



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Workmen spread glue and roll out the new AstroTurf that was laid at UNL's Buck Beltzer Field earlier this month.

Huskers, Sooners vie . . .

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ers have 11 defensive starters back and should be much improved from last year's below-par performance.

Don Fambrough's Kansas team is plagued by reports of recruiting violations and this may be its last chance to attend a bowl game for a few years. The Jayhawks aren't thinking of just any bowl. With 11 starters returning on offense and seven on defense, KU plans to challenge Nebraska and Oklahoma for the Orange Bowl bid.

Oklahoma State, with 18 starters back, and Missouri with 17 returning also should contend for top division finishes.

Jim Dickey is forecasting big things for his Kansas State Wildcats this year. Not only does Dickey return 19 starters from last season, but he also has eight more back from the 1980 squad who were redshirted last fall.

Dickey claims that added experience should enable his team to play with the rest of the league, but he's forgotten one thing — those starters compiled a record of 5-17 over the past two years. If you're looking for good news out of Manhattan,

Kan., you'd better wait for basketball season.

Iowa State returns 16 starters this season but still might have to fight to stay out of the cellar. Early season dates with Iowa, Tennessee and Oklahoma could be the key to how the rest of the season goes for the Cyclones.

Bill McCartney, a former linebacker and center at Missouri, returns to the Big Eight to take over Chuck Fairbank's program at Colorado. If the Buffaloes' fortunes don't make a big turnaround, McCartney may not feel very welcome by the time the season is over. The Buffs might be on their way back but they've still got a long way to go.

Big Eight Forecast:

1. Nebraska
2. Oklahoma
3. Kansas
4. Oklahoma State
5. Missouri
6. Iowa State
7. Kansas State
8. Colorado

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