

ISU Cyclones hope to avoid another injury-ridden season

Editor's Note: This is the 10th part of a series previewing Nebraska's 1982 football opponents.

By Jack Denker

If the 1982 version of the Iowa State football team can avoid injuries to some key individuals, Assistant Sports Information Director Alan Schultz believes the Cyclones can finish higher in the Big Eight than their pre-season second division prediction.

"I don't think we will end up seventh in the conference if everybody stays healthy," Schultz said.

Injuries have plagued Cyclone Coach Donnie Duncan's team the last two seasons. In both campaigns Iowa State got off to a fast start, then suffered injuries and saw the season go downhill. Iowa State finished 5-5-1 last season after a 5-1 start.

The thought of injuries is so haunting to the ISU coaching staff this fall that they have elected to withhold injury-prone defensive tackles Shamus McDonough and Chris Boskey from any major contact in order to protect their knees.

Duncan thinks a healthy McDonough and Boskey are essential components to a Cyclone defense that should be a dominant force to be reckoned with this fall.

"Defensively, we return nine starters from a team that should have been better than it was last season," Shultz said.

Iowa State finished sixth in the Big Eight in total defense last season.

Along with McDonough, second team all-Big Eight last year, and Boskey, ISU also returns its top two defensive ends in James Ransom and Rodney Hutchins.

Linebacker is believed to be the deepest position of the Cyclone defense and will be led by Chris Washington, who led the team with 168 tackles last fall, Doug Fisher and George Jessen.

Replace one

The secondary must replace only one player from last year, all-Big Eight corner-



Iowa State Sports Information photo
Iowa State football Coach Donnie Duncan

back Joe Brown. It should remain a competitive group, with the return of safeties John Arnaud, Darren Longshore and cornerback Ronnie Osborne.

This is a year of uncertainty for the ISU offense, as the Cyclones face the task of filling numerous skill positions with newcomers. Coach Duncan says if Iowa State is going to finish in the upper division of the Big Eight, they must find adequate replacements at quarterback and tailback.

No. 1 on the list of priorities for the Iowa State coaches is to replace last season's all-conference quarterback, John Quinn. The likely choices to fill that vacancy are juniors Jon English and Dave Archer.

"Both of our quarterbacks are throwing the ball well," Duncan said. "But we would like to know our starter soon, though."

Senior Harold Brown appears to be the man ISU will rely on to fill the shoes of departed Dwayne Crutchfield, the Big Eight rushing leader a year ago with 1,189 yard, at tailback. Duncan believes he has a gem in Brown.

"He (Brown) has Joe Washington's feet and Billy Sims' speed," Duncan said. "He's here because we were looking for a tailback and he was looking for a place to go. Brown has also made a lot of progress adapting to our style."

Premier back

Brown, a transfer from Joliet, Ill. Junior College, was considered one of the premier junior college running backs in the nation a season ago. He set the new single season rushing record last year with 2,100 yards and 20 touchdowns.

"He (Brown) doesn't try to knock you down like Crutchfield, but he is quicker. They are totally different type runners," Schultz said.

Returning starter Jerry Lorenzen will again toil at fullback, while Michael Wade is the only returning starter among the Cyclone receiving corps. Wade caught a team-leading 27 passes last season and also is a dangerous punt returner.


If the adage "games are won and lost in the trenches" holds true for ISU, the Cyclones could surprise some teams in 1982.

The offensive line is considered to be the strongest part of the Cyclone offense this season. This stems from the fact that between Iowa State's five starters there are 14 years of experience. All Big-Eight tackle Karl Nelson, center Jim Meyer and guard Ted Clapper, all three-year starters.

"Overall we're pleased with our offensive line," Duncan said.

The kicking game seems to be above average again this season with the return of kicker Alex Giffords. Sophomore Kelly Goodburn will handle the punting chores.

"Our success depends upon injuries and having key people play the entire season healthy," Schultz said. "In some areas we're not as deep as we want to be, but we could challenge the middle of the (Big Eight) pack. We should finish better than we are expected."



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