

# Auburn forecast not so crazy now

Well, here it is, folks. The last column of the semester. How do I end things? How about a few observations . . .

My apologies have to go to Anson Mount. Mount, the football forecaster for Playboy magazine, said in his preseason issue last summer that Auburn would capture the national championship. A lot of people, myself included, thought Mount was 2 inches short of crazy when he made that choice. But, son of a gun,

territory on the last play of the game. Quarterback Jack Mildren dropped back to pass, fired the ball into the end zone, and Husker cornerback Jim Anderson, a junior, intercepted the pass as time ran out.

With the victory, Nebraska went 7-0 in the conference, kept an overall unbeaten record, and then went on to the Orange Bowl to win the national title.

Recall that Nebraska faced a similar situation in Norman this year. The Huskers were unbeaten in the conference, unbeaten overall, and clinched the Big Eight title with a 28-21 victory against Oklahoma. The Sooners again were throwing into the end zone on fourth down late in the game, and a junior cornerback made the game-saving play.

Carry these similarities further. Oklahoma was 7-4-1 in 1970, 5-2 in the Big Eight, tied for second place. OU was 8-4 this year, 5-2 in the Big Eight, and tied for second place.

Finally, this year's bowl situation is a farce. Not only do you have No. 1 not playing No. 2, but you have a really good team (SMU) getting a raw deal. The Mustangs are 10-1, with their only loss coming to Texas, 15-12. They have the best record (31-2-1) in the nation over the past three seasons. They have some of the best young running backs in the nation; but they are playing in the Sun Bowl. Not the Orange Bowl, where the Miami Hurricanes are Nebraska's opponent. Not the Sugar Bowl, where twice-defeated Michigan is playing Auburn. Not the Cotton Bowl, where 9-1-1 Georgia is playing Texas. Not even the Fiesta Bowl, where football fans in Tempe, Ariz., will be treated to 8-2-1 Pitt and 8-3 Ohio State. The Rose Bowl's Pac-10 contract is still in force, meaning 6-4-1 UCLA will play Illinois.

Talk about a raw deal.



**John Kopetzky**

look at those wire service polls now!

The same wire service polls that will determine the national championship list Auburn a solid third behind Nebraska and that team from somewhere south of Oklahoma. Auburn lost to Texas 20-7 in the season's second, but have won nine in a row, including triumphs over Florida, Georgia (in Athens) and Alabama. The team has captured its first outright Southeastern Conference title in 26 years, earned the Sugar Bowl trip, and with some upset, still could win it all. Pat Due, the coach, and Bo Jackson, sophomore All-American tailback, are the toasts of the SEC. Not a bad year at all.

So, sorry, Mr. Mount, maybe you aren't so crazy after all.

Recall Neil Harris' game-saving play at the end of the Oklahoma game. Well, folks, I'm a person who notices little similarities in things. Call it an acute sense of *deja vu*. Harris' play was almost an exact replica of another play 13 years ago. In November 1970, Oklahoma came to Lincoln and trailed the Huskers, 28-21, and had the ball deep in Nebraska

## Upset . . .

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"I was able to play a more relaxed game," Matzke said of his performance. The main thing that helped me was I've really been concentrating on the Lord, and that's what has given me the endurance to go through this season." Nebraska center Hoppen battled Arkansas' Joe Kleine to a virtual standstill. The two 6-11 centers both led their teams in the scoring and rebounding departments. Hoppen netted 21 points and snatched nine rebounds, while Kleine bettered those stats slightly, scoring 22 and grabbing 10.

"That was an awful tough game,"

Hoppen said. "That's the best team win we've had in a long time. I think we played exactly like Coach Iba wanted us to play, and they (Arkansas) didn't shoot well."

Husker forward Cloudy, who finished with 17 points and eight rebounds, praised Matzke for his effort.

"He made the difference," Cloudy said. "When you have a guy come through that hasn't been doing much, it really gives you a lift."

The two teams' next action will be Saturday night, when Nebraska plays host to Northern Iowa at 7:35 p.m. and Arkansas meets North Texas State.

## Weather forces canceled wrestling match

The wrestling match between Nebraska and Augustana, scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, was postponed after the Augustana team could not travel to Lincoln because of weather. Nebraska Sports Information

assistant Rod Henkel said no new date had been set for the match. The Warriors were stranded in Ames, Iowa, after participating in a tournament there, Henkel said.

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