

OKLAHOMA AND IOWA TRIUMPH OF R CONFERENCE TITLES

OKLAHOMA AND IOWA TRIUMPH OF R CONFERENCE TITLES; HAWKEYES IN ROSE BOWL

Share full article

By Malcolm Moran, Special To the New York Times
Nov. 24, 1985



The New York Times Archives

See the article in its original context from
November 24, 1985, Section 5, Page 1 | Buy Reprints

VIEW ON TIMSMACHINE

TimesMachine is an exclusive benefit for home delivery and digital subscribers.

About the Archive

This is a digitized version of an article from The Times's print archive, before the start of online publication in 1996. To preserve these articles as they originally appeared, The Times does not alter, edit or update them.

Occasionally the digitization process introduces transcription errors or other problems; we are continuing to work to improve these archived versions.

New Year's Eve began at Kinnick Stadium when the clock ticked under one minute. When the clock reached zero, and the Hawkeyes were alone atop the Big Ten for the first time in 27 years, the band played - what else? - "California, Here We Come." The plans for the Harmon family reunion, however, had already been made.

The Hawkeyes defeated Minnesota, 31-9, for Iowa's fourth trip to the Rose Bowl and its first outright conference championship since 1958. The Gophers (6-5) will play in the Independence Bowl against Clemson. For the Hawkeyes, ranked as high as third in the latest polls, the victory was the 10th in 11 games, the first 10-victory season in Iowa history.

Jesse and Jacqueline Harmon of Laurelton, Queens, are scheduled to meet their sons Ronnie and Kevin on New Year's Day after driving south from San Francisco with their son Derrick, the running back for the 49ers. "He can get a chance to see me play once live," Ronnie said, "instead of on television."

When they were the Harmons of Palo Alto, Calif., for the Super Bowl last January, Ronnie's left leg was in a cast and Kevin had just begun to learn to play running back after moving from quarterback. And Chuck Long, the starting quarterback who was eligible for the National Football League draft, was considering leaving Iowa.

Long completed 21 of 31 passes for 268 yards and a touchdown today, and surpassed Mark Herrmann of Purdue to become the leading passer in conference history with a career total of 10,142 yards. "This is one of the reasons I came back," Long said of the trip to Pasadena, a rose decal on his forehead and a dozen real ones in his hands.

Ronnie Harmon gained 75 yards on 13 carries and scored a 5-yard touchdown before leaving the game with a bruised shoulder. He caught a pair of passes for 62 yards - one of them for 50 - for a school-record career total of 1,943 yards. He also became the second leading career rusher at Iowa with a total of 2,216 yards. He said he could have returned to the game, but that was unnecessary. "They just said, 'You really don't need to go in, Ronnie,'" he remembered. "I said, 'If you insist.' "

Took Over for His Brother

He became unnecessary because his younger brother stepped into the tailback spot to gain 73 yards in 13 carries and score an 11-yard touchdown. "I had to just take over where my brother left off," Kevin said. "That's my job. Second string is supposed to be as good as first string if you get the chance. I got the chance." He also discovered that his older brother still occasionally gives him a hard time.

When Ronnie Harmon was a senior running back at Bayside High School in Queens and Kevin was a junior quarterback, the youngest Harmon rarely heard sympathetic encouragement in the huddle. More than once, Kevin would hear the unsolicited opinion that he was scared and threats of what would happen when they got home.

Today, on the first Iowa possession of the third quarter, after the Hawkeyes had taken a 17-3 lead, Ronnie Harmon was suddenly on his back in pain. His brother left the sideline and was soon leaning over him.

"He didn't look like he was in pain," Kevin said, "but he was. He got up, and took a deep breath, and he said, 'You better do your job now.' "

Still Gets on His Nerves

Other than the crowd of 66,000-plus, and a national cable telecast, very little had changed since the days at 32d Avenue and the Clearview Expressway. "Any brothers who have played a long time can't change that much," Ronnie said. "I still try to get on his nerves."

In the year that Kevin Harmon has learned the running back business, he has studied his brother while developing a style with more emphasis on power than Ronnie's evasiveness. Ronnie's touchdown came after a cutback to the right, while Kevin's required more strength. "He's more of a north-south runner than I am," Ronnie said. "I'm more of a north-south-east-west runner!"

At the end of the afternoon, there were roses in both their lockers.

In fact, there were roses everywhere. Local florists had prepared with the energy normally reserved for Valentine's Day. Dozens and dozens were sold at souvenir stands for \$2.50 each. Short-stemmed roses were pushed through holes in lapels or stuffed in the chest pockets of ski jackets. Long-stemmed roses were held tightly in mittens or bunched in vases and placed on top of tablecloths for very chilly tailgate parties.

For the practical, tiny roses were attached to the outsides of ear muffs. For the fashion-conscious, rose decals were stuck to already red cheeks.

Kevin **Harmon** had two red roses in his locker. His older brother had three.

"I gave it to him," Kevin said. "I learned from him."

A version of this article appears in print on Nov. 24, 1985, Section 3, Page 1 of the National edition with the headline: OKLAHOMA AND IOWA TRIUMPH OF R CONFERENCE TITLES; HAWKEYES IN ROSE BOWL. Order Reprints | Today's Paper | [Subscribe](#)

