

Football fits in Iowans' Dutch heritage

By Bill Richardson
sportswriter

Up in the Dutch-heritage country of Northwest Iowa, they turn out an abundance of tulips, wooden shoes and small-college football players.

In Orange City (population 4,500), the annual tulip festival, the town shoe cobbler and Northwestern College are main attractions. Northwestern College has enjoyed 15 straight winning seasons and is the chief beneficiary of the football players.

Northwestern, 12-0, was the top-ranked team in the final National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II poll this season. The Red Raiders, in the NAIA playoffs for the fifth time, will meet No. 6 William Jewell, 9-1, in a Division II semifinal game at 1 p.m. Saturday in Liberty. In the other game,

Westminster (Pa.), 9-1, will play at Linfield (Ore.), 10-0.

"Sixteen of our 22 starters come from a high-school conference of which the local high school is a member, and 15 of them are from Sioux County," said Bill Boote, who handles news information for Northwestern, a 100-year-old school (enrollment about 850) affiliated with the Reformed Church of America. "When we won the national championship in 1973, we also had 16 of our 22 starters from that conference. Maybe that's a good sign."

The names of some players are as difficult to pronounce as Northwestern is to stop. For Dutch-country starters, there's Bakker, Rozeboom, Rohlfs, Achterhoff and De Zeeuw. For the record, there's a string of one-sided victories on the scoreboard.

In 11 regular-season games the Red Raiders of Coach Larry

Korver, who has a 117-40-3 record in his 16 seasons at Northwestern, scored 515 points and yielded 122. The 515 points broke the NAIA mark of 512 set by Baker University in 1980.

Northwestern defeated Dakota State 43-7, Central (Iowa) 42-28, Buena Vista 44-7, Doane 44-14, Dana 55-0, Peru State 62-17, Westmar 49-12, Bemidji State 35-12, Chadron State 30-0, Southwest State (Minn.) 56-18 and Midland Lutheran 55-7. Northwestern defeated St. John's (Minn.) 33-28 in the quarterfinal round of the NAIA Division II playoffs.

The Red Raiders run from a veer offense, ably directed by junior quarterback Lee McKinstrey. In addition to passing for 37 touchdowns, McKinstrey, 6 feet 1 inch and 190 pounds, ran for 11 scores, averaged 10.6 yards a completion and 41.1 yards on 41 punts.

"McKinstrey is a well-round-

ed quarterback and is very good at reading defenses," Northwestern offensive assistant Kelly Kruger said. "And he has an excellent corps of receivers."

Running backs Jim Svoboda and Doug Bakker each average 6 yards a carry. Kevin Rohlfs is the leading receiver, and Ryan Achterhoff, a sprinter in track, leads in touchdown catches with 12. Wide receiver Mike Van Berkum and tight ends Dave Rozeboom and Scott Guthmiller also are targets of McKinstrey's passes.

The offensive line includes twin brothers. Center Ed De Vos and tackle Al De Vos each weigh 250 pounds. Their brother, Wally De Vos, is the backup center.

The defense is led by Scott Hoberg, a freshman lineman who was the most valuable defensive player in the St. John's game.