Daily Nebraskan

Survivors . . .

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4. Texas. It's an old adage in football but it's a true one: defense wins football games. Few teams have a better defense, year in and year out, than Texas.

Auburn, Penn State and Oklahoma are three of the first four opponents. If they can survive that, the rest of the season will be like spring break.

5. Michigan. Michigan, like Texas, relies on its defense. The difference between the two is that Michigan can also put a lot

of points on the board-not quickly mind you, but they still get them up there.

The Wolverines have two tough non-conference games this year — against Miami and Washington (no, not the Dolphins and Redskins, although Michigan could give them a tussle) but both games are in Ann Arbor. Somehow 103,000 screaming Michigan fans have a tendency to unnerve the opposition.

6. UCLA. The Bruins return almost everyone from last year's squad that routed Illinois in the

Rose Bowl

Quarterback Steve Bono leads Bruins on offense. He has good targets in Mike Sherrard and Mike Young.

All-American linebacker candidate Neal Dellocono heads a tough defense.

7. Penn State. After a shaky start last year the Nittany Lions came on strong at the end of the year. Joe Paterno hopes that momentum will carry over to this season.

Paterno's biggest problem is a schedule that includes eight

teams that played in bowls last year.

But the Lions have some horses. D.J. Dozier was the first Penn State freshman to rush for 1,000 yards in a season. And he hardly played in the first three games of the season.

And the last time the Lions were weak on defense (other than last year) was during the Civil War.

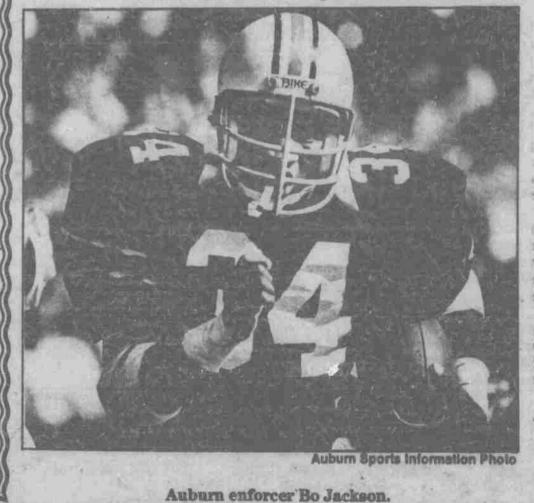
8. Nebraska. The Huskers lost more quality players than any other team in the country to graduation but there are plenty of people to take their place.

Craig Sundberg and Travis Turner will battle for the quarterback spot. Whoever wins that battle will have Jeff Smith to hand off to, and that's something to look forward to.

The defense — which had its share of problems last year has a year's experience under its belt.

9. Ohio State. Buckeye fans have been on Earle Bruce lately because the Bucks haven't had the success they've known in the past. That could change this year.

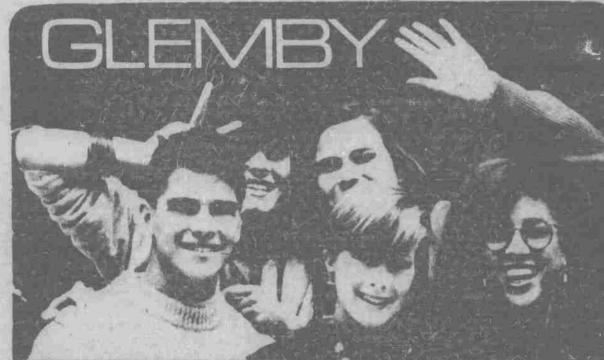
10. Notre Dame. The big problem here is coach Gerry Faust. He is living proof of the existence of the Peter Principle. Not even all that talent can overcome his ineptitude. But word has it that Faust spent the summer reading "Run to Daylight" so perhaps the Irish are in for a change.





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