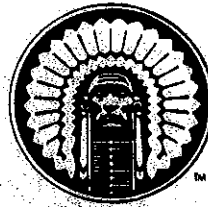


FOOTBALL

Pre-Game Notes

Memorial Stadium, Champaign, Illinois



THE UNIVERSITY OF
illinois

ILLINOIS vs. COLORADO

Saturday, September 15, 1990, 2:37 p.m.

Welcome to the University of Illinois Memorial Stadium Pressbox

YOUR HOSTS: MIKE PEARSON, Sports Information Director; DICK BARNES, Asst. SID; KENT BROWN, Asst. SID; KEVIN NORDQUIST, Intern; NATALIE DOOM and ERIKA AMSTADT, Graduate Assistants; and, Dal Bristow, John McGrath, Marge Livingston, Chris Moran, Steve Handwerker, Becky Hebert, Steve Reaven, Alice Rooks, John Rottschalk, Tim Russo and Phil Diatt, Student Assistants.

WHERE TO FIND...

Food Service: Level Two (today's pregame meal will be served by the Illinois Pork Producers, beginning at 12 noon until kickoff. At halftime, snacks, will be available to the media, including fruit, cookies, chips, popcorn, soft drinks and coffee). Soft drink dispensers are located on Level One near the elevator; and, on Level Two at the south end of the food service line. Water fountains are located on Levels One and Two, near the bathrooms.

Illinois SID, MIKE PEARSON: Level One, Row Two, Seat 44

Colorado SID, DAVE PLATI: Level One, Row Two, Seat 11

Newspaper and radio reporters: Level One

Television, radio and photographer's deck: Underneath Horseshoe at south end of stadium

Postgame Interviews: With about three minutes remaining in the game, Illinois Asst. SID Dick Barnes will escort reporters wishing to attend the postgame interview session with Coach John Mackovic and selected players in the football squad room (northeast corner of Memorial Stadium). Requests for Illinois player interviews must be given to Barnes or Illinois SID Mike Pearson at this time. The Illinois locker room is closed to the media. Colorado interview requests must be submitted to Colorado SID Dave Plati at this time.

Restrooms: Men's -- north portion of Level One and Level Two; Women's -- north portion of Level One.

Scores from other games: For updated scores from Big Ten and other college football games around the nation, please refer to the chalkboard on the back wall of Level One. Scores will be distributed to radio and television booths on a regular basis.

Statistics: Complete play-by-play, halftime stats, postgame notes and quotes will be distributed to your assigned seat. Please do not interrupt the workers in the rooms where statistics are compiled and printed. If you have a question about any statistics during the game, please contact Kent Brown or Mike Pearson. Flash stats will be announced immediately after each quarter. Space is provided on the back of the flip card for keeping team statistics as the game progresses.

Telephone Repairman: Level One, Row Two, Seats 51-54

Telephones: Pay phones -- on the back wall of Level Two; Charge-A-Call phones -- Row Two, Seats 32-34 (provided by Illinois Bell)

Television: Split-national television by ABC. Brent Musburger, play-by-play; Dick Vermell, color; Mark Jones, sideline reports.

Radio: Illinois Sports Network. Dick Martin, play-by-play; Jim Grabowski, color commentary; Scot Medlin, pregame and halftime features.

(Over)

(Illinois-Colorado Pregame Notes Continued)

No. 17 Illinois and No. 11 Colorado Hook Up In Early Season Battle

The Fighting Illini (0-1), coming off a 28-16 loss at Arizona, open the home Centennial celebration with an early-season non-conference match-up against Big Eight power Colorado (1-0-1). The Buffaloes lead the series, 1-0, after handing Illinois a 38-7 defeat in 1989 at Boulder. ABC is televising today's game on a split-national basis. Both teams are used to playing in front of the cameras as the Fighting Illini have been on TV now 10 of the last 15 games and Colorado appearing for the seventh time in the last 15 games.

For Openers...

Illinois opens its 101st home season today and will honor returning lettermen from the 1890-1939 era. Through the first 100 openers, the Fighting Illini have a record of 68 wins, 27 losses and five ties. During the 1980s, Illinois was 7-3 in home openers, its best record in a particular decade since the 1950s when UI was 7-2-1. The very best decade for Fighting Illini home openers was from 1910-19 when Illinois was 9-1.

Lombardi, Butkus and Thorpe Awards...

Four of the 12 1990 Lombardi Award nominees will be on the field today. Three of the nominees will be playing for Colorado, including outside linebackers **Alfred Williams** and **Kanavis McGhee**, and offensive guard **Joe Garten**. For Illinois, consensus 1989 All-American **Moe Gardner** is the fourth nominee. The Lombardi Award has been presented to the college lineman of the year since 1970. Gardner was a finalist for the **Outland Trophy** in 1989 and should again be a strong candidate for the award in 1990.

Three of the eight linebackers currently nominated for the Butkus Award will also be on the field today. Fighting Illini inside linebacker **Darrick Brownlow** has been nominated for the third consecutive season and will be joined on the field by the Buffaloes' Williams and McGhee. As the season goes on, a few more players could be added to the list, with the possibility that a few might be dropped. The Butkus Award is annually given to the nation's outstanding linebacker and is named after former Illinois great **Dick Butkus** (1962-64).

Henry Jones, **Marlon Primous** and **Chris Green** have been selected by the Jim Thorpe Athletic Association as three of 24 candidates for the Thorpe Award, given annually to the nation's top defensive back. Green is out of action until later in the season after breaking his leg in the preseason.

Illinois In the National Rankings...

This week Illinois is ranked 17th by UPI, 21st by AP, 22nd by USA Today/CNN and 28th by The Sporting News. The Fighting Illini also have several players ranked in the latest NCAA statistics, including the nation's top-ranked field goal kicker in **Doug Higgins**.

Doug Higgins (field goals)	1st (3.00 Fg/g)
Doug Higgins (scoring)	20th (10 Pts/g)
Shawn Wax (receiving)	20th (6.0 Ct/g)
Wagner Lester (receiving)	20th (6.0 Ct/g)
Jason Verduzco (passing eff.)	43rd (117.2 pts)

Passing It Around...

Illinois has passed to at least six receivers in 27 straight games, including all 25 that John Mackovic has coached at Illinois.

Centennial Celebration...

The University of Illinois is honoring Fighting Illini football players from the 1890-1939 era today. For a list of returning players, please see page 74 of today's game program.