

Oklahoma Given Nod In Big Eight; Nebraska Is 2nd

EDITORS NOTE: The following is the sixth of eight dispatches sizing up college football prospects in various sections of the country.

(The Midlands)
By WILLIAM COOK
United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—Remember when the Oklahoma Sooners won 47 consecutive games and 12 straight conference championships?

Well, there's talk of a return to that kind of juggernaut in Oklahoma. About the only folks in the Big Eight Conference who don't go along with this forecast of Sooner invincibility are the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

That pretty much tells the Big Eight story for 1963. Oklahoma is the choice to win the title and Nebraska is supposed to be the runner-up.

After that, Kansas and Missouri should fight it out for third place, and Oklahoma State and Iowa State figure to battle for the top of the second division. Then comes Colorado and perennial doormat Kansas State.

Best In Years
Oklahoma triumphed in 47 consecutive games during 1953-57 and held the conference crown a dozen straight years during 1947-59. Coach Bud Wilkinson, of course, isn't predicting repeats of such records. However, he admits the 1963 club may be the "best-balanced" in several years.

Wilkinson has 28 talented lettermen returned from the 1962 Orange Bowl team which went unbeaten in league play. The returnees include mighty fullback Frank Grisham and Joe Don Looney, a speedy, powerful halfback.

The tough Sooner line, which shut out four of its seven Big Eight opponents in 1962, is anchored by tackle Ralph Neely, 246.

Quarterback is the question mark at Oklahoma. The best bet is a talented but untried sophomore, Mike Ringer.

Must Be Shown
Noises coming from Nebraska indicate that the Cornhuskers must be shown that the Sooners are best. The optimism at Nebraska is based largely on quarterback Dennis Claridge, the league's 1962 player of the year.

Cornhusker coach Bob Devaney, 1962 coach of the year in the Big Eight, has perhaps the bestest line in the conference, headed by Bob Brown, 259-pound senior guard.

Devaney is more realistic than the alumni. He points out that he has a good No. 1 unit but lacks depth.

The Kansas Jayhawks may not field the best team, but halfback Gale Sayers will make it one of the most exciting. Sayers scampered for 1,125 yards in 1962, much of it on breath-taking end runs.

Kansas coach Jack Mitchell has 22 lettermen back but not a single, seasoned quarterback. Sophomore Steve Renko, 205, appears to have the post sewed up.

Missouri picked to win the crown in 1962, has been beset by injuries, plus disciplinary action which cost the Tigers halfback Johnny Roland, the Big Eight's leading scorer last year.

Tiger coach Dan Devine also has quarterback woes. The important job apparently will go to an inexperienced sophomore, Gary Lane.



HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION Sonny Liston performed before more than 20,000 people at Stockholm Sweden amusement park Gröna Lund. The heavyweight title holder attracted more people than Ingemar Johansson did when he came home after winning the championship.

Quarterback Battle Featured Saturday When Oregon Takes On Penn State Team

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON Eugene — A spirited individual duel between quarterbacks Bob Berry and Pete Liske figures to add excitement to Oregon's season football opener against Penn State Sept. 21 at Multnomah Stadium.

Berry, a solid all-around performer with the daring of a Mississippi riverboat gambler, and Liske, one of the nation's top passers last seasons, will guide the Webfoots and Nittany Lions respectively when the two squads meet in the night contest at Portland.

The free-wheeling Berry enjoyed the finest sophomore season of any rookie quarterback in Oregon grid history. The stocky signal-caller paced the team in total offense with 1,110 yards and completed 62 of 115 passes for 995 yards and a nifty .539 completion percentage.

Once again, Berry figures prominently in Coach Len Casanova's offensive plans as he adds his skills and leadership ability to the "Firehouse Four" backfield, which features All-American halfback Mel Renfro.

Liske engineered Penn State to a 9-2 record last fall and in the process wound up as the 12th leading passer in the country. The Nittany Lion field general flipped 91 completions in 162 attempts for 1,037 yards and an even dozen touchdowns.

His completion percentage of .563 was third best in the nation, topped only by Dick Shine of Maryland and Tom Myers of Northwestern.

Faced with such a formidable passer in the opening contest, it's understandable why the Webfoots have spent considerable time honing their pass defense in fall workouts.

Machen KO's Wilson; Ready To Fight Clay
SANTA MONICA, Calif. (UPI)—Heavyweight Eddie Machen, who successfully started on the comeback trail Monday night with a knockout of Ollie Wilson in Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, says he's ready to take on the Louisville Lip, Cassius Clay, "right now."

The 196-pound Machen, relaxing in his dressing room following his kayo of Wilson, 206, Miami, in 2:19 of the sixth round of a scheduled six-rounder, said he was "very satisfied" with the results of his first fight since a mental breakdown 14 months ago.

"It was a big step for me," he remarked. "The whole eyes of the sports world were on me. I was more tense than any fight in my life."

Machen admitted he was aiming for a knockout, his 25th, and said he "wanted to get him (Wilson) out of there."

The incomparable Renfro, half-back Larry Hill and fullback Lu Bain, a group boasting speed, experience and skill, figure to draw the key pass defense assignments against the the Nittany Lions.

Junior Coffey Recovering; '63 Future Still Uncertain

This is another in a series of dispatches dealing with the 1963 prospects of major west coast college football teams.

SEATTLE (UPI) — The cast was removed from the broken foot of star University of Washington fullback Junior Coffey Tuesday, but Coach Jim Owens said he was making no plans to use the highly touted back soon.

"We have no plans at all. We're just waiting for the reports from the doctors," Owens said.

Owens said the foot will be X-rayed again this weekend. Until he broke his foot in practice Coffey had been touted as a potential All-American.

"We've had good workouts both before and after Junior Coffey was hurt," Owens said of the Big Six's 1962 top ground gainer who refractured his foot making a tackle. "And I haven't noticed any reaction on the part of the squad."

Without Coffey, Owens is down to 14 returning lettermen and expects a tougher season than last year when his team only bowed to top ranked Southern California, while winning seven and being tied in two.

"We could be a good defensive team," Jim told a recent gathering of the Big Six skywriters. "But we are nowhere near last year's squad in experience and speed."

Coffey's spot at fullback is being sought by Charlie Browning a junior letterman up from last year's third string; and sophomore Mike Olts, who seems quite improved.

Spread Offense
Owens indicates that his quarterbacks, Bill Siler and Bill Douglas, also might be the fastest runners in the backfield. So he will be operating from more of a spread this season.

"Siler is a good passer but on an option play he probably would just as soon tuck the ball under his arm and take off," Owens said.

Two sophomores figure to break into the first (purple) team in the two-platoon system which Owens plans to keep using. They are left-halfback Ron Medved of Tacoma and left end Joe Mancuso, a good pass grabber from the same nearby city.

The bright spot is in the line where Owens tabs his veteran guards as "excellent" and his tackles "good."

Rick Redmond and Riek Sortun, both guards, are high on Owens' list. He feels that Redmond is a little stronger than Chuck Allen—the huskies great guard of recent memory—and can become as good a linebacker.

"I wouldn't trade those guards for any others in the country," Owens said.

Mike Briggs and Joe Ryan give Owens experience at tackle, while John Stupey, a converted guard, holds down center. Back of him is another former guard, Fred Forsberg, which underlines Owens' statement, "graduation wiped out our ends, halfbacks and centers."

Owens thinks that he might wind up using three quarterbacks, with a sophomore named Al Libke moving in to spell Siler and Douglas.

Once more, Owens will use his first and second teams for about equal periods during a quarter. "The new substitution rules fit into our playing pattern," he said.

"Coaches that like to have all-offense or all-defense units will have more problems. I like two-way players."

Owens, who doubles as the school's athletic director, is looking for his team to mature.

"We could get better as the season progresses if our kids grow up," he said.

The schedule: Sept. 21—Air Force there; Sept. 28—Pittsburgh there; Oct. 5—Iowa here; Oct. 12—Oregon State here; Oct. 19—Stanford here; Oct. 26—Oregon there.

Eastern Washington First On List For Linfield Team

Linfield, currently holding a winning streak of 21 straight regular season victories, will seek its 22nd consecutive victory when coach Paul Durham's warriors travel to Cheney, Wash., and the 1963 season opener with Eastern Washington Saturday night.

This will mark the second season in a row that the Wildcats have opened with the Savages. Last year Linfield scored a 13-6 triumph in McMinnville.

Durham, who was named NAIA "Coach of the Year" following Linfield's second straight undefeated season last year, is more than a little worried about the opener with Eastern Washington. The Savages will be operating with a new coach, Dave Holmes, and a new system this year. Thus, the Wildcats will enter the Savage encounter without previous scouting dope or advanced material on Eastern Washington personnel.

Linfield will continue its two-day workouts through Thursday before leaving Friday for Cheney. All-Conference tackle Pete Dengenis, and reserve quarterback Ken Scales returned to drills Monday after missing two days with injuries. Dengenis was favoring a weak knee and Scales was nursing a bad back.

Going into Linfield's final week of drills the Wildcat mentor must decide on three offensive starters. The three spots Durham has not settled on a definite starter are left end (tight end), right tackle and halfback. Three letter winners, Kandy Chambliss, Howard Hosken and Brian Carter are waging a hot battle for the tight end berth.

Mississippi State transfer Chuck Kearney and three-year letterman Gary Olson are the candidates for the right tackle position. Durham has a host of players after the halfback post in Linfield's "Flying I" offense. The edge would appear to favor one-year letterman Jerry Dressel. However, Leroy Falls, Olympic JC transfer, and John Lee, freshman from Hartford, Conn., could also gain the starting nod.

Art Pollard Races Sunday

Art Pollard will be behind the wheel of a 1962 Mercury when the late model stock cars take over the Portland Speedway for Sunday's annual Western 300 classic.

The change in driving assignments was announced by Dick Niles, owner of the Mercury team cars. Pollard, now of Medford, was the winner of the Pacific Coast Super Modified Sportsman Championship earlier this year at Portland, and has been among the top drivers in the northwest for the past several seasons. California's Jack McCoy will also be driving a Mercury — a 1963.

Other top entrants announced to date include: Keith Walker and Don Strong, Denver, Colo., driving Fords; Bill Amick, Portland, track record setter at the Sacramento NASCAR 100-mile two weeks ago piloting a 1963 Dodge; Dick Brown, Portland, driving a 1962 Chevrolet; Art Watts, Portland, a 1963 Ford; Carl Joiner, Portland, a 1963 Chevrolet; Royce Hagerty, Camas, Wash., a 1962 Chevrolet; and California ace Dick Getty and Jerry Draper, driving Chevrolets.

The featured race of the championships will be the 300-lap marathon with 1961 through 1963 model cars competing for top honors.

Speedway officials have announced that the entire grandstand will be reserved for Sunday's race. Reserved tickets may be ordered from Northwest Sports Inc., 5345 SW Dover Lane, Portland, for \$3 each.

Portland Open Starts Thursday

PORTLAND (UPI) — Defending champion Jack Nicklaus predicted Tuesday it will take "about a 272" to win the \$30,000 Portland Open golf tournament.

The 72-hole tourney at the Columbia-Edgewater Country Club will get under way Thursday. A pro-amateur was scheduled today.

"The course is playing longer and I think it will take about a 272 to win," the 23-year-old former Ohio State student said. "But I would say this course is in the finest condition of any I have played since the tournament of Champions at Las Vegas in May."

Nicklaus won last year's tournament with a 269. But he was assessed two strokes of his total for slow play.

Most of the 149 professionals entered in the four-day meet shot practice rounds Tuesday including three-time champion Billy Casper Jr.



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Danger! Fire in the woods is still a major threat

With the advent of warm fall weather, fire in the woods is still a major hazard to the safety and economic well-being of the Northwest.

Fortunately there have been no really serious fires so far this year. Foresters say people have been particularly careful while in the woods. This is no time to let down.

September and October are often the months of greatest danger. And this year conditions are worse than ever.

Columbus Day windstorms left more than 11 billion board feet of blow-down on the forest floor. Private industry and government agencies have been working hard for many months

to clean it up but most of it is still there.

It is ready to explode like a month-old Christmas tree at the touch of the slightest spark. Whole communities could be wiped out.

So just because the summer is over, don't drop your guard. Wherever you go in the woods this fall, please do your part to prevent fire. Whenever possible, stay in established camping areas. Please observe fire closures. Build fires only in areas provided for them and make sure they are out when you leave.

Fire prevention is everybody's job. If you do your part, we can get through the year without a disaster.

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