

A NEW OFFENSE

It's been four years since the University of Omaha had a losing football team. And early predictions for the 1965 campaign indicate the Indians can hope for another winner this fall.

There are three big factors in the predictions--a new offense, 20 returning lettermen and a great backfield.

The new offense--the pro-set--will feature a passing attack centered around junior quarterback Marlin Briscoe. Marlin (The Magician) is an expert passer who can throw short or long. If he can't throw, he can run with the abandon of Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota Viking's exciting scrambler.

There are many good receivers like Gerald Allen, Rick Davis, Terrill Edwards, Jim Jones and Don Crum.

However, the Indians won't depend entirely on the air arm. On the ground OU has All-American Gerald Allen at left half, fullback Bill Dodd, Davis at flanker back and the versatile Briscoe. In addition, OU has lettermen like Cal McGruder, Lew Garrison, Joe Benson, Jim Rauch and Tom Wolff to back up the front line backs.

Up front are standouts like Bill Jansen, 255 pound tackle; guards Harlan Aden and Jerry Ferguson, 220 pounders; center Ken Pelan, 210; and ends Jim Jones, 255; and Terrill Edwards, 200.

"We think we are pretty well staffed with experience and there is plenty of depth at most positions," Caniglia points out.

"We have some great individuals; If we jell as a team, this could be one of our greatest seasons" Caniglia continued.

Caniglia believes the Indians could have a fine season if injuries and a tough schedule don't hew down some fine individuals.

And of course, freshmen recruits must fill in at some trouble spots depthwise, if the Indians are to roll.

OU's first ten-game schedule in recent seasons ranks as one of the toughest.

"We could have a good club and lose several games," Caniglia said.

Breaking it down position-wise:

Ends--good with lettermen like Terrill Edwards, Jim Jones and Harold Lenz. Loss of veterans Mike DiBiase and Jim Norris, who chose not to return, greatly felt. DiBiase caught 19 passes for five TD's last year and Norris was a good outside linebacker.

Tackles--good shape with vets like 255 pound Bill Jansen, Dave Rak, Ron Stave and Tom Hutchison. Jansen is greatly improved, should make big difference in offensive line. Rak and Stave defensive veterans.

Guards--Harlan Aden and Jerry Ferguson two of the best in the business.

Center--Ken Pelan, sophomore letterman, has developed and should be adequate.

Backfield--Strongest position on squad, headed by All-American Allen, Briscoe, Davis, Dodd, and six other lettermen.