Mount likes Huskers, but Auburn is No. 1

By Scott Ahlstrand

Anson Mount is at it again. Playboy magazine, with Mounts' 26th annual pre-season college football predictions, hit the newsstands in early Aug-

Mount, considered the dean of college football predicters, was in Lincoln Aug. I on a promotional tour. He brought with him both good and bad news for Nebraska football fans.

The good news was Mount's ranking of Nebraska as No. 4 in the nation. The

Cornhuskers also had wingback Irving Fryar and I-back Mike Rozier selected to Mount's all-American team.

Unfortunate, for Nebraska fans, was Mount's ranking of Auburn and Oklahoma to the No. 1 and 2 spots respectively. The Cornhuskers beat Auburn 41-7 and squeaked by Oklahoma 28-24 last season.

"Every year you have about six or seven teams who could be number one, be number one, and this year is no and this year is no exeption," Mount said. "But Auburn looks awfully good. They have the manpower to match anyone in the country and they play in a strong conference."

"A lot of factors come into play (to win a national championship) schedule, weather, injuries, referee decisions, even a lucky bounce of the ball. Nebraska is certainly among those teams which could win it all."

After Auburn and Oklahoma, Mount rounds out his top 10 with Michigan, Nebraska, Texas, Florida State, Ohio State, Arizona, Penn State and Georgia.

In the Big Eight race, Mount has Oklahoma predicted as a slight favorite over the Cornhuskers.

"I would have to say that the two teams are probably equally good but I'd give the edge to Oklahoma on account of their schedule," Mount said. "Both teams play 12 teams this year. But Oklahoma's 12th game is against Hawaii at the end of the season. Nebraska's 12th game is against Penn State at the start of the year. There's a lot of difference."

In addition to Fryar and Rozier, Mount selected Oklahoma defensivee lineman Rick Bryan, Oklahoma State running back Ernest Anderson and Colorado defensive back Victor Scott to Playboy's all-American team.

"It's not like there are 24 best players in American and the 25th is way down the line," Mount noted. "There are probably 100 players who could be all-American.

In Mount's opinion, most of the players he selects are all-Americans off the field as well as on.

"The guy who is an all-American has been working his tail off on the field and in the classroom since eighth grade. He doesn't have time to get into trouble." Mount jsaid: "Football is such a complicated sport now a days, a dummy can't make the complex calls. I'm ticked off about the dumb jock image. That may be true of some players, but now when you're talking about an all-Ameri-

Although Mount has been predicting college football for 26 years, he readily admits he's no football expert.

"Hell, I don't know anything about football," Mount said. "But, I do know a lot of people who do. I talk to coaches and pro scouts all across the country. If I want to know how good Mike Rozier is, I'll call the defensive line coach at Oklahoma. He's the one who has to stop him. I have an advantage over a lot of predictors in that I know so many people across the country that can help me with my job."



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Anson Mount

Playboy Predictions

1. Auburn

5. Texas

- Oklahoma
- 6. Florida State 7. Ohio State
- 3. Michigan
 - 8. Arizona 9. Penn State
- 4. Nebraska 10. Georgia

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