Colorado's Bieniemy should win the Heisman

When the dust settles and the air clears, the 1990 Heisman Trophy will belong to Colorado's super, senior tailback, Eric (Public) Bieniemy. Or at least it should

The Heisman, college football's top prize, is supposed to be given out annually to the nation's best college football player, but it doesn't always work out that way. Behind-the-scenes influences always seem to crop up and make the final decision wrong and controversial.

Is the player on television enough? Is he a senior? Is his school on probation? And finally, does he attend Notre Dame?

In this wild and crazy year of college football, Bieniemy has proven week in and week out he's the nation's best player. Other players may have put bigger numbers on the board or played as well as him in big games, but nobody has done it every weekend against one of the nation's toughest schedules.

His yards per game and total rushing yardage numbers are tops in the country. Impressive numbers considering Bieniemy and Colorado have faced nationally ranked teams such as Tennessee, Washington, Oklahoma. Nebraska, Illinois and Texas. The final three games were all on the road.

At Nebraska, Bieniemy struggled early, losing three of his five fumbles, but recovered (pardon the pun) to rush 38 times for 134 yards and four TDs. All



From the Sidelines

by

ROBERT WEBER

four of his scores came in the final quarter as Colorado overcame Bieniemy's five fumbles and a 12-0 Cornhusker lead to win 27-12.

The only other person close to deserving the award is Notre Dame's Raghib Ishmail. Nobody in the game can break open a game like the Rocket. But while he has played great in the Irish's big games. Ishmail hasn't been healthy enough to produce Heismanlike numbers.

What about Brigham Young's Ty Detmer and Houston's David Klinger, you ask? Well, what about them? Consider these quarterbacks' overall performances in big games — you'll have to look closely because there aren't many big games on either teams' schedules — and both of these guys fall from serious contention.

Detmer, who last weekend became the first junior to pass the 10,000 career yardage mark, is the latest thrower to emerge from Quarterback U., but his numbers are deceiving. Sure, he averages over 40 attempts. 300 yards and three touchdowns a game, but this is against Western Athletic Conference teams that play defense about as often and well as the Denver Nuggets.

After dissecting the Hurricane defense in Provo, Utah, Detmer fell on his face before a national television audience against the Ducks. He threw five interceptions and was sacked five times as the Cougars, then ranked fourth in the nation, lost to Oregon 32-16.

BYU Coach LaVell Edwards said he would never leave Detmer in a game just to rack up stats, yet Detmer was still throwing, and chasing a NCAA record for consecutive 300-yard games midway through the fourth quarter of a 52-9 romp over Colorado State.

While Detmer's obsession with numbers is annoying, Klinger's have been downright offensive.

As Klinger was busy tossing 11 touchdowns in Houston's 84-21 rout of Division I-AA foe Eastern Washington, sport purists everywhere were tossing their lunch.

Klinger's biggest test of the year came against Texas two weeks ago, and he failed miserably. He may lead the nation in passing, but that's like shooting baskets by yourself and grabbing the most rebounds.

When the numbers are tallied and the votes cast, Bieniemy should win the Heisman, but if history repeats itself, Detmer, Ishmail or even (please say it isn't so) Klinger will grace the cover of Sports Illustrated.

Oregon signs three basketball recruits for next season

The Oregon men's basketball team has announced the signings of three high school players to letters-of-intent in the last week.

The Ducks took advantage of the early November signing period to land 6-foot8 Kevinn Robinson from Houston, 6-9 Jeff Potter from Redmond, Wash., and 6-8 Damon Runyon from Fresno, Calif.

Robinson, a 6-8, 185-pound forward from Kashmere High School averaged 15.6 points and 14.3 rebounds per game last season. Coach Don Monson projects Robinson to play small forward for the Ducks.

Runyon averaged 18 points and eight rebounds per game last season for Redwood High School in Vista, Calif. Potter, meanwhile, is considered to be one of the top prospects on the West Coast.

Oregon is also expected to sign 6-6 John McFarland from Santa Monica, Calif. McFarland signed with the Ducks last season but was unable to enroll in school at Oregon because of academic reasons.



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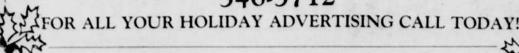
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