Prediction: Huskers' thirst for revenge will fuel victory

It hardly seems possible, but the college football season is upon us again. It seems to get earlier every year. Is anyone ready for summer session football?

Nebraska and Penn State kick off the season in the aptly named Kickoff Classic. It would be hard to think of two better teams to open the season.



In this corner, wearing blue and white, the Penn State Nittany Lions, the defending national champions. In this corner, wearing red and white, the Nebraska Cornhuskers, perennial contenders for the national champion-

Both of these teams remember last year's game, but that should work more to the advantage of Nebraska than Penn State. As Lex Luthor, in "Superman II," said, "Revenge. Now we're cookin'.'

So, the Huskers have the revenge motive on their side. They also have an overwhelming edge at the so-called skill positions - quarterback, running back and receiver. With Turner Gill, Mike Rozier, and Irving Fryar, Nebraska is the equal of any team in the nation at these positions.

Penn State, on the other hand, has lost three of their top offensive players in quarterback Todd Blackledge, running back Curt Warner, and split end Gregg Garrity. Notch up another one for the Huskers.

The bad news for Husker fans is that, on the offensive line, Nebraska returns only Dean Steinkuhler.

Penn State returns only two starters on its defensive front - Steve Sefter and Greg Gattuso - but both are good, experienced players.

Penn State returns four starters on offense and must find someone to replace Blackledge. The leading candidate right now is Doug Strang, who completed eight of 22 passes last year for a total of 137 yards. Not very impressive stats.

So, Nebraska appears to have almost everything in its favor. The only thing that casts a shadow over all of this is Nebraska's performance in opening

Under Tom Osborne, the Huskers are 6-3-1 in openers, but they've never won an opening game on the road.

The Meadowlands isn't exactly Penn State's home turf but it doesn't take a genius to figure out that most of the crowd will be pulling for the Lions.

Still, there appear to be too many factors in Nebraska's favor for the Huskers to lose this game. Therefore: Nebraska 31, Penn State 21.



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

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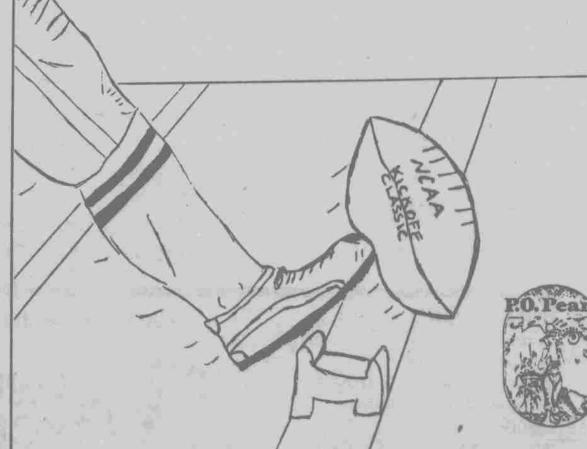
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