

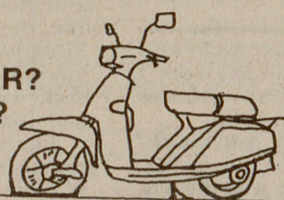
TEN HANDS

Thursday, November 2

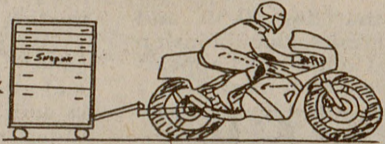
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dp 1989

Huskers and Buffs make ready Colorado's coach notices teams' similarities

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Colorado coach Bill McCartney may have pointed so hard at Nebraska as his designated rival that he has created a Cornhusker clone.

"I can't think of any other team on our schedule that runs an offense as similar as we run, and I doubt if anybody that they've played this year looks as much like them as we do. There's a lot of similarity. There's a lot of similarity on defense, too," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said.

"The difference will probably be more of people than it will be formations or those kinds of things," he said.

Consider the obvious: Colorado and Nebraska are ranked No. 2 and 3 respectively heading into Saturday's Big Eight Conference showdown in Boulder, Colo. Both are 8-0 overall and 4-0 in the league. Both have solid defenses, plenty of team speed and option offenses that rely on the run.

The way they attack a foe even looks similar.

"They're doing some things very

similar to what we've done over the years," Osborne said. "Some of the plays are very similar."

"Of course they got involved in the wishbone for several years and then they've adapted some of the wishbone to the I-formation," he said.

"I wouldn't say they've necessarily copied our offense. Everybody looks at everybody else and tries to pick out the things you like," Osborne said.

A look at the personnel also shows similarities.

Both teams have top option quarterbacks. Nebraska's Gerry Gdowski has three straight 100-yard-plus rushing games, averages 94.88 yards per game on the ground and is second in the league in passing efficiency with nine touchdown passes and a completion percentage of more than 51 percent.

Colorado's Darian Hagan is sixth in the league with a rushing average of 88.5 yards per game and tops in passing efficiency with his 69.09 per-

cent completion rate and three TD passes.

Gdowski has run for 10 touchdowns, Hagan 11.

Both teams have quality running backs.

Nebraska has Ken Clark and Leodis Flowers at I-back and Bryan Carpenter at fullback. Colorado has J.J. Flannigan filling in for the injured Eric Bieniemy at I-back. Both teams have veteran, tested and talented lines, good receivers and plenty of speed on offense.

On defense, Nebraska leads the league in rushing defense, total defense and is No. 2 in scoring defense.

Colorado is second in rushing defense, total defense and No. 1 in scoring defense.

Both teams have speed and talent at inside and outside linebacker positions and lines that have controlled most opponents.

"I know this year, Colorado, everybody says, is the class of the conference at this point," Osborne said.

Robinson AL manager of the year

NEW YORK (AP) — Fran Robinson, who guided the Baltimore Orioles to one of the greatest turnarounds in baseball history, was selected American League Manager of the Year on Wednesday.

Robinson took the Orioles from last place in the AL East with a 54-107 record in 1988 to second place and an 87-75 mark this year, only two games behind Toronto. It was the third-best one-season turnaround ever.

He got 23 of 28 first-place votes and 125 points on a 5-31 basis from a panel chosen by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Cito Gaston, who managed the Blue Jays to first place in the AL East, finished second with three first-place votes and 62 points.

Tony La Russa, who guided Oakland to the AL pennant and World Series title, was third with two first-place votes and 51 points.

California's Doug Rader finished fourth with 13 points and Kansas City's John Wathan got one point.

Robinson was also The Associated Press' Manager of the Year.

The Orioles, rebuilt this year around a mostly rookie pitching staff and only one proven star shortstop Cal Ripken, almost became the first team to go from last place to first in one season.

After last year's miserable showing, Baltimore was expected to finish in the basement of the AL East again this season.

NFL wins against players union

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The NFL won a major victory over its players union Wednesday when a federal appeals court ruled that the free agency clauses of its 1982 labor agreement can't be challenged as antitrust violations just because negotiations are at an impasse.

The 2-1 decision by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals left the league pushing for new negotiations. The union, meanwhile, said it would appeal or — in an extreme scenario — push for decertification that would leave the NFL without labor antitrust protection.

The decision involved the antitrust suit filed after the unsuccessful conclusion of the 24-day players strike.

Last year, Judge David Doty, presiding over the suit filed in Minneapolis, ruled that an "impasse" in bargaining existed and as such, the league's labor antitrust

exemption no longer existed. Doty also suggested that he believed the union would prevail at trial.

But the trial was put off indefinitely by Wednesday's split decision.

The majority consisted of Judges John R. Gibson and Roger L. Wollman, who upheld the position of the NFL Management Council, argued last May by Paul Tagliabue, who was elected the NFL's new commissioner last week.

They held that because the system of free-agent compensation was the result of a collective bargaining agreement, it didn't constitute an antitrust violation.

"In sum," they wrote, "we hold that the antitrust laws are inapplicable under the circumstances of this case as the ... exemption extends beyond impasse."

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