top football division to only those schools which average at least 17,000 fans at home games. This proposal would cut Division I down to about 70 schools.

The NCAA convention was called after the CFA threatened to sign its own television package with NBC earlier this fall.

The Big Eight Conference will also have a special caucus Tuesday to give its member schools a chance to discuss the available options before attending the NCAA conference.

Football season's end yields honors

Nebraska center Dave Rimington was named Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year last week by The Associated Press and United Press International. Defensive end Jimmy Williams was named Defensive Player of the Year by UPI. Missouri's Jeff Gaylord won that honor from AP.

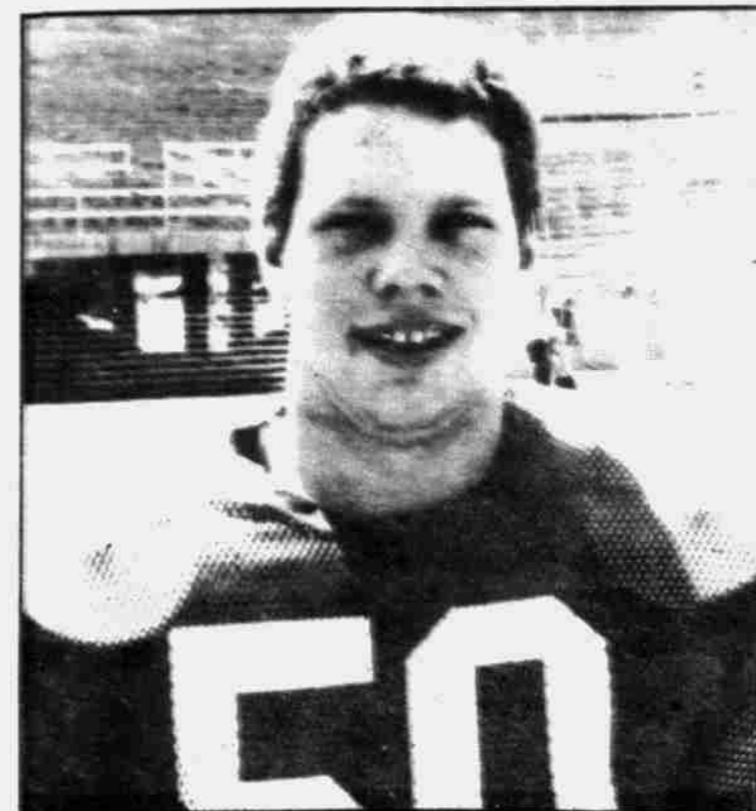
Rimington was also named All-American by the Kodak Company, the College Football Writers Association of America and the Walter Camp Foundation. Williams was named All-American by Kodak and Walter Camp.

Sixteen Nebraska players were named to the first and second team of the all-conference lists released last week.

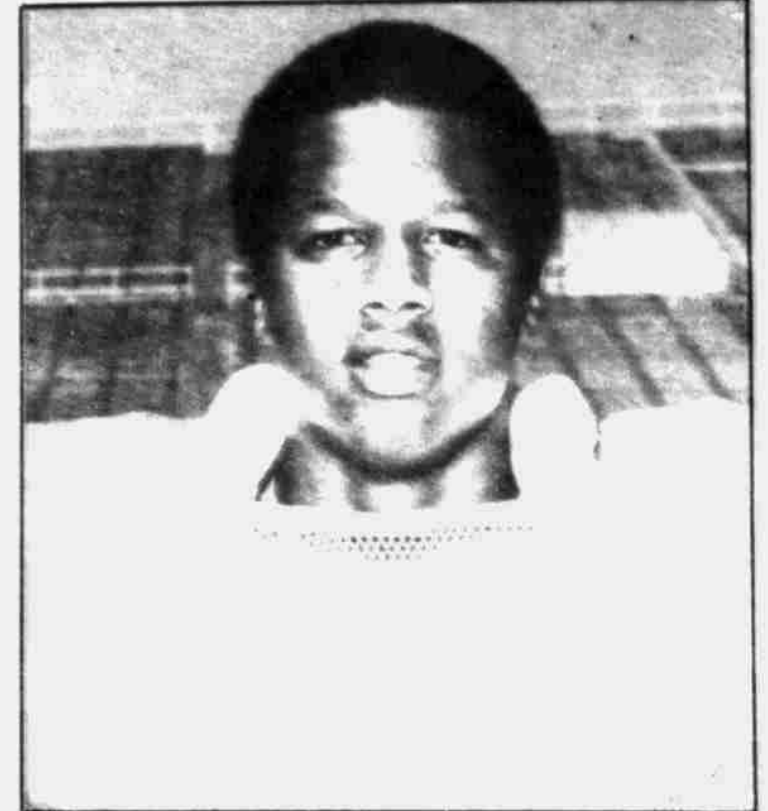
Rimington and Williams, along with I-back Mike Rozier, offensive tackle Dan Hurley, tight end Jamie Williams and safety Jeff Krejci were named to the all-Big Eight team by both wire services. AP also named quarterback Turner Gill to its team.

I-back Roger Craig, linebacker Steve Damkroger and punter Grant Campbell were named to the second team by both wire services.

Offensive guard Mike Mandelko, offensive tackle Randy Theiss and defensive tackle Henry Weachter made AP's second team while fullback Phil Bates, defensive end Tony Felici and cornerback Ric Lindquist were named to the UPI second team.



UNL Sports Information Photo
Center Dave Rimington, Big Eight offensive player of the year.



UNL Sports Information Photo
Defensive end Jimmy Williams, Big Eight defensive player of the year.

Huskers earn ranking by playing tough schedule

If Nebraska didn't play the toughest football schedule in the country, it had to be pretty close. UNL Coach Tom Osborne knew what he was talking about back in August when he said the schedule was tough.

Both of the teams which handed the Huskers losses were headed for New Year's

Day bowl games, and in all, six UNL opponents are headed for post-season competition.

Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, all teams the Huskers defeated, are set for bowl games this December.

Even Iowa, which used to be the joke of college football, is headed for California to

play in the Rose Bowl. Penn State, the other dark spot on the 1981 schedule, has accepted a bid to play in the Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl.

Larry sparks

Auburn, a 17-3 loser to Nebraska, finished with a respectable record and gave Georgia and Alabama all they could handle. Only Kansas State and Colorado could be considered breathers on the schedule.

Although the tough schedule has probably knocked Nebraska out of the national championship, it played a big role in the Huskers winning their first undisputed Big Eight title in 10 years.

Somehow, early games against Florida State and Penn State have got to build a better team than games against Utah and New Mexico State. Clemson might find that out in the Orange Bowl.

It's just too bad the pollsters don't take that schedule into account when they cast their ballots. That teams like Georgia, Alabama and Pittsburgh even having a chance at the national title with the kind of schedule they play is a disgrace to college football.

Bear Bryant is probably the only coach in America who can jump a notch in the polls because he played idle on a Saturday and held them scoreless. Has the Southeast

Conference ever thought of having their top two teams play each other in the regular season?

Although I've never favored a national playoff system, I'll have to admit it would at least make sure the national champion has earned its way to the top. The guess here is that the teams in the east and the Southeast Conference would be virtually shut out of the national championship if a playoff were developed.

But, national rankings aside, Cornhusker fans have plenty to be happy about this season. Osborne and company showed poise in finishing with a 9-2 record after a 1-2 start.

Last week's 37-14 win at Oklahoma removed any doubt about who had the best team in the Big Eight. Not only did the Huskers race through the conference with a 7-0 record, they defeated those seven teams by an average of 30 points per game.

Best of all, we won't have to listen to Barry Switzer for an entire year.

And, if an award is to be given for character, quarterback Mark Mauer should win it hands down. The senior pushed aside the jeers that were directed at him earlier in the season and came through with a sparkling performance against the Sooners. It's not hard to see why the team elected Mauer as its captain.

With the early season blues behind them, the Cornhuskers seemed to pick up steam with every game. That and the leadership of players like Mauer could spell trouble for Clemson.

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sports shorts

The UNL men's swimming and diving team will host Southern Methodist Friday and LSU Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool. ***

The women's swimming and diving team will host the Husker Invitational Thursday through Saturday at the sports center pool. ***

Nebraska's women's

basketball team will host their own invitational tournament Friday and Saturday at the sports center. ***

Oklahoma defeated Oklahoma State 27-3 Saturday to close out the Big Eight conference football schedule. The win clinched a second place finish for the Sooners behind Nebraska. Kansas and Oklahoma State finished third, followed by Missouri,

Iowa State, Colorado and Kansas State. ***

The men's gymnastics team will be competing in the Windy City Invitational at Chicago, Ill. this weekend while the women's team will be in the Rocky Mountain Open at Denver, Colo. ***

The Husker wrestling team will meet Indiana Friday at Bloomington, Ind.