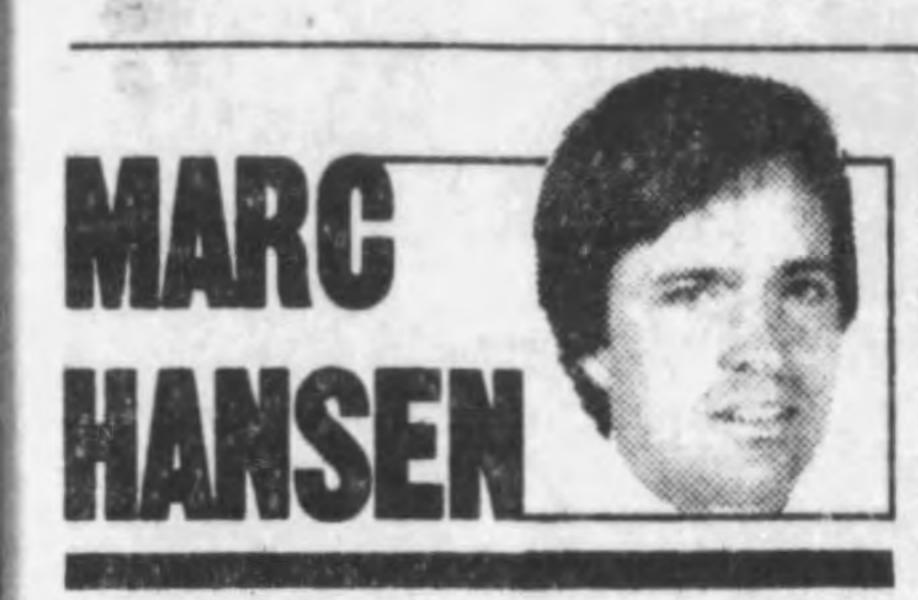
November 4, 1984

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Hawks tie Badgers, but lose Harmon



The good, bad and boring

AMES, IA. - For Iowa State, it was the kind of game that, when the offense takes the field, the defense yells, "Try to hold 'em this time."

Sure it's an old joke, but what did you expect, Bob Hope? The game wasn't a lot of laughs, either, if you want to know the truth.

Afterward, Jim Criner, the Cyclone coach who saw Nebraska ax-murder his team, 44-0, looked like a politician delivering a concession speech. Only not so cheery.

"The players will be right in," he whispered after a brief analysis of the landslide. "Thank you."

You could hardly hear him, which was appropriate because, earlier in the day, you could hardly hear his of-

Actually, it was a chicken-beforethe-egg question. Was the Iowa State offense that bad (as in bad) or was the Nebraska defense that bad (as in good D)?

Probably both. Some coaches feel the 1984 Huskers are better than the '83 Huskers, who were rated No. 1 most of the season.

CRINER IS ONE. He seems to believe that a cold-hearted defense is preferable to a hot-wheels offense if forced to decided between the two.

Then again, there are people like Pat Jones, the new coach at Oklahoma State. Early in the season he wasn't convinced the Big Eight had a powerhouse.

"There's a lot of football to be played in this conference," he said after the Cowboys lost to Nebraska in their Big Eight opener. "I don't think anyone is immune to problems on any weekend. It's going to be wild before the year ends. Nobody is going to go through this league unbeaten."

He got the wild part right, anyway. Had he been in Ames Saturday, however, Jones might have retracted the rest of that statement.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, that

fense," he said. "We're playing most of the same guys as last year, but they have a different attitude. They're more aggressive. If we'd had this kind of a defense last year, it would have been lights out."

IT WASN'T EXACTLY a black-out Saturday. On defense, the Huskers had nothing but arms up their sleeves. Their defense was basic black. And

This time out, Osborne thought up a few more things to say. To wit:

"That was one of the finest efforts since I've been coaching."

And he didn't even cook up anything special for Tracy Henderson, the Big Elight's all-time leading receiver. They didn't need to, went the explana-

One piece of Iowa State's offensive strategy was to use Henderson as a decoy. Send him deep, and let him take a handful of defenders along for the ride. The idea was to create openings elsewhere, into which Henderson's teammates would flow.

Trouble was, the Huskers ruined it all by assigning only one player to shadow him.

"We ran basic coverages," said Brett Clark, a Nebraska safety. "We didn't need to do anything else because they didn't try to hit him as much as they usually do. That surprised us."

MORE SURPRISING was what happened when a ball actually came Henderson's way. He dropped it. Exclamation point.

To be honest, he had to jump for the ball. Still, it slipped through his hands, which is almost like Walter Payton missing a game or Greg Louganis smacking the water belly first or Mary Lou Retton forgetting to smile.

"I never dropped a pass like that before," said Henderson, after catching only two for the day. "It was frustrating. No excuse for that."

Maybe the excuse for the Iowa State offense was Alex Espinoza's broken heel bone. Had he not been laid out last Saturday at Missouri, Espinoza would have been the starting quarterback, and not Alan Hood.

It's probably just as well he wasn't out there. Hard to complete a lot of passes with your nose in the Astro-

On the other hand, you know your offense is taking the day off when your tight end and quarterback show up on the tackle chart.

Dave Smoldt, a senior from Grundy

HANSEN Please turn to Page 4D

Lohrville falls in playoffs

Lone Tree zips, 34-16, in Class A surprise

By RANDY PETERSON

Register Staff Writer

Saturday was a day of upsets in a quarterfinal round of the high school football playoffs that saw a No. 1 team fall and six other teams lose for the first time.

Class A 10th-rated Lone Tree pulled off the biggest surprise of the afternoon by sidelining No. 1 and previously unbeaten Lohrville, 34-16. It was

Playoff stories, scores and pairings: Page 8D.

the fifth straight victory for Coach Lonnie Powers' team and placed them opposite Alden in Saturday's semifinal

Lone Tree is making its second trip to the playoffs and first since winning the Class A state championship in

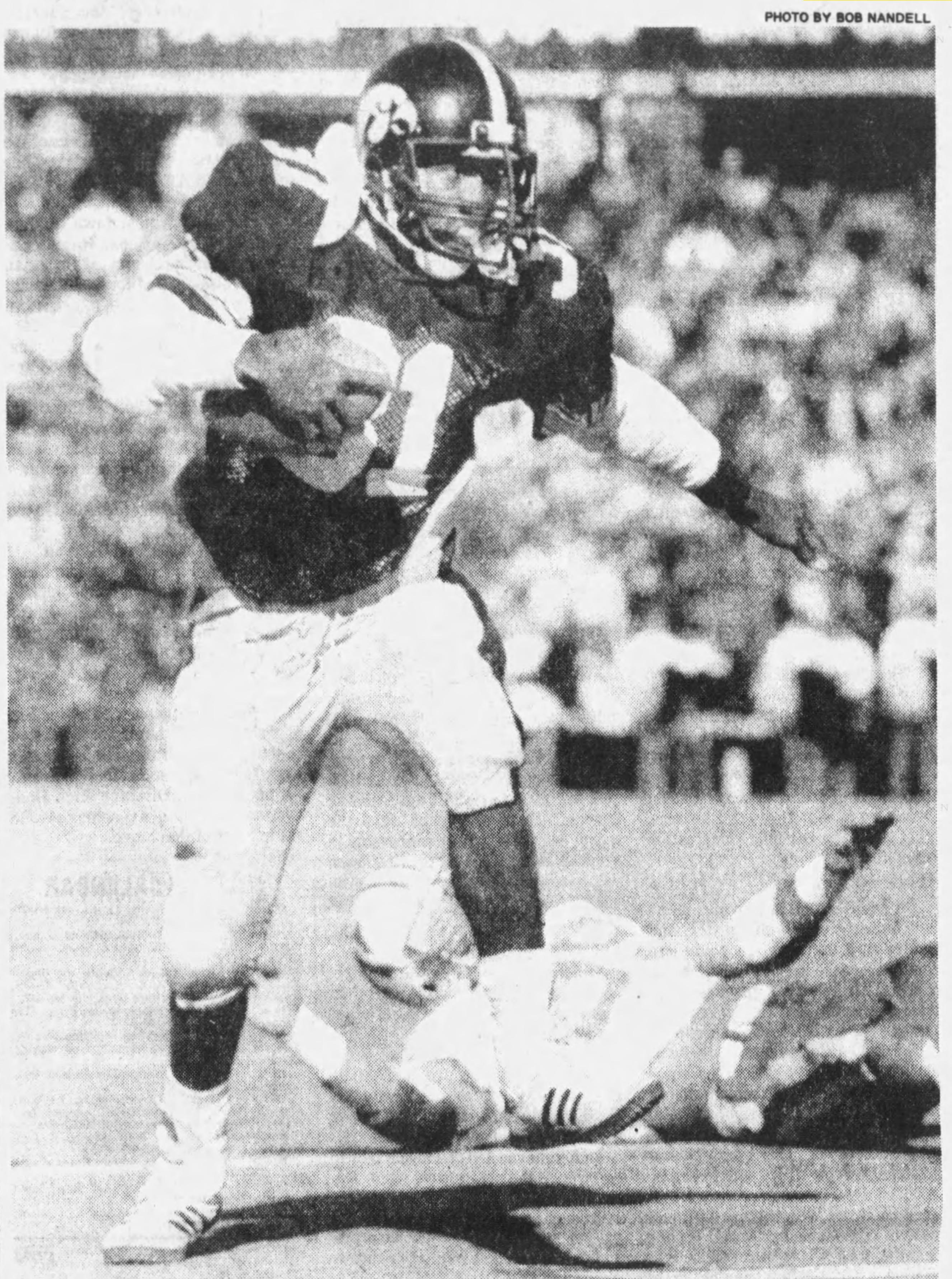
Alden has played the role of the giant-killer twice. It knocked previously unbeaten Radcliffe out of playoff competition in Wednesday's first round, then did the same to unbeaten Venutra, 19-0, Saturday.

Schleswig improved to 10-0 with a 15-12 victory over unbeaten and second-rated Stanton and meets Graettinger, a 16-6 winner over Paullina, in the other Class A semifinal. Graettinger has a couple of state runner-up finishes to its credit - last season and in 1976.

There were 13 second-round games played Saturday for teams in classes 3-A, 2-A, 1-A and A, and three more scheduled for Monday. The semifinal round is Nov. 10, as are the semifinals for the teams in Class 4-A.

Another upset of sorts came in Class 3-A, where No. 10 Algona, making its first playoff appearance, improved to PLAYOFFS

Please turn to Page 8D



Ronnie Harmon glides for a big gain, setting up lowa's touchdown

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, that old chatterbox, can't say enough about his defense. Those were his exact words a week ago. "I can't say enough about my de-"I can't say enough about my de-"

Statistics	PHOTO BY DAVID PETERSON
First downs 15 lowa St. 5	
Rushes-yards 70-358 34-16	
Passing yards 49 37	
Return yards 91 0 Passes 5-12-0 9-20-4	
Punts 5-34 11-40	
Fumbles-lost 4-2 3-2	
Penalties-yards 2-15 5-61	
SCORING	
Nebraska	
N—FG 20 Klein	
N-Turner 1 run (Klein kick)	
N—DuBose 6 run (kick failed)	
N-DuBose 80 run (Klein kick)	
N—Turner 8 run (Klein kick) N—Hiemer 13 pass from Sundberg (Klein	
kick)	
N-Jones 47 run (Klein kick)	
A-52,919	
By BUCK TURNBULL	
Register Staff Writer	
AMES, IA. — Once the dam burst	
here Saturday, what had been a close	
and somewhat boring football game	
became an all-too-familiar story for	
Iowa State — another lopsided loss to	
Nebraska.	
The Cyclones gave a strong defen-	
sive effort for three quarters, but like	
the little Dutch boy with his finger in	
the dike, they only seemed to be delay-	
ing the inevitable.	
When the flood of points finally	
came, third-ranked Nebraska struck	
for four touchdowns in just 61/2	
minutes of the fourth quarter and	
handed Iowa State its worst defeat in	
nine years, 44-0.	

Nebraska's Doug DuBose crashes to the turf, just inches away from the goal line

of turning the ball over six times to the

aggressive Huskers. Quarterback

Alan Hood, replacing injured regular

Alex Espinoza, surrendered three in-

terceptions — and one was particular-

midway in the third period when

Hood's pass was picked off by Bill We-

ber at the Cyclone 25-yard line and re-

turned to the six. DuBose circled left

Iowa State trailed by only 10-0

If it's any consolation to the present Cyclones, similar things have happened to their predecessors.

Iowa State teams have been shut out only five times since 1971, and all five were to Nebraska, including a 52-0 defeat in 1975, which was the last time the Cyclones had been beaten by a larger margin.

This was Iowa State's seventh straight loss to the Huskers, and Nebraska owns an overwhelming 297-49 advantage in those games.

Still, the Cyclone defense fought and clawed for three quarters to keep the score respectable, but when the offense could do nothing and turnovers began to take their toll, the rout was

Many in the sellout crowd of 52,919 started heading the exits long before the windswept game was over.

Nebraska came here with the nation's No. 2 ranking in total defense and did nothing to hurt its position, allowing Iowa State a total of just 53 yards, 37 passing and only 16 rushing. Meanwhile, the Huskers rolled up

ous games, which had been a key fac-407 yards, including 80 on one scoring tor in playing heavily-favored Oklahorun by Doug DuBose. He had two of his ma so tough here two weeks ago and team's touchdowns and so did quarterthen getting a 14-14 tie with Missouri. back Travis Turner. This time the Cyclones were guilty

ly costly.

"That was a tough dadgum football game to end up losing the way we did," said Iowa State Coach Jim Criner. "Nebraska is a much better defensive team than we are an offensive team. "I was very disappointed with our

weren't even close in our offensive line compared to what Nebraska has in its defensive line." The victory was Nebraska's eighth in nine starts, moving the Huskers one step nearer to their fourth straight Big-

execution when we had the ball. We

Eight Conference title with a 5-0 record. The Huskers now have won 26 straight league games, which is a school mark. Iowa State, falling to 2-6-1 overall

and 0-4-1 in the conference, had made

only two turnovers in its three previ-

"We are probably two or three touchdowns better than Iowa State, but not as much as this score indicates," said Nebraska Coach Tom Osb

"I think Weber's interception was

the key play of the game. When we

end to score on the next play.

scored right away after that, it really turned things in our favor. "Towa State needed to do something

in the third quarter, when they had the wind with them, but they couldn't. It might have been a different ball game if they had been able to score there, instead of letting us go up, 16-0."

What occurred a fter that was not pleasant for Cyclone followers.

DuBose tore into the clear for his 80-yard gallop on the first play of the final quarter, and even though it seemed he would be run down and tackled by Iowa State's Kevin Williams, he managed to stay on his feet and continue on for the end zone.

"I hit him but with gloves on, my hands slipped off when I thought I'd be able to bring him down," said Wil-

> CYCLONES Please turn to Page 4D

Hawks stay atop league despite tie

Long also hurt as Badgers hang on in second half

	Statistics	
	Wis.	lowa
First downs	12	17
Rushes-yards	34-90	49-122
Passing yards	127	1111
Return yards	38	6
Passes	13-17-1	10-24-4
Punts	10-33	7-43"
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	7-66	3-30
	SCORING	
Missansla		

10 0 0 0-10 0 0 3 7-10

- W-FG 25 Gregoire W-Harrison 1 run (Gregoire kick)
- I-FG 26 Nichol I-Long 1 run (Nichol kick) A-66,255

By BOB DYER

Register Staff Writer

IOWA CITY, IA. — The best, and perhaps only, good thing that came out of 17th-ranked Iowa's 10-10 tie here Saturday with Wisconsin is that the Hawkeyes are still alone in first place in the Big Ten Conference.

Iowa is 5-1-1 in the league, one-half game ahead of Ohio State and Purdue, both at 5-2. With games remaining against Michigan State and Minnesota, the Hawkeyes presumably are still in the driver's seat.

Yet they might be without two of their driveshafts in what turned out to be a costly deadlock.

One, tailback Ronnie Harmon, definitely will be missing. Harmon, the team's leading rusher, broke two

Wisconsin's players feel they lost because they didn't knock Iowa out of the Rose Bowl. Maury White's column: Page 13D.

bones in his left leg - the tibia and fibula - in the fourth quarter and is lost for the season.

The play after Harmon was injured, quarterback Chuck Long hurt his left knee while picking up a vital first down. His status has not been determined.

"It's safe to say that Long has a bruised knee, but it may be worse," Iowa Coach Hayden Fry said.

Long actually re-entered the game briefly after the injury, but was quickly pulled in favor of Mark Vlasic.

"Chuck was knocked out and hurt his knee on the same play," Fry said. The blow to the head apparently dulled Long's senses, but the knee gave out soon after he returned to

action. "Nothing's changed," Fry said. "We're in no better or worse position, but I'm having a tough time explaining that to my team. They're so down right now, you'd have thought somebody shot the dog. Ties are bad, but when you're shooting for a championship, they're not that bad. It could be a lot worse.'

For much of Saturday afternoon, the loyalists in the Kinnick Stadium crowd of 66,255 thought it would be a lot worse. Wisconsin, aided by a 20 mph wind,

took a 10-0 first-quarter lead. The Badgers, 13-point underdogs,

put together an impressive opening drive, marching 68 yards before settling for Todd Gregoire's 25-yard field On the ensuing series, intended re-

ceiver Owen Gill tipped a pass from Long that Wisconsin linebacker Craig Raddatz intercepted and returned 2 yards to the Iowa 28. A 15-yard scamper by stumpy

Marck Harrison helped Wisconsin move to a first down at the two-yard line, where two leaping dives by Harrison finally netted the touchdown with 6 minutes 41 seconds still left in the first period.

After that score, however, Iowa's defense began living up to its No. 1 ranking in the conference. The Badgers notched only one first down - that on a holding penalty - from the second quarter until the waning moments of the game.

"We spotted them 10, then settled down and played our type of defense," lowa strong safety Mike Stoops said. "In the beginning, everybody was a little over-excited."

Iowa's offense never did get in gear in the first half. Long, who had a dismal day passing, suffered three of his four interceptions in the opening half. Ranked second nationally in passing efficiency, Long finished 10 of 23 for 111 yards. He was sacked four times.

In Long's defense, one of those interceptions came on a tipped ball and another — a critical one in the fourth period - occurred when a receiver broke a pattern.

"Wisconsin did a great job putting pressure on Long," Fry said. "I would

HAWKEYES

Please turn to Page 3D

Gill's 64-yard day gives him all-time Hawk rushing mark

HAWKEYES

Continued from Page One

like to give them credit for playing an intelligent game. Our second-half comeback, though, was one of the finest I have been associated with."

The Hawkeyes, with the wind at their backs, produced a nice drive on their first possession of the second half. The march ended with Tom Nichol kicking a 26-yard field goal.

An aggressive Wisconsin defense blunted Iowa the rest of the period, despite the Hawkeyes' having excellent field position.

lowa's touchdown drive started late in the third quarter following only a 29-yard Wisconsin punt.

Long completions of 18 yards to tight end Jonathan Hayes and 17 yards to wide receiver J.C. Love Jordan were big plays as Iowa moved to a first down at the Wisconsin 11.

The Hawkeyes, aided by a personal foul penalty, faced a fourth-and-one situation at the 2. A diving Harmon got the first down by half the length of the football and Long sneaked over on the next play with 11:54 left in the game.

Nichol's extra point made it 10-10. On the first play following Nichol's squib kickoff that the Badgers could advance to only their 7, Iowa narrowly missed an excellent scoring opportu-

Wisconsin quarterback Mike Howard threw a pass to the right sideline that Stoops let slip through his hands at the Badgers' 15.

"I was looking into the glare of the sun and was worried about going out of bounds," Stoops said. "I just didn't concentrate enough on the ball." Cornerback Keith Hunter did inter-

cept Howard's next effort, but it was at the Wisconsin 49. Three plays later, however, safety

Averick Walker picked off Long at the 25 when an Iowa receiver broke his pattern. Walker returned the theft 10 yards. Iowa forced Wisconsin to punt, then

the Hawkeyes averted disaster when . Robert Smith fumbled the return at the 18. After a wild scramble, teammate Ken Sims recovered at the Iowa "All our players told me that we re-

covered the ball," Wisconsin Coach Dave McClain said. "I think we have a real problem with the officiating in this league."

On third and 3, Long picked up a critical first down with a 9-yard run, the play in which he was injured.

An illegal procedure penalty on the next down moved Iowa back to the 9, but this time Gill bailed out the Hawkeyes with a 21-yard burst.

A roughing the punter penalty later kept the drive alive, but Iowa could move no closer than the Wisconsin 37. With a stiff wind against them, the Hawkeyes' Gary Kostrubala punted to the Wisconsin 7.

"Wisconsin traditionally has messed up against us," Fry said. "We were hoping for a turnover."

The Badgers did eke out three first downs, but time ran out on them at midfield.

Lowa is 6-2-1 overall, while



	Big	T	en							
	The state of	Conf.					Overall			
		W.	L	T.		W.	L	T.		
lowa		5	1	1		6	2	1		
Ohio State		5	2	0		7	2	0		
Purdue		5	2	0		6	3	0		
Illinois		5	3	0	3	6	4	0		
Michigan		4	3	0		5	4	0		
Michigan Sta			3	0		5	4	0		
Wisconsin	The second secon	3	3	1		5	3	1		
Minnesota		2	5	0		3	6	0		
Northwester		2	6	0		2	8	0		
Indiana		0	7	0		0	9	0		
	SATURDA	Y	G	MA	ES			13		
Wisconsid	10. lowa 1		e)		1 10					

Michigan State 27, Northwestern 10 Ohio State 50, Indiana 7 Purdue 31, Michigan 29 SATURDAY, NOV. 10 Michigan State at Iowa Illinois at Indiana

Minnesota at Michigan

Purdue at Wisconsin

Onio State at Northwestern

Wisconsin, coming off an upset of Ohio State, is 5-3-1 and 3-3-1 in the league.

Wisconsin played conservatively after the opening quarter and Howard, the Badgers' quarterback, was critical of that decision.

"I thought we needed to take more risks," he said. "We have quality receivers and I can get the ball to them. We shouldn't have been so conservative."

Iowa linebacker Larry Station, who made 11 tackles, agreed with Howard's observations.

"They might have thought they could just sit on the lead, although I'm not in position to judge their strategy,"

Gill entered the game needing only 27 yards to break Eddie Phillips' career school rushing mark of 2,177. He gained 64 yards in 17 carries.

When Harmon was injured, Gill moved from fullback to tailback, a position he will play for the remainder of the season.

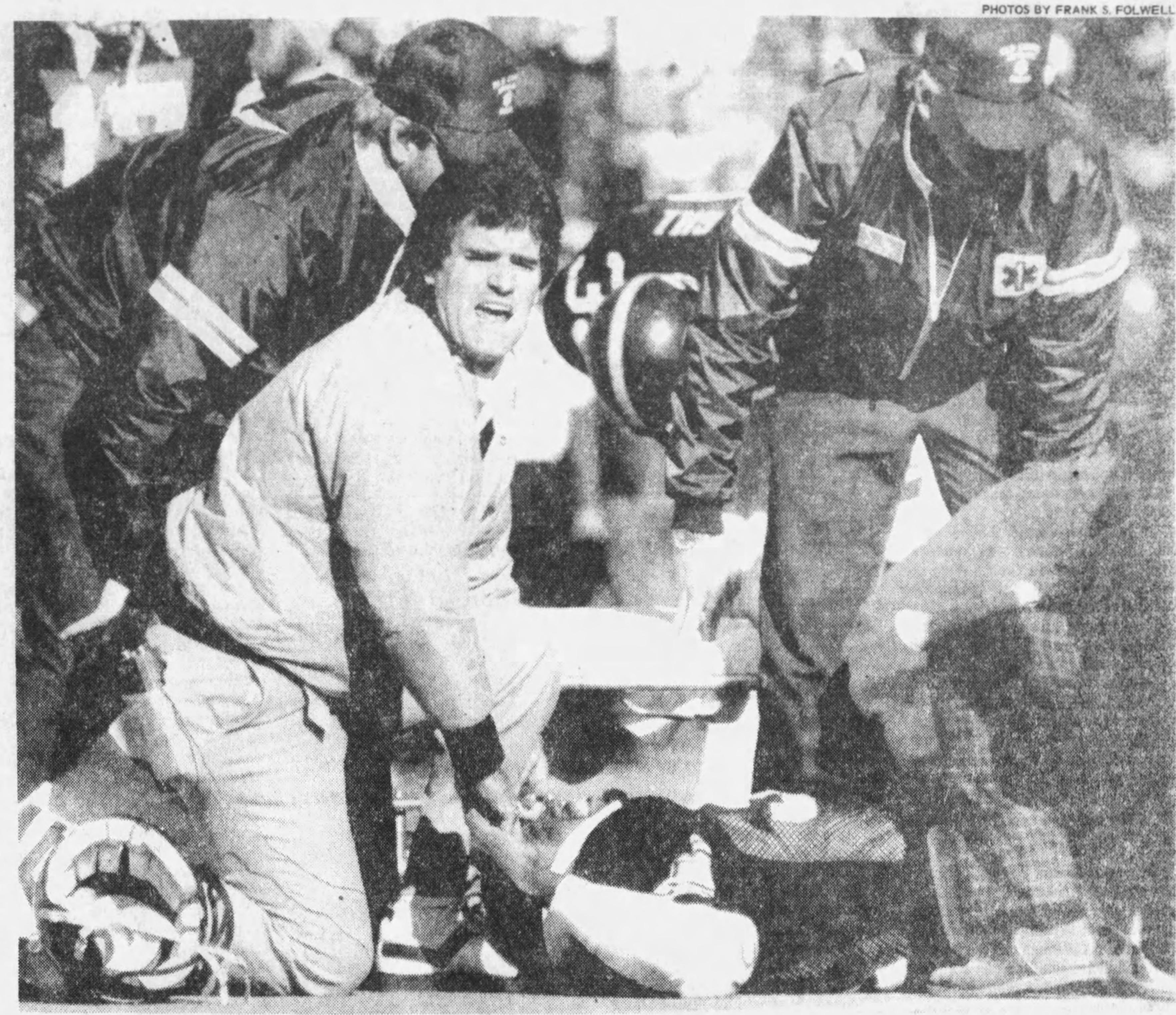
"We'll use either Tim Sennott or Fred Bush, if he's healthy, at fullback," Fry said.

Hayes, who led Iowa's receivers

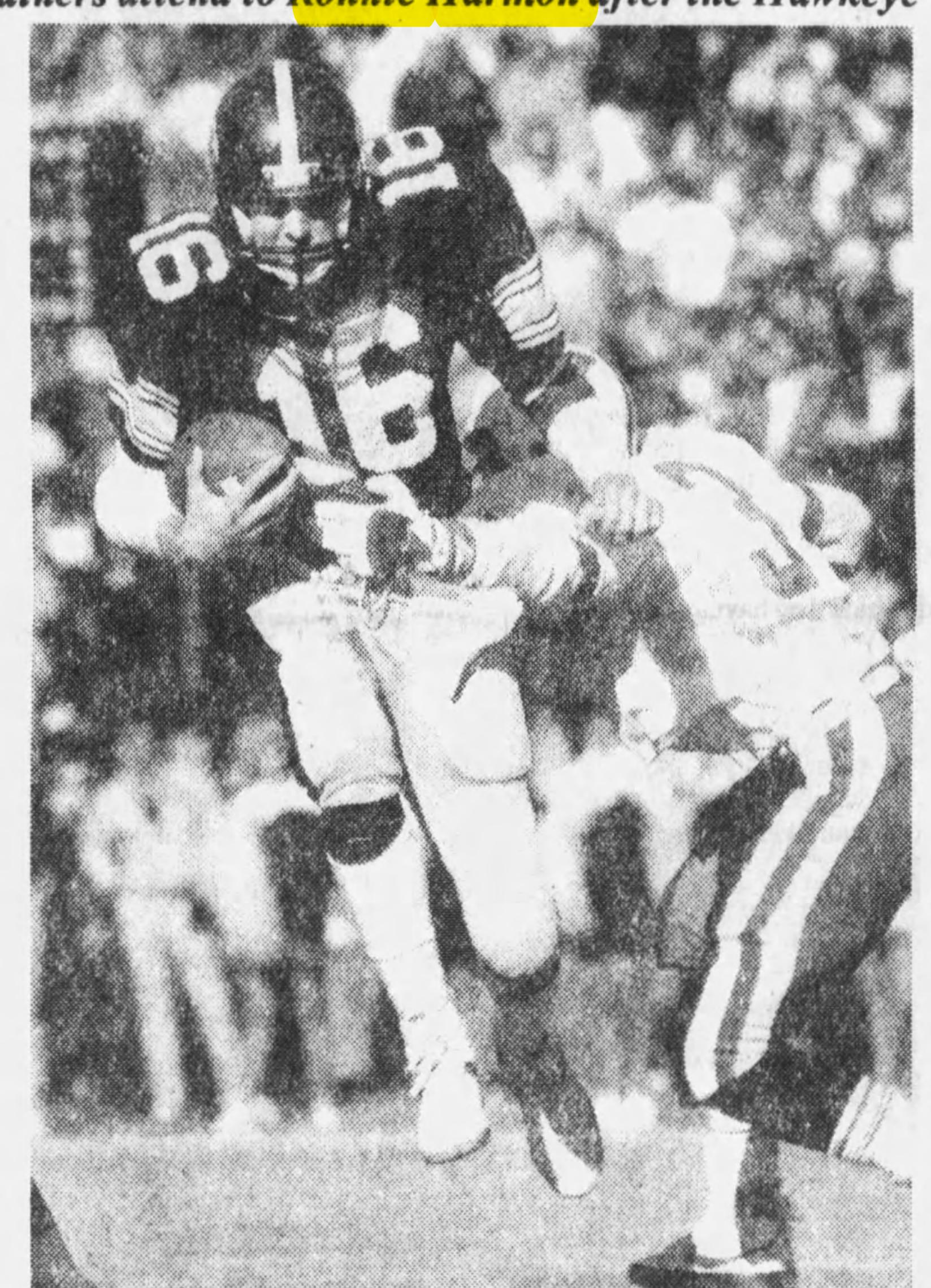
with four catches for 54 yards, was near Harmon when he was injured. "I heard Ronnie yell out and I went over to calm him down," Hayes said. "It's a shame when anyone gets hurt. We'll just have to pull a lot closer to-

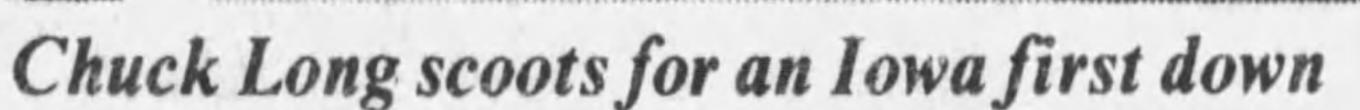
The players who did show up for postgame interviews said Iowa's

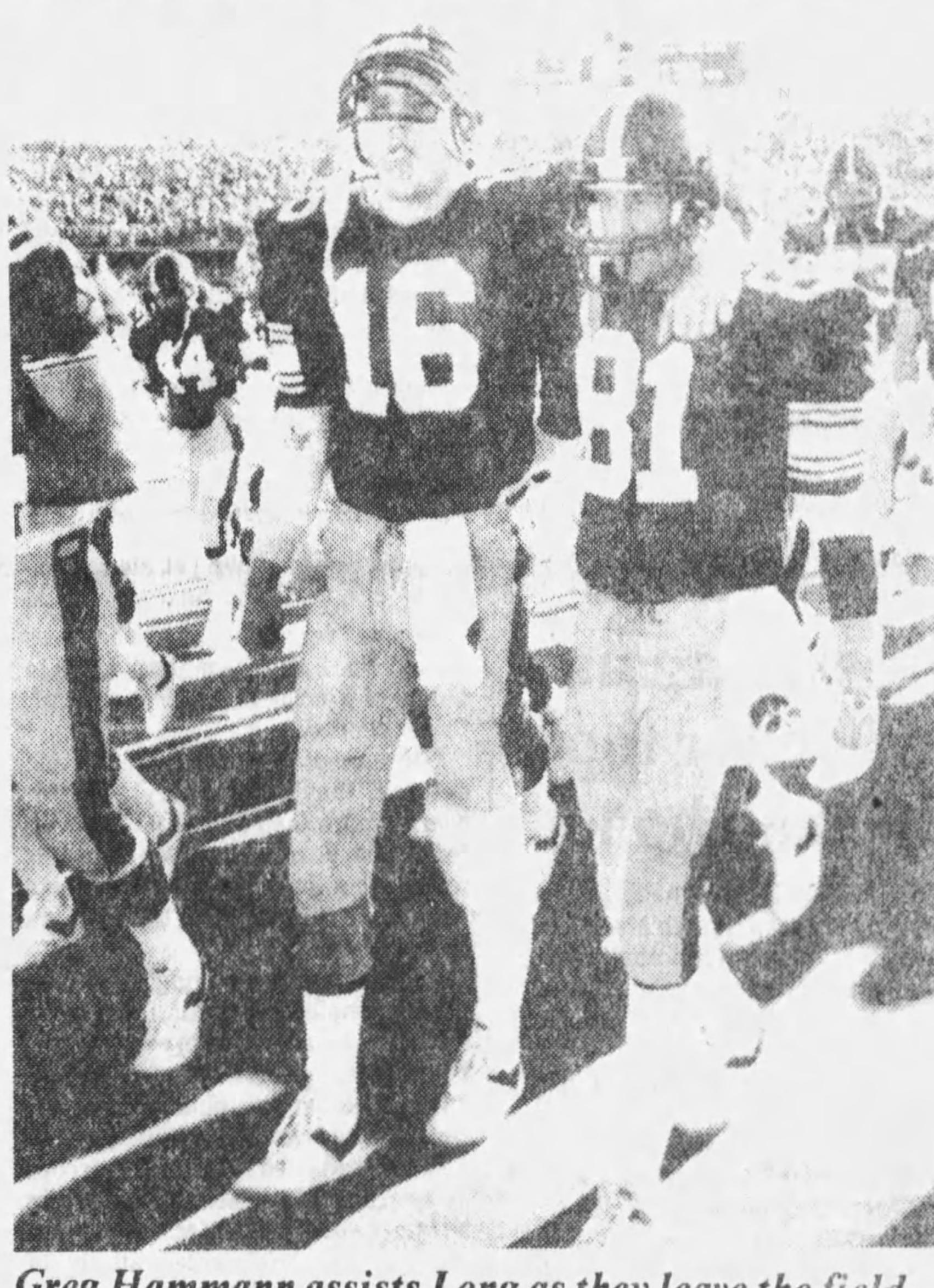
dressing room was somber. "You think about injuries more right after they happen," Hunter said. "Hopefully, someone will step in for Ronnie. When we start practice this week, we're going to have to forget about it."



Trainers attend to Ronnie Harmon after the Hawkeye tailback suffered a broken leg in the final quarter



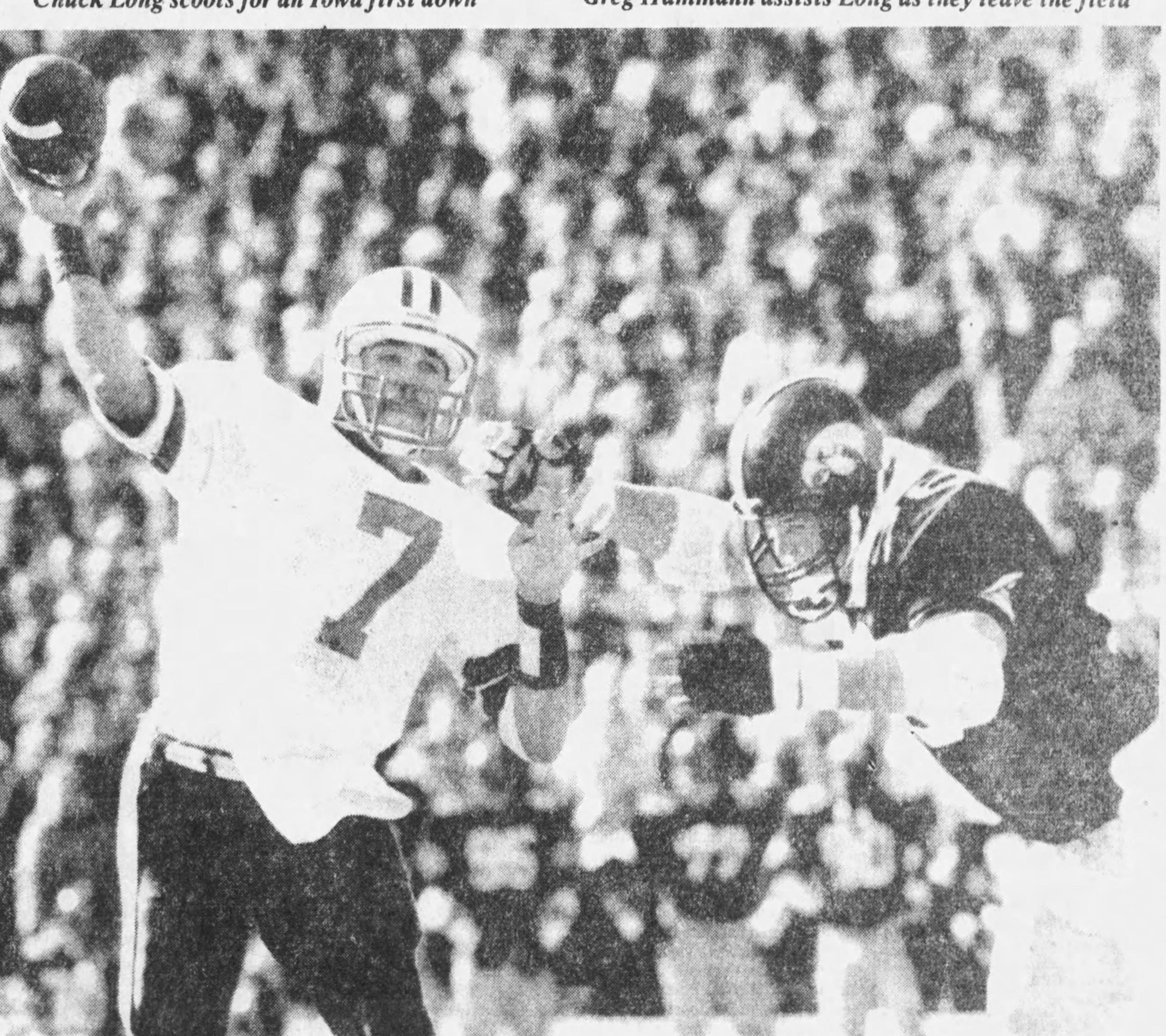




Greg Hammann assists Long as they leave the field



John Strief assists Long to sidelines

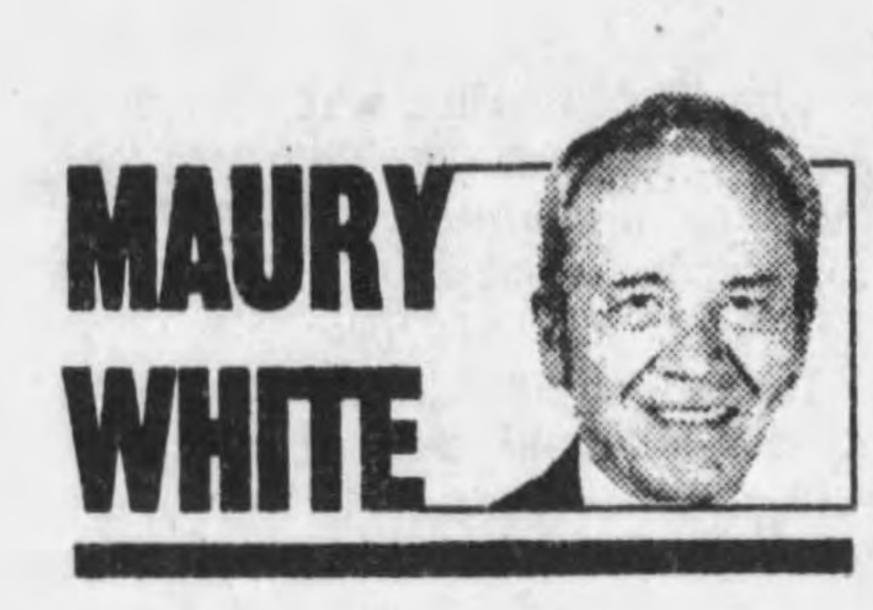


Michael Howard lets a pass fly as defensive tackle Jeff Drost prepares to dump the Badger quarterback

Tie became a loss as Badgers sought something more

IOWA CITY, IA. - You are thinking, perhaps, since Wisconsin came here to do Big Ten football battle as a 13-point underdog to league-leading Iowa and left Saturday with a 10-10 tie, that joy and laughter abounded in the Badger dressing room. Think again. Brooding and regret were the most popular emotions.

"It's a loss for me. It can't be any other way 'cause we didn't reach our main objective - to knock Iowa out of the Rose Bowl," said Marck Harrison, the stubby 5-foot 8-inch tailback who netted 76 yards on 23 carries, the most important of those yards being a 1-yard dive for his team's only touchdown.



Senior center Dan Turk, a large lad from Milwaukee who played first college ball for Drake and then transferred when he grew big enough to think he might be able to play in the Big Ten, said almost the same.

"Our goal was to knock Iowa out of the Rose Bowl, just like we did Ohio State last week. We're really disappointed that we didn't do that, so a tie is just like a loss to us," he said. "Early this season, we didn't play like we should have and felt we had to redeem ourselves."

Small wonder that the Badgers felt that way, for they had been widely selected as the "dark horse" entry in this year's league race, the team with the most returning starters back on both sides of the ball, but they often didn't play with the poise of veterans in the early milling.

In two cases, Wisconsin virtually committed suicide. A 20-14 loss to Michigan in the league opener saw Dave McClain's team fumble five times, once a mere 36 inches away from a touchdown, and lose all five. Then, on Oct. 13, Minnesota went to Madison and left with a 17-14 victory, with a fumble leading to the game-winning field

When the Badgers barely squeaked past winless Indiana the following week, members of the team took it upon selves to hold a meeting and decide to start a "new season," according to Turk.

"Our goal was to upset Ohio State and Iowa," says the big center, and the players did one interesting thing to prove to one and all that strength came with unity. During offensive huddles Saturday, Harrison held one of the very large hands belonging to 285-pound tackle Jeff Dellenbach and most other Badgers were also holding the nearest hands.

"We started doing that a while back and did it all week in practice," said Harrison. "It's a sign of cohesiveness. I can't say we're the best team in the league right now, but we're one of the best."

No one hereabouts disputes that claim.

THERE IS AN ANCIENT saying in football, possibly first uttered by some Yalie in 1869, that a tie is as exciting as kissing your sister. A fellow thought to ask McClain if this was so.

"I don't have a sister," retorted the Wisconsin coach. "But it's not like kissing my wife, I know that."

That's the kind of an answer you have to accept on faith, or risk getting into a mess of trouble. You may believe that the Hawks were no more excited about the tie, and possibly suffering a bit more from remorse.

What the game did accomplish was to point out that another ancient saying is getting back to 100 percent credence in these days of scholarship limitations, where the traditional powers can't stockpile talent merely to keep from having to play against it.

I refer, of course, to the hoary "On any given day. . . . That's the way it is now, sports fans, and I, for one, find it a delightful trend. There are few things duller than having a bunch of dynasties where a few teams knock over all the rest with robotic precision — and not many more exciting than sitting in on games during seasons when form does not always prevail. Like this one.

Yes, yes, I realize that the tie was a costly one for Iowa's eventual Big Ten title hopes, high national ranking, the Rose Bowl, and imminent sainthood for Hayden Fry (who, to the best of knowledge, has never requested same), but the plain old fact is that teams shouldn't be awarded greatness until they have qualified for same and this Iowa team is not yet there. And with Saturday's loss of Ronnie Harmon, it may not make it at all.

WHAT THE TIE PROVED as much as anything is that Wisconsin's offense is good enough to play against a Hawkeye defense that tries to exist on brawn and muscle alone, but it doesn't have a chance when Kevin Spitzig and Friends toss in a bit of blitzing and stunting.

"They came out in a 5-3 stack in the second half and I don't think they'd showed that before," said McClain. "I have no qualms about the way we tried to move the ball, but they're just a good defensive team. That [George] Little is a good defensive tackle."

Spitzig, a senior linebacker from Ankeny, led Iowa with nine unassisted tackles and climbed aboard for four others. He mentioned that one of the early problems was that Harrison is such a little feller he was hard to find.

"He's kind of a darter, a slasher, and hard to get a good hit on," said Spitzig. "He found a few seams in the first half and used them to good advantage, but we got 'em closed in the second half. I think we were trying too hard at first. When we relaxed, we played better."

Football players, being competitive fellows, are not necessarily great medical authorities, but quarterback Chuck Long stopped for a minute on the way out of the dressing room, leaned on his crutches and gave an optimistic report on his problem.

"Just a bruise on my left knee. A minor injury. I may be out for a few days but I think I'll be back by midweek," he said. "They played good defense. Good against the run and they had tall defenders who were hard to see over."

"The first half, we simply were not executing well. At halftime, we found some things we could do and and we did them later. But, basically, we decided to play more like the Iowa football team should play football."

The Badgers, by the way, went from late in the first quarter until into the fourth without an earned first down (there was one by penalty). That may have been one of their two worst moments in our state.

Friday, en route to the game, the three buses carrying Wisconsin players were ticketed in eastern Iowa for speeding.

The first hunt is the best hunt

By LARRY STONE

Register Outdoor Writer For Iowa pheasant hunting, the early 1960s were the best of times.

The "soil bank" program had turned half a million acres of Iowa into undisturbed hay field nesting havens for pheasants. And the ravages of intensive farming hadn't yet grubbed out the abandoned farmsteads and plum thickets that sheltered the birds in the winter.

As an eager, southern Iowa farm kid, I grew up in that era, dreaming of hunting in the fabled pheasant Mecca of the wilds "up north." My first hunting trip to "pheasant country" is etched in my mind more vividly than any of last year's remembrances.

I'd gotten my first gun — a little Ithaca 20-gauge pump that I still cherish - but had shot only a few cottontails. The only live pheasant I recall seeing was a stray hen my grandpa kicked up while we were rabbit hunting.

My big break came when a neighbor and fishing buddy, John, conned his dad and uncle into taking us two novices on an opening day pheasant hunt all the way up to Wright County. The BIG TIME!

I reread advice in old Outdoor Life magazines, trying to decide whether sixes or fives or fours were the best loads for pheasants. Indecisive, I settled on a combination, tucking in a few magnum fours for long shots.

How many sweatshirts should I wear under my new hunting coat - the one from last Christmas? Would my manure-stained work shoes serve as hunting boots? Should I clean my gun . . . again?

Dad counseled me to be careful, recalling with trepidation a party hunt he'd been on when an army of hunters, tempted with swarms of flying pheasants, shot dangerously close to their companions.

Mom baked a batch of her world-famous cinnamon rolls for the occasion, knowing that John and I could devour the sticky treats by the dozen.

Naturally, John's mom came through with a pan of her widely acclaimed brownies. And we packed enough sandwiches (roast beef and ketchup, probably) to feed an infantry on maneuvers.

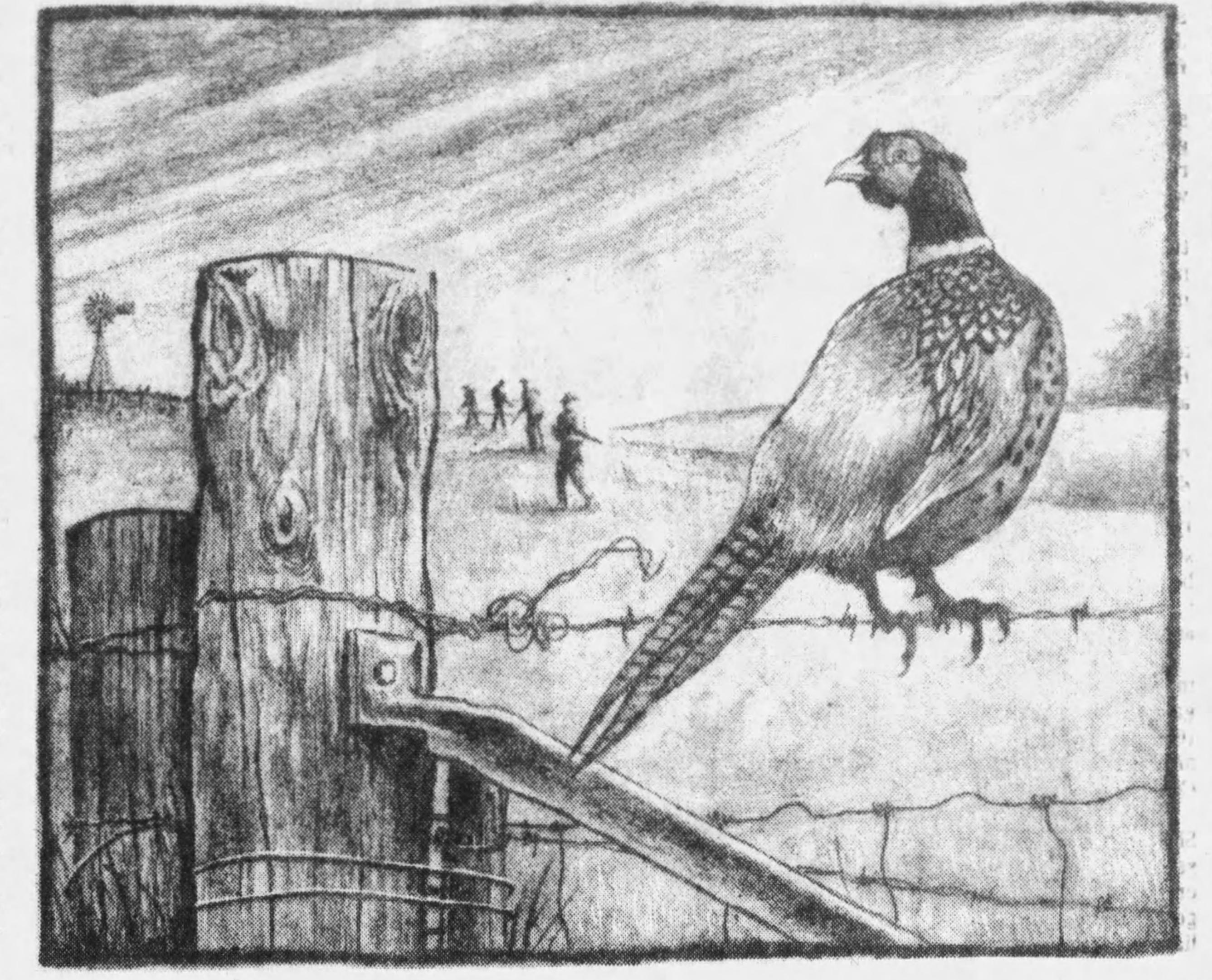
I must have slept some on opening day eve — although I can't imagine how. Excited? Who, me?

Before dawn, we were headed north in Uncle George's big Oldsmobile. Up front, George and John's dad, Pete, tried to outdo each other with tales of pheasant hordes in the good old days. In the back seat, John and I sat staring out the window, expecting to see ring-necks dancing in. the headlights.

When dawn broke and we complained that we still hadn't see a pheasant, Pete and George solemnly reminded us that it was bad luck to see a rooster before shooting time.

Our hopes sank for an instant when George gleefully heralded "birds" as we neared our destination. But George guffawed as we sprained our necks turning to see a pen of domestic turkeys.

Trip over, we greeted the farmer, invited him along and checked the time. At 9 a.m. (the starting hour in those days), we marched down a railroad right-of-way



bordering an immense picked corn field. Almost immediately, hens began flushing near us. In the distance, other hunters' guns boomed steadily.

In the November sunlight, a gaudy rooster burst from the grass under Pete's feet. Cackling vociferously, the giant bird zoomed towards the cornfield. I froze, too awed to do anything but gawk. Boom! Pete folded the noisy cock with one shot.

"I like it when they cuss at me," Pete grinned, retrieving the bird.

That was the first of many birds we shot — and even more that we missed — as we tromped fencerows, draws and those long, long corn rows.

Several other roosters stick out in my mind — like the one that sailed in front of our line of five hunters, escaping the hail of pellets until Pete, on the end, rolled the cock with his old 12-gauge pump gun.

"I had a long time to aim," Pete laughed, when teased about the feat.

Another special bird was the one John shot and galloped to retrieve as he, George and I made a final pass along the railroad tracks to end the day.

But the most vivid memory is of a rooster that flushed

at the end of that mile-long corn field. As before, I automatically brought my gun up and shot, expecting to see the cock fly away or fall near someone else. But the pheasant crumpled, and my heart lept as I realized I alone had killed it. My first pheasant!

The trip home was satisfying, as we rehashed game in the bag and fun in the field. We laughed at our misses, ribbed Pete about his deadly aim and moaned at the length of those corn rows.

And George entertained us with a yarn about the pheasants he rescued from an ice storm, only to have the birds flying around his basement after their feathers thawed out. John and I have hunted together most years since then,

but we still share that memorable adventure, and measure all-other pheasant trips against it.

Pete and George recall it fondly, too. "I haven't seen that many birds in a long time,"

George reminisced. "I've been hunting a lot, but I don't think I ever had a better time," Pete added. "Just to see a couple of young guys really enjoy it made it even more fun."

For this "young guy," that day will last a lifetime.

LETTERS

Should Gators forfeit?

You are, no doubt, aware of the recently imposed NCAA sanctions against the University of Florida football program. The investigation resulted in 107 violations, ultimately reduced to 59 violations to which that school's officials admitted.

The violations included organized ticket scalping, spying on opponents' practices, classroom irregularities and paying players. The sanction imposed by the NCAA consisted of three years of probation with one year to be taken off for "corrective action" with no bowl games for two seasons, no live television during probation, and loss of 20 scholarships. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the Southeastern Conference.

I have watched these developments with keen interest. I have no association with the University of Florida, although I am surrounded by Gators here in Tampa. In fact, the only Florida game I have ever seen was the 1983 Gator Bowl. I attended that bowl game because I am an Iowa Hawkeye fan. My brother and I both graduated from Iowa, and he and my parents traveled from Urbandale to attend that game.

As we know, the Hawkeyes were beaten by Florida. I feel compelled to point out that those are the same Florida Gators who are products of the violations for which the NCAA has imposed the above-cited sanctions. Of all the media coverage of these violations, that point has yet to be made. Florida officials, prior to these sanctions being imposed, offered to forfeit a number of last year's victories because of their NCAA violations; however, the Gator Bowl game was not one of them. Certainly that Gator Bowl victory, because of the violations, is tainted

wondered how I would make this point without sounding like a bitter fan. I hope that is not how it sounds. I simply feel that it is a point that needs to be made and I thank you for allowing the forum to make it. - David M. Carr, 600 East Madison St., Tampa, Fla.

Being in the Navy and living in the East for nine years has made me realize how collegiate sports are regional and how tough national recognition is. I still regularly hear "Where?" or "Idaho?" or "Don't you grow pota-

Hayden Fry is doing an outstanding job of keeping Iowa in the nation's eye. Yet, in The Register opinion column. I continue to read fan heartaches about future "soft" opponents or concern over a lopsided score.

Come on, folks. Other parts of the country get their best look at Iowa when they win the Big Ten and beat Ohio State, Michigan and Illinois, followed by the bowl games. Let's do the things we need to accomplish those goals. Beating Penn State or Nebraska early in the season and being too beat up to face the conference games puts the priority in the wrong place. Southern teams play lots of soft opponents and have the weather to have off-weekends for healing.

I look at it this way. The Hawks are solid, the coach is an outstanding individual, and the fans have great respect. Would the Iowa fans rather read my local papers about 107 Florida recruiting violations and have CBS Big Ten games preempted by a local contract to show University of Miami games?

Praise the state, the team, and the coach in public, but keep the nit-picky heartaches to local conversation. -Ken Icenbice, 1753 Patricia Lane, Orange Park, Fla.

'Finer with Criner'

"Finer with Criner" - you bet we are. Hold your heads high, 1984 Cyclones; not all ISU fans are eager to criticize a new coaching staff and its young players - in fact 50,000 were in the middle of the action against the Sooners cheering their loudest. Hope we've started a new

tradition — the singing of the fight song, fans and players, following the home games. It was a real salute to the outstanding effort of these young athletes. - Marla Meyers, 1611 Prairie Ave, Boone.

Says Panthers deserve better

True, the Iowa football team is having a great season and has a chance to go to the Rose Bowl. But what about Northern Iowa? In my opinion the Panthers have received token recognition throughout the season and are having one of their best seasons [and] have an excellent chance to go to the Division 1-AA playoffs. I think the Panthers deserve better coverage. — Mike Green, 205 Angie Dr., Cedar Falls.

Marathon run

To me the most disgusting of our "so called" sports is the marathon run. It proves nothing of a positive nature while people run until they either lose control of their body organs, lose their minds or in the case Sunday, their life. In everyday life what good is being able to run 26 miles? Being able to sprint is much better for you; then you can be first in the line for free cheese. - F.J.Hastings, Milford.

The New York City Marathon was terrific and so was the one and only, Grete Waitz, women's division winner. This race is so very special, I think, because it is run in the world's most exciting city! Grete's motto seems to be, "I'll take Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island too"! - L.E. Marshall, Estherville. The ratings

The more I see of the football polls, the more I agree with Hayden Fry that "they are the guessing game" as he calls them. I have thought for years that it's not necessarily who you play or your record, but what's in a name.

Let's take No. 1 Washington's record compared to . Iowa's. Washington is 8-0, but its opponents have a 26-35 record. Three opponents have winning records; five have losing records.

Iowa is 6-2. Its opponents are 30-34. Five opponents have winning records; three havelosing records. Washington and Iowa have played two common foes: Northwestern and Michigan, which Washington defeated 26-0 and 20-11 and Iowa defeated 31-3 and 26-0.

Also, I might add that according to the replays of two of the Texas games, Texas should be 5-2 and not 5-0-1. — John J. Barker, Holstein.

Concerning the article on the two incorrect calls between Texas and Oklahoma. I am a Texas fan in spite of living in Iowa. I watched the game, and in that intercepted pass in the end zone in the fourth quarter, if you watch the replay, it was also pass interference. Also I might add, Oklahoma's punter had to catch a low snap, causing his right knee to touch the ground. This would have been Texas' ball in good field postion.

So from now on, I hope you look at the replays, instead of listening to the announcers. - Steve Ziller, RR 1, Bel-

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What happened to the "machine-gun camera" that the Des Moines Register Peach first attained acclaim with a quarter century ago?

Lord, could we use it now! Can you imagine how a Ron-Harmon would look? - J. Stevens, 810 29th St., Sioux

We invite reader opinion. Brief letters stand the best chance of publication. All letters must contain the author's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to shorten letters. Please, no poetry. The address: Sports Opinion Page, Des Moines Sunday Register, P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, Ia. 50304.

quotes from

CLOSET COACH

Dear Clozaroo: It's the campaign season, so I'm accustomed to finding a lot of things in the paper that are unbelievable. But they usually show up in the news pages. Now the Peach tells me (Inside Report, Oct. 30) that Nebraska "played 98 of the 111 players dressed for the game" with Kansas State.

This presents quite a problem, Coach, since it would appear to be impossible to have two players on the field with the same number. Is there such a thing as a three-digit football jersey? Nebraska might slap fractions on some of their players, but I doubt it; anyone good enough to play for Tom Osborne would have to be worth more than a 1. (I guess they could use 3/2 or 5/4.) It's a brain-teaser, C.C. — but I hope you can han-

dle it, anyhow. - R.S., Surf City. The Coach replies:

Groovy. A letter from one of the Beach Boys. Or are you Jan or Dean?

It isn't impossible for two players from the same team with the same numbers to be on the field at the same time, but it is illegal. Section 4, Article 2, Line C of the 1984 NCAA Football Rules and Interpretation Manual says "No two players from the same team shall participate in the same down wearing identical numbers." Because the Cornhuskers have retired six numbers

throughout the years, they only have 93 numbers with which to work (the price one pays for a history of success). They suited up 22 players who shared 11 numbers against Kansas State. Half of those guys were on defense, the other half on offense.

Dear Coach:

Was it my imagination? Were the World Series umpires better than their substitutes in the American and National League championships? I don't understand, Coach. A strike is a strike, isn't it? If a man is out, he's out, isn't he? Do players in Des Moines or Omaha deserve less than those in San Diego or Detroit? - SCH, Moorpark, Calif.

The Coach replies:

Moorpark, Calif.? What, did you get run out of Dallas? No, it wasn't your imagination. The World Series umpires were better than their amateur subs in the playoffs. Although the subs did a credible job, the teams were lucky nothing too controversial ever occurred, because the losing team's fans would forever say they were cheated.

Basically a strike is a strike, SCH. And the strike zone is the space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of his knees when he assumes his natural stance. But it's up to the umpire to determine the strike zone according to the batter's stance. That's according to the official baseball rules.

That's all well and good, you say, so what? That means it's a judgment call each time the ball is thrown, much like a basketball referee calling either charging or a blocking foul on a lay-up. The major league umpires all see the strike zone their own ways and the pitchers in the majors know this, and throw accordingly. If the umpires are consistent, the pitchers work within the umpires' strike zones. Thus, when new umpires showed up, the pitchers didn't know the exact strike zones and had to get

used to them. Yes, when a player is out, he's out. But it's one thing to have a few frantic fathers breathing down your neck when you make a call than it is to have 50,000 Tiger fans. Pressure, SCH, pressure. Making a close call correctly under pressure requires experience and professionalism. That's what the major league umpires have over CYO umpires.