

SWITZER: IRONMAN DELUXE

K-State Ace Averaging 50 Minutes
A Game

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Manhattan — Veryl Joe) Switzer, Mr. Perpetual Motion himself, has come up with a record, that will leave advocates of the two platoon system in football gasping.

The brilliant Kansas State halfback has averaged playing 50 minutes of each K-State game this fall against such hardy foes as Bradley, Cincinnati, Missouri, Nebraska, Tulsa and Oklahoma. That of course, means the Wildcat's second team All-American halfback sits on the bench on the average of only 10 minutes in each

ball game, making him a modern "iron man" for sure.

Last season, Switzer, then a sophomore specialized on defense and finished the season with All-American and all-Big Seven conference laurels despite the fact the Wildcats didn't win a game. It's hard to grab attention with a losing club but Joe Switzer does it.

This fall, Switzer seems headed for national honors again. Not only is his defensive play superb, he also has taken on offensive chores. The result has been most pleasing to coach Bill Meek who regards his backfield prize as one of the best of all time.

Running at right halfback in the Wildcat split-T, Switzer has averaged four yards each time he has rushed the ball on passes, Switzer has pulled down 6 for 76 net yards. On punt returns, he has brought back 12 of them for 80 yards.

Does the speedy Negro kid, who is Big Seven conference indoor broadjump champion, tire easily during his long 50-minute performance against the nations top foes? And, if so, what tires him most?

"I guess its going out on passes often that slows me down the most in a game," Switzer reasons. The weariest he has been on defense probably was in last week's Oklahoma game when he abandoned his usual safety position and played a roving linebacker in the 5-2 diamond defense coach Meek us-

ed.

"I wasn't used to playing that position and it took me the first half to feel at home there," Switzer said. However, he kept up his average of tackles (un-assisted) per game. In all, he competed 46 minutes and 3 seconds against the strong Sooner forces.

Here's how he has put in time in Wildcat games this fall: Bradley, 41 minutes, 4 seconds; Cincinnati, 52 minutes, 10 seconds; Missouri, 53 minutes, 2 seconds; Nebraska, 48 minutes, 7 seconds; Tulsa, 58 minutes, 5 seconds; Oklahoma, 46 minutes 30 seconds.

If you give Switzer a choice, he thinks he'd rather play defense than offense. As a sophomore last season, he often thought he'd like to carry the ball but now he believes there is more real satisfaction in stopping other ball carriers. He loves to tackle and hates to see the other team score.

Billy Vessels of Oklahoma is the hardest running back Switzer has put a shoulder on. However, Charley Hoag, the explosive Kansas star, is a close second, Switzer says. Bob Reynolds of Nebraska is the cleverest runner the K-State All-American has encountered and Buck McPhail of Oklahoma is the best all-around back.



Switzer has some admirers of his own. For example:

Last Saturday afternoon at Norman, a bunch of guys who should know, heartily agreed that Switzer, is just about the best defensive backfield man in collegiate football today.

Those guys who concurred in the opinion that Switzer is the greatest were none other than the Oklahoma Sooners who, themselves, have no peers in the offensive or scoring phase of football.

Billy Vessels, Oklahoma's All-American backfield candidate, termed Switzer one of the best defenders he had played against—ever. And other Sooners were quick to echo Vessels opinion.

Max Boydston, star Sooner end, said, "There is no doubt that Switzer is all that they said he was. I think he is more aggressive than Pittsburgh's Henry Ford. He hits hard and clean, too."

And so it went from other Oklahomas — fullback McPhail, center Tom Catlin, halfback Merrill Green, end John Reddell, and guard J. D. Roberts — to mention a few. Switzer had won the warmth and respect of the nation's toughest offensive club with his jarring, solid tackles.

It was six-man football at Bogue Kansas, which gave Switzer his start in the game that is bringing him fame. Out at Bogue, Joe was the entire show. His team was undefeated the last two years he was in high school. If you were going to play on that Bogue team, you had to be "an iron man." There was no choice as there were only nine men on the entire football squad.

Perhaps the high light of Switzer's high school career came in his senior year during the game with Codell. In that one, Joe scored 51 points and they called the game at the end of the third quar-

ter because it was a cold night and the Codell boys figured they might as well go home and attend a dance the kids at school were having.

Altho Switzer has been clocked at 10 seconds in the 100-yard dash, he said there were "two or three" other boys on that Bogue team of three years ago who were "faster than I was."

That attitude is typical of Switzer and a reason he is one of the best-liked boys on the Wildcat football squad. He is a fine team player and is willing to assume any role assigned him on the football field. There are many folks who feel Switzer could make the All-American offensive unit if he concentrated on ball carrying alone. Coach Meek thinks so too, but, Switzer saves on the average of two or three touchdown runs a game with his tackling. And when you have a guy like that around there is just one thing to do—use him.

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