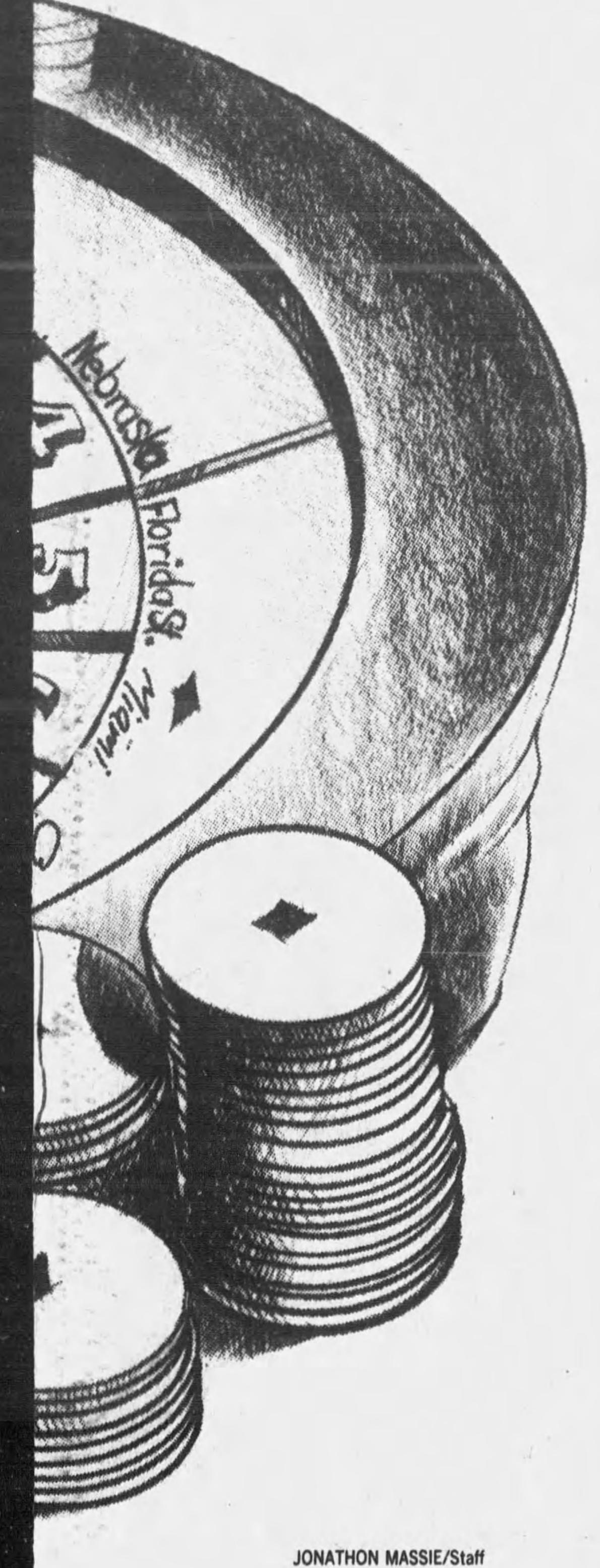
Journal-Constitution

☐ Compiled by Ed Hinton



Arizona St./Keeping their cool



What you've got to love about this team is the coach, John Cooper, who is a magnificent mixture of the laid-back and the enthusiastic. This guy is simply too cool to finish worse than second in the Pac-10 this year, even if he has lost his biggest gun, quarterback Jeff

At the Rose Bowl, Cooper let his players enjoy the school's first trip to Pasadena on New Year's Day and party on New Year's Eve. Then he took them out and watched them whip Michigan. Two of the big stars from that game, running back Darryl Harris and receiver Aaron Cox, are back this year. Juniors Dan Ford and John Walker, neither of whom has a lot of experience, will vie to replace Van Raaphorst. Three more starters are gone from the offensive line but there is an outstanding starting point from which to rebuild, all-America guard Randall

On defense, there's some plugging must be done, but again there are solid returning anchors senior tackle Shawn Patterson and linebackers Greg

Clark and Stacy Harvey. The Sun Devils need a quick upset of Nebraska to get a foothold in the rankings. The Cornhuskers would look overwhelming, except that they must visit Tempe on Sept. 26. At that time of the year, the elements work for the Sun Devils. Temperatures routinely are in the 100s. From there, only Washington, UCLA and perhaps Arizona - which spoiled an unbeaten season for the Devils in last year's last game of the regular season - are serious worries while Ar-Izona State tries for another Rose Bowl berth.

Arkansas/For openers, a bloodbath



The Razorbacks have Miami and a full Southwest Conference slate, but as with so many other teams this year, a non-conference opener could make or break them. The unlikely - in most years toughle on Sept. 12 is improving Ole Miss, where there are rumblings that the Rebels in-

tend to make a bloodbath out of the game in Jackson. Ole Miss is on probation this year and is casting suspicious eyes across the Mississippi River concerning the reason why.

Razorback coach Ken Hatfield, who enters his second year in Fayetteville, may be too squeakyclean to suit the bourbon-sippers on the other bank, but he has seasoned personnel for the fight - nine starters return on offense. Quarterback Greg Thomas will be back to start for his third straight season. Guard Freddie Childress, a 320-pounder, leads the right side of the offensive line, but the left side must be patched.

The Hogs get one breather, Tulsa, between Ole Miss and Miami. At least they get the Hurricanes in Little Rock. If they come out of Jackson healthy and with a win, the Razorbacks could make it tight with Miami. If they come out limping and with a loss, however, they could be taken out of the Top 10 picture for the rest of the season by the Hurricanes.

As for their Southwest Conference hopes, though, the Razorbacks don't have any real serious worries until they face Texas (weak this year, but just the same a serious rival) on Oct. 17 and then Texas A&M, probably for the Cotton Bowl berth, on Nov. 14.

Georgia/Dawg-gone! A spoiler



Imagine the heat on Clemson coach Danny Ford, LSU rookie Mike Archer and Auburn's Pat Dye as they bring favored teams against the Bulldogs, yet look across to Vince Dooley on the opposite sideline and get this distinct feeling about themselves: Just one mistake, pal, just one, and

you're going out of here with a loss you weren't supposed to have.

Few are even picking the Dogs in the Top 20, but that judgment should be reserved until after the Clemson game Sept. 19, when Georgia gets what amounts to a 50-50 chance of knocking the Tigers out of the national championship. The history of the series alone (Georgia hasn't lost at Clemson since 1981) is enough to keep Georgia from being an underdog, even in Death Valley.

From there, Georgia has enough spoiler-role opportunities that with a little old-fashioned Bulldog making and taking of breaks, and a little Bulldog luck, a few upsets could be parlayed into a respectable ranking at season's end. LSU and Auburn, both of whom must visit Athens this year, are other highly-touted teams the Dogs could use as upset stepping stones up the charts.

In fact, just because of these opportunities, don't count the Dogs completely out for the SEC

championship. A lot, of course, rests on keeping tailback Lars Tate healthy, and on Hiawatha Berry's ability to come in at fullback and complement the running of Tate and quarterback James Jackson. Linebacker John Brantley heads another solid defense.

lowa/A potential power hitter

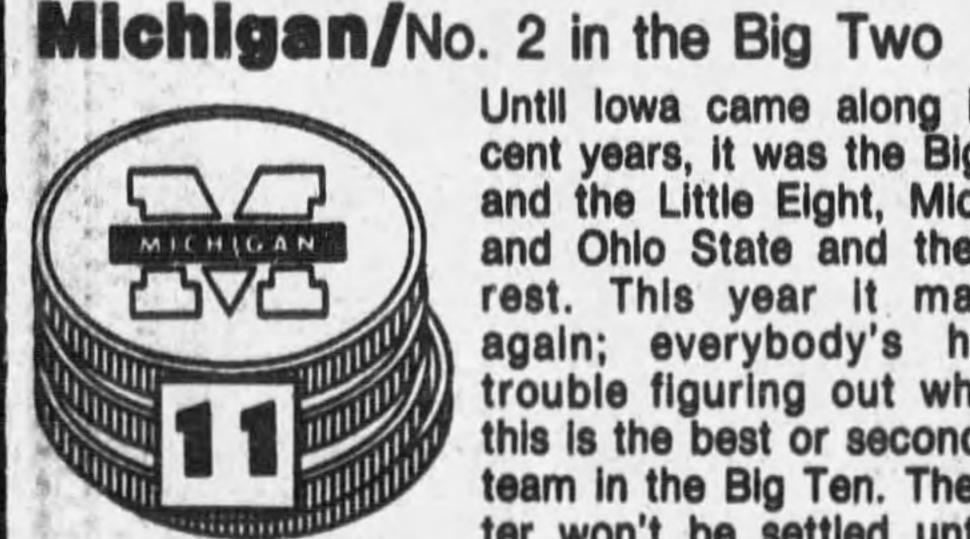


If quarterback Dan McGwire steps into the limelight as happily, calmly and capably as his older brother Mark, the rookle slugger of the baseball Oakland Athletics, and if the Hawkeyes can play defense, lowa stands a chance of blind-siding a league favorite, Michigan or Ohio State or

"Little" McGwire is 6-foot-8, so they don't make linemen tall enough to ruin his view of his receivers, and he has the arm to get the ball anywhere on the field that returning receivers Jim Mauro and Quinn Early can get. There are four experienced running backs - Kevin Harmon, David Hudson, Rick Bayless and Richard Bass - returning, so the Hawks should have plenty of rushing offense to go with the passing.

lowa may need every point that machine can score, with an inexperienced defense. Defense has, however, been a staple of Hayden Fry Hawkeye teams. The trouble is Fry's young defenders won't have opening breathers to learn by. The Hawkeyes open against Tennessee of the SEC, and it's not so much the Vols' strength but the faraway environment of the Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J., that will make the Aug. 30 opener such a pressurized test for the young defenders.

The Hawks then must go to another unfamiliar place, Tuscon, to play Arizona of the Pac 10, on Sept. 12, before settling into their normal season which, of course in the Big Ten, comes down to facing the Wolverines and Buckeyes, with few other serious worries.



Until lowa came along in recent years, it was the Big Two and the Little Eight, Michigan and Ohio State and then the rest. This year it may be again; everybody's having trouble figuring out whether this is the best or second-best team in the Big Ten. The matter won't be settled until the Ohlo State game, on Nov. 21. That is a Michigan

plus; this year's game is in Ann Arbor. What is clear is that Michigan doesn't have a serious test on its schedule before the Buckeyes, unless you count lowa (Oct. 17), the conference's thirdbest team and possible darkhorse. The Wolverines open with Noire Dame, but it's in Ann Arbor, and Lou Holtz doesn't appear to have the Irish dug out

of the Gerry Faust era yet. Quarterback Jim Harbaugh is gone, but he always was more impressive on paper than on the field. More critically, perhaps, tallback Jamie Morris, the brother of the New York Giants' Joe Morris and a legitimate Heisman contender, is back, with two 1,000-yard seasons already under his belt. Also returning is a monster offensive line featuring Outland Trophy hopeful John Elliott.

Tackle Mark Messner leads the entire defensive front back, and Andree McIntyre and John Wil-

lingham return at linebacker.

As for national championship hopes, though, look at it this way: Even if Michigan beats both lowa and Ohio State and gets the invitation to the Rose Bowl, coach Bo Schembechler is likely to lose the big one in Pasadena. His 1-7 record there tells you something.

Texas A&M/Joke's on the Aggies

Washington/James' one-man gang



This very well could be the Pac-10's darkhorse team, and a hard-earned Rose Bowl berth and victory could put the Huskies in the Top 10 at the end. What gives them a chance at slipping past conference powers such as UCLA and Arizona State is that the Huskies have a setttled quar-

terback, Chris Chandler, and the Bruins and Sun Devils don't.

The trouble for Washington is that so much rides on one man. How nearly Chandler (20 touchdown passes last year) fulfills his promise and takes a shot at winning the Heisman Trophy likely will determine how close the Huskies come to winning the Pac-10 title. He starts out shorthanded — Chandler will be without his top two receivers of last year, but has one experienced target coming back, split end Darryl Franklin.

Chandler's protection could be better than last year, when the offensive line was patched and repatched due to injuries. Junior guard Mike Zandofsky, a 300-pounder, leads a solid - If healthy -

Though coach Don James has 14 starters returning, he is missing his best player from a year ago all-America defensive end Reggie Rogers has gone on to the pros. But the team's leading rusher, tailback Vince Weathersby (880 yards with a 5.5 yards per carry average), is back.

Mid-October will be the crucial stretch for the Huskles, when they meet Arizona State and Southern Cal back-to-back. The good news is, both games are in Seattle.

Pittsburgh/One of two isn't bad



Yes, the loss of tailback Charles Gladman (declared ineligible by coach Mike Gottfried for signing early with New York-based you-knowwho in that well-chronicled scandal) will hurt. But no, the other loss, that of defensive back Teryl Austin (lost in the same scandal, though the school has petitioned for his reinstatement) won't be

devastating. The star of the secondary, Billy Owens, will be there. Not only does Gottfried have the Panthers back In gear just one year after taking over from Foge Fazio, but he has a schedule that's full of names but easier than it looks. Notre Dame is still down, and the occasional toughies of the East — Boston College, Syracuse, West Virginia - shouldn't be a

problem for Pitt this year. The Panthers and arch-ri-

val Penn State have a single, common tough Satur-

day afternoon coming - with each other, on Nov. 14. That game should be for the Lambert Trophy, symbolic of the best in the East, and a plum bowl assignment. Gottfried has to ponder Doug Hetzler and Nate Hayward as replacements for Gladman at tailback, but 260-pound Craig Heyward returns at fullback. Even without Gladman and Austin, Pitt has 14 starters back. There's no Dan Marino at quarterback, but with a signal-caller named Sal Genilla Pitt's got to

have hope. Junior end Burt Grossman is back in otherwise inexperienced defensive front, but the linebacking should be solid with Jerry Olsavsky and Darrell Woods back.



Talk about Aggie jokes. Just as Jackie Sherrill establishes A&M as the perennial power of the Southwest Conference (two straight titles) it turns out that being conference champion no longer is enough to get you great national respect.

The Aggles are expected to win the Southwest again this year, but it's not the conference schedule that will make or break their national ranking so much as the two non-conference openers, home games against LSU and Washington. After those, A&M doesn't face a real toughle until Arkansas on Nov. 14 in a game that likely will determine the SWC

championship. In opening with each other, both A&M and LSU essentially are putting their national title hopes on the line out of the gate. A win won't guarantee high ranking, but a loss would hurt badly this early. Last year A&M limped out of Baton Rouge with a 35-17 loss and this year can't match LSU in experience and talent at the offensive skill positions, but at least will have the crazy, friendly confines of College Sta-

tion going for it this time. With quarterback Kevin Murray opting for the NFL draft over his last year of college eligibility and tight end Rod Bernstine (65 receptions) and conference rushing leader Roger Vick gone, Sherrill will have to patch the offense. Senior Craig Stump, who gained starting experience while Murray was injured, is likely the man at quarterback, but may be challenged by redshirt freshman Lance Pavias later. Junfor college transfer Gary Coster and senior Sylvester Morgan will try to replace Bernstine.

USC/Digging out of the doldrums



The question here isn't whether new coach Larry Smith, who comes over from Arizona, is capable of digging the Trojans out of the doldrums of the Ted Tollner years, but how long it will take Smith. Southern Cal may not zoom back to the top in a few months' time, but if anybody can pull it off,

it's Smith. Nobody seems sure whether the departed Tollner just didn't bring in the necessary talent for the Trojans, or couldn't take the available talent to its potential.

Smith should clarify that. Still, a realistic prediction for USC would be second or a respectable third In a Pac-10 that is stronger than it has been in several years.

Returning quarterback Rodney Peete can expedite the Trojans' climb back, if he and Smith don't run into a new-coach, old-quarterback communication gap. That shouldn't be a problem, though, in that Smith's offensive philosophy fits the USC tradition all the way back to the days of John McKay: Run from the I-formation. There is a slight problem there, though. He doesn't have an O.J. Simpson, Mike Garrett, Charles White or Marcus Allen, Heisman Trophy winners all.

Putting together a classic, gargantuan Southern Cal offensive line will take time, but senior tackle Dave Cadigan (6-5, 270) is a starting point.

Trojan tradition likely will return quicker on defense, where sophomores Tim Ryan and Dan Owens move into the line and pride-and-joy Marcus Cotton leads an experienced linebacking corps that includes seniors Keith Davis and Rex Moore.

Mississippi/The unknown factor



If this looks like a ringer, consider that the Rebels wound up second in the SEC last year, have nine starters back from the conference's leading overall defense, and have been picked by the SEC's sports writers to finish behind only powerful LSU and Auburn in the conference stand-

ings this year.

The Rebs last year might have been the best 8-3-1 team in the land. Only few outside the delta knew it, and few outside the state's borders will again this year. Mississippi is on probation for a year and can't go to a bowl or be on television. Without that chance to improve final ranking, the Rebels will have to hope for a Top 20 ranking via another eightwin season and bowl attrition. But during regular season, this will be a serious opponent for a lot of aspiring teams, including Arkansas, Georgia and LSU - all of whom Ole Miss gets at home. Except for those teams and a visit to Tennessee, Ole Miss' schedule is favorable.

Coach Billy Brewer thinks a lot like Georgia's Vince Dooley in that he loves to win with defense, and linebacker Jeff Herrod is a master at that kind

of break-forcing aggression. On offense, which also returns nine starters, the surprise quarterback of the conference in '86, Mark Young (1,154 yards passing last year), is back as a Junior. Star receiver J.R. Ambrose returns, but opponents will double-cover him so much that the Rebels must settle on an effective receiver to get into single coverage and therefore catch most of Young's

Listing the pre-season favorites in the Heisman Trophy race

KERWIN BELL Florida, QB, 6-3, 210, sr.

Bell's statistics are second to none: he's passed for 5,816 yards and 47 touchdowns (just seven fewer than former Gator great John Reaves) in three seasons. However, outside the South he is relatively unknown because Florida was barred from TV the last two years under sanctions of an NCAA-imposed probation. Another problem: the Gators are short on numbers because of scholarship reductions included in the NCAA sanctions, thus making it difficult to win enough games to make the SEC's most feared QB a real threat to win college football's most coveted individual

TIM BROWN Notre Dame, WR, 6-0, 195, sr.

Most experts consider him the best wideout in the nation, but he is also dangerous as a runner and kick returner. There are those who think Brown could even go No. 1 in next spring's NFL draft. He ranked No. 3 in the nation in all-purpose yards production last year with 1,937. His primary problem will be getting the ball. New quarterback Terry Andrysiak, a senior who started one game in each of the last two seasons, will have a lot to do with that. But, although the Irish will be younger in '87, they will be more talented and a threat to significantly improve upon last season's 5-6

CHRIS CHANDLER Washington, QB, 6-3, 204, sr.

The Huskies' last four starting quarterbacks are now earning their livings in the NFL, and Chandler - who is considered best of the bunch - is expected to be No. 5. Washington should contend for the Pac-10 Conference championship, which would help Chandier's candidacy considerably. Last season, he passed for 1,994 yards and a school-record 20 touchdowns. This year, he should create even more big plays on a team that historically has been ponderous. The offensive line is expected to be one of coach Don James' best, and there is quality at running back, which should make Chandler an even more effective quarterback.

GASTON GREEN UCLA, RB, 5-10, 190, sr.

Most West Coast running backs who win the Heisman go to Southern Cal on the other side of L.A., but Green is the strongest candidate the Bruins have had since Gary Beban won the '67 trophy. A year ago he gained 1,151 yards and scored 12 touchdowns in UCLA's last seven games, topping off the season with 224 yards against Southern Cal and 266 against Brigham Young in the Freedom Bowl. In all, he gained 1,405 yards and scored 17 touchdowns. UCLA is a glitzy football team that, under head coach Terry Donahue, has consistently won eight games per season - enough to support a Heisman candidacy. Thus, TV exposure won't be a problem.

BOBBY HUMPHREY Alabama, RB, 6-1, 187, jr.

As a sophomore sharing time with Gene Jelks last season, Humphrey gained a school single-season record 1,471 yards and scored 15 touchdowns. Since Bama has an abundance of backfield talent, Jelks has been moved to cornerback, so if Humphrey stays healthy this year he could at least set himself up as a leading candidate to win next season's Heisman. Only seven juniors have won the trophy. He'll be running behind a solid offensive line, and head coach Bill Curry proved at Georgia Tech that he's partial toward gaining yards the old-fashioned way — overland.

GORDIE LOCKBAUM Holy Cross, RB-DB-KR, 5-11, 195, sr.

If the Heisman were awarded on the basis of minutes played, Lockbaum would win hands down. Of 1,599 Holy Cross plays last season, Lockbaum was on the field for 1,005. He finished fifth in last year's Heisman poll. Although Holy Cross doesn't go to war against the Alabamas and Penn States and Notre Dames and Nebraskas of the college football world, the Crusaders finished 10-1 overall last season (losing only to Division I-A Boston College) and 4-0 (for first) in the Colonial Conference. He was All-America both on both offense and defense. He set school single-season records for all-purpose yards (2,173) and touchdowns

JAMIE MORRIS Michigan, RB, 5-7, 180, sr.

Though small, Morris is coach Bo Schembechier's kind of runner - unselfish and tough, just like his older brother Joe (mainstay of the New York Giants' rushing offense). Up front, the Wolverines are experienced and huge, perhaps Schembechler's biggest offensive line ever, which should give the strong, quick tailback gaping holes to run through. Figure Michigan to win no less than nine games this season (11 wouldn't be out of the question), and Morris figures to have a good shot at becoming the school's first Heisman winner since Tom Harmon in 1940. In addition to gaining 1,086 yards in 1986, Morris caught 33 passes for 287 yards.

CHRIS SPIELMAN Ohio State, LB, 6-2, 234, sr.

OK, defensive players don't win Heisman Trophies. But if they did, Spielman would be a leading candidate, and he'll get a lot of votes this year despite lining up on the wrong side of the line of scrimmage. At the very least, Spielman will carry the state of Ohio, especially since former teammate Cris Carter, a wide receiver who would have been a leading candidate, was declared ineligible last month because of his dealings with agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. A first-team All-American as a junior last season, Spielman drew even more national attention with spectacular play against Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl.

THURMAN THOMAS Oklahoma State, RB, 5-11, 191, sr.

After gaining 1,553 yards as a sophomore, Thomas was voted All-America and finished 10th in the Heisman voting. Last season, however, his production dropped to 741 yards after preseason arthroscopic surgery was required to repair knee damage suffered in a pickup basketball game that rendered him a step or two slower. With Thomas healthy this season, the Cowboys have an offensive cast that could light up the scoreboard after averaging only 16.5 points per game in '86. That could create trouble for Big Eight Conference favorites Oklahoma and Nebraska, and thus heighten Thomas' appeal in the Heisman voting.

LORENZO WHITE Michigan State, RB, 5-11, 211, sr.

Knee and ankle injuries derailed White's hopes of winning last season's Heisman. He gained only 633 yards after gaining 1,908 as a sophomore in '85 - the fourth highest single-season total in NCAA history. That year, he finished fourth in the Heisman voting. Now, the Spartans' No. 1 offensive weapon must start his campaign virtually from scratch. White could take a big step toward winning the trophy in a national TV game against Southern Cal on Labor Day. He'll need all the momentum he can gain, since many other Heisman hopefuls call the Midwest home.