

# At Ring Side

with

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Although the football season isn't even around the corner yet, spring drills indicate a return to success by the 1967 Indians.

With the return of Marlin Briscoe to the quarterback helm, the Indians should win the conference again. With the versatile magician again calling signals OU must be in the title picture.

After the bleak 1-9 record last year the Indians will of course be trying to reverse the figures.

In a recent interview with Briscoe, the veteran stated that this year's Spring drills have the same potential as the 8-2 team of 1965.

Briscoe added that although this year's squad doesn't have the '65 size they are quicker, faster and have a great attitude.

Commenting on the scrimmage held last Friday Briscoe stated that the defense hit harder than any unit he's seen since he was a freshman.

## Keys To Success: Haas, Davis

With the return of Briscoe the offense should be able to open up and play a wide open game again. The scrambling Briscoe is the reason for the diversified attack.

When injured last year, Head Coach Al Caniglia was forced to use Bill Haas as the number one signal caller. With Haas at the helm the offense was limited in its effectiveness, because of Haas' drop-back style. The offense just wasn't used to that type of attack.

When asked to give away some of his secrets of success Briscoe revealed a couple of sure keys. These two keys are Bill Haas and Rick Davis as pass receivers.

Briscoe said that Haas was his favorite target on short yardage situations. The reason for this being that Haas is big, has strong hands and he's hard for opponents to bring down.

Rick Davis was Briscoe's favorite target on long yardage plays. Davis is considered a double threat by Briscoe.



Signal Caller . . . Briscoe

Davis has the uncanny ability to get loose for the bomb, catch the ball and head for the goal line.

This same combination of Briscoe to Haas, or Briscoe to Davis brought good results in '65 and should bring the same this year.

## Halfback To Quarterback

Reminiscing with Briscoe brought peculiar answers by the signal caller. Briscoe said he began playing football early in grade school. He wanted to be halfback but since his early teams needed a quarterback, and he threw the ball the best he was drafted.

Since those early days of sandlot ball Briscoe has been a quarterback.

When asked to answer what his greatest thrill in football was Briscoe, puzzled for a moment, answered "playing defense his freshman year at OU."

When Briscoe enrolled in 1964 the Indians had a great quarterback in Carl Meyers so Briscoe was forced to play defense for a time.

As a quarterback Briscoe recalls the comeback victory over Pittsburg State in 1965 for the CIC crown as his biggest thrill while playing quarterback.

Until last year Briscoe could not remember ever sitting out so many games. This he said was his lowest ebb, not being able to help his team.

## Plans Include Pro's

Publicity doesn't seem to bother the cool, modest field general. He said that he feels no pressure from any publicity he receives.

Much publicity was given him last year when he was injured for the season. Coach Caniglia was accused of gearing the team around Briscoe, which he didn't.

The offense was geared around the wide open style that the Indians were allowed because of the scrambling Briscoe. When the injury occurred Caniglia was unable to find another scrambler like Briscoe.

With two receivers like Haas and Davis the passing attack should click well.

With backs like Greg Kavan, Steve Havorak, Gary Papporella and Ron Sayers pounding into the line, defensive lines will probably be bruised badly by Sunday morning.

Pro football is in Briscoe's plans. Briscoe said he would very much like to play pro if he has the ability at either offensive quarterback or as a defensive back. Teams from both the AFL and NFL have approached him.