

# College Football

BIG 12, 2

SCORES, SUMMARIES, 10

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SEPTEMBER 21, 1997

PAGE 1-FOOTBALL

Tom Shatel

## Frost Gains More Fans

Seattle

Tommie who? After Saturday, there is no question of the identity of the Nebraska quarterback nor who it should be. His name is Frost, Scott Frost. Finally.

Oh, he has been out there, for a year now. But not until Saturday, on a breathtaking September Saturday at Husky Stadium, did Frost fully arrive, wings spread, in full bloom. In the biggest Husker game of the season, with championship stakes and in front of a national and hostile stage, Frost was The Star. The Show. The Man. Nebraska 27, Washington 14. That will make for a nice mantle piece in the Frost home.

But now we must get busy. The Scott Frost Fan Club is now forming. For the past few years, Nebraska's prodigal son has been bashed, doubted, scorned, blamed and finally booed. He will return home the Favorite Son in many corners. Frost for senator. Frost for governor. Frost for Heisman. Frost forgiven.

You know, I knew all along this kid was going to be something special.

He will hear that a lot this week. He will be greeted by legions of new friends. The way he has been treated, like the plague, the problem, the anti-Frazier — by news media and fans alike — it would be his right to brush everyone off this week. To walk around campus wearing a T-shirt that said, "I told you so." But Frost is taking the high road. Looks like it might go to the Orange Bowl.

## Rewarding Day

"I don't care," Frost said late Saturday about his forthcoming new popularity in the state. "The friends I have and the friends I want have been the friends with me through everything."

This one was for him. But this was one for them, too. There's no telling how many friends and supporters were in the Frost camp. Frost wasn't telling, either. But they know who they are. And today they are all quietly smiling and feeling warm inside. Their faith in Frost, a hard, true faith, was rewarded Saturday in a most eye-opening manner. It was almost as if Frost became a man Saturday except that, as his true friends would probably say, he had to have been already grown-up to handle the relentless slings and arrows falling at his feet.

"He'll have a lot of new friends," senior left guard Aaron Taylor said. "A lot of people will be jumping on his handwagon. But he knows who his friends are. He knows who has faith in him. He knows that his big offensive line has faith in him."

Ah, yes. The big 18-wheelers in front are nice to have on your side. Especially Saturday. The Huskers' O-line dominated from the first series. It cut up the Husky defense like purple ribbons. The Assembly Line was back, better than ever. I-back Ahman Green showed his freshman-year brilliance. Fullback Joel Makovicka ran over Huskies like a pickup truck. The Husker running game, with 384 yards, set the pace. And suddenly Frost knew what it was like to be Tommie Frazier in a big game. It was the best support system of his tumultuous career.

## Simple, Direct

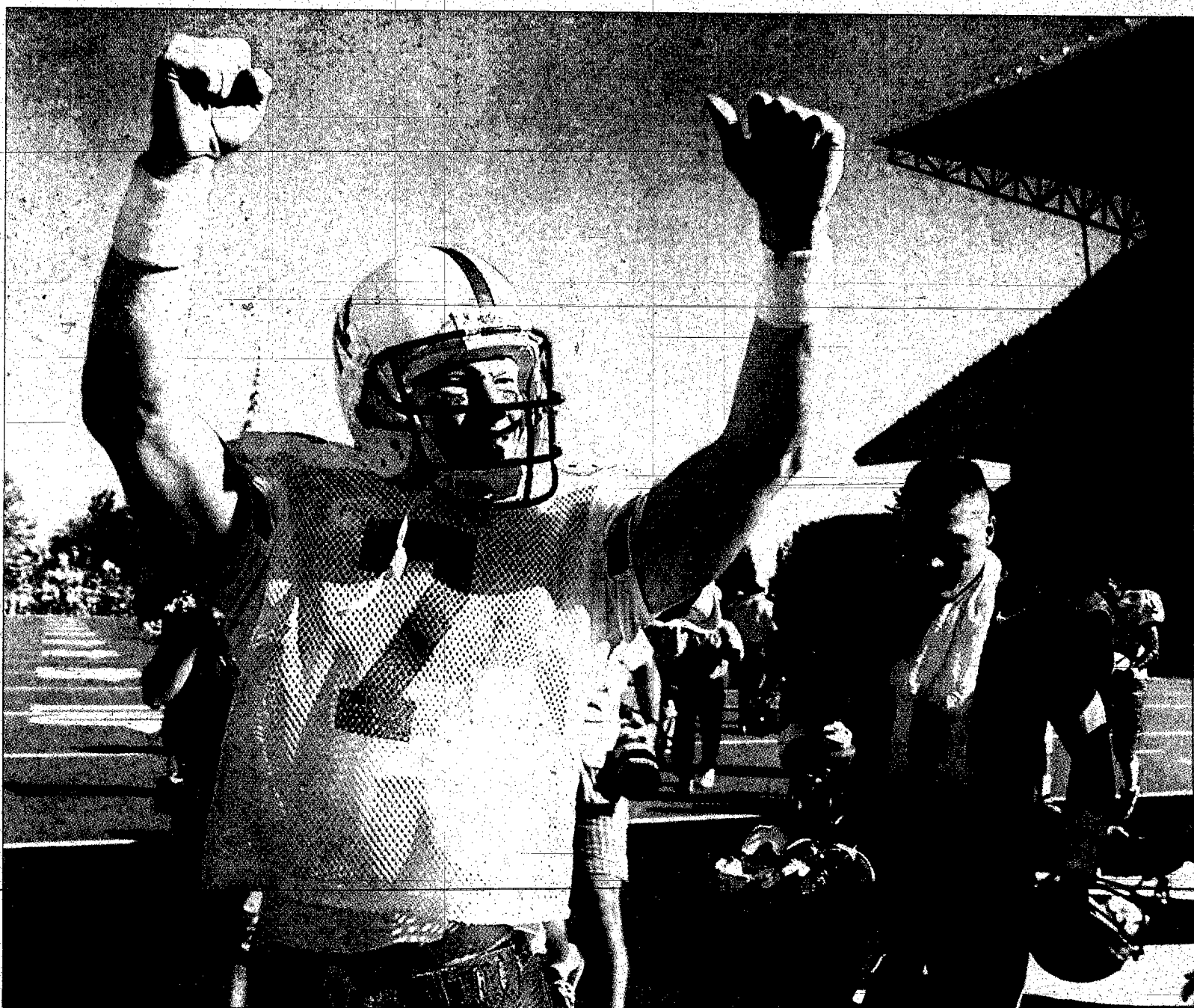
And yet, Frost still had much to prove. Could he deliver, even in prime conditions? Could he make plays, make passes, move chains, find pay dirt? Could he be the leader of the pack in a national-title run? After Washington missed on a field-goal try, the Huskers would find out. And they would like the results.

Center Josh Hesekew recalled: "He came into the huddle and said, 'Hey, fellas, this is where we get it done. These guys are ranked No. 2. We have to show everyone that we belong up there, too.'"

"This is where we get it done." Simple. Effective. That's Frost. He's not flashy. He doesn't throw a pretty pass. His options really aren't options. They're more like pitches after a few steps. But who cares? But what matters is the scoreboard. Substance over style. On Saturday, Frost had big-time substance. This is where he got it done.

Who would have believed it? Not Tony Barnhart, the ESPN analyst who on Saturday morning told the cameras, "Scott Frost is a money game? I don't think so." Not Tom Shatel. I'll admit, I questioned whether Frost could get the job done in front of a hostile crowd on the road. But what do I really know?

See SHATEL Page 5



JEFF BUNDY/THE WORLD-HERALD

**WINNING MOMENT:** Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost, No. 7, celebrates following his team's 27-14 victory over No. 2- and 3-ranked Washington, a 3½-point favorite Saturday at Husky Stadium in Seattle. Nearby is Washington quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo, No. 11, who replaced injured starter Brock Huard. Frost scored on runs of 34 and 30 yards and finished with 97 rushing yards and 88 passing yards.

# Huskers Return to Top Form

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Seattle — The message Nebraska delivered Saturday afternoon against Washington made up in substance what it lacked in subtlety.

The Huskers smashed any doubts about their ability to be a major player in this season's national-championship chase with a 27-14 victory that left the country's second- and third-ranked team battered, bruised and bewildered.

"We knew what they were going to do," Washington linebacker Jason Chorak said. "We just couldn't stop it."

Except for a couple of new wrinkles that sprung quarterback Scott Frost for a pair of touchdowns, Nebraska did not stray far from the formula that has

produced victories in 50 of its past 53 games. The sixth- and seventh-ranked Huskers buried Washington with a running attack that produced 384 yards against a team that entered the game leading the nation in stopping the run. Only Notre Dame, with 397 yards a year ago, has run for more yards against a Husky defense.

Fullback Joel Makovicka established a career high by gaining 129 yards on 12 carries, an average of 10.8 yards per attempt. His total matched that of I-back Ahman Green, who tied his career high with 29 carries. Frost, with 97 yards, would have given the Huskers three 100-yard rushers in the same game for only the second time in school history had he not taken 6 yards

in losses while kneeling down to run out the clock at the end of the game.

Defensively, Nebraska shut down Washington's ground game, knocked highly regarded quarterback Brock Huard out of the game and came up with enough big plays to offset dangerous Husky receiver Jerome Pathon.

"We hadn't play very well in our first couple of games," Nebraska rush end Grant Wistrom said. "But we came out and played well in the big game, and that's all that matters."

What perhaps matters most is that the victory, which came in front of a Husky Stadium crowd of 74,023 and an ABC regional television audience, allowed the Huskers to recapture the essence that defined their back-to-back

national championship teams of 1994 and 1995.

"This victory gives us back that confidence that we had when we pretty much dominated college football in '94 and '95," Husker defensive tackle Jason Peter said. "We feel we can play with anybody now."

Last season's 19-0 loss at Arizona State stripped the Huskers of that feeling of near invincibility. It also had soured some fans on Frost's abilities to replace Tommie Frazier as Nebraska's quarterback. No matter what Frost did since that game, he had been unable to appease his critics, the most vocal of whom booed him during the second quarter of the Sept. 13 win over Central

See HUSKERS Page 4

## Frost's Winning Day

■ Rushing attempts	18
■ Rushing yards	97
■ Longest run	34 (TD)
■ Rushing average	5.4
■ Sacked	Twice for 6 yards
■ Touchdowns	2
■ Passing	8-15-0
■ Percentage	.533
■ Passing yards	88
■ Longest pass	35
■ Yards per catch	11.0
■ Total yards	185
■ Yards per play	5.6

## Gators Gobble Up Manning, Tennessee

Gainesville, Fla. (AP) — A few minutes after Florida finished hounding Peyton Manning, the Gators started hugging each other.

"We're all huggin' in the locker room because it was a crucial game for us," Coach Steve Spurrier said after No. 3 Florida continued its dominance over No. 4 Tennessee with a 33-20 victory Saturday at steamy Florida Field.

"We've got about three, four or five games a year that are huggers and this was one of them."

The biggest hug went to safety Tony George, who stepped in front of one of Manning's passes and returned it 89 yards for a touchdown with 15 seconds left in the first quarter.

His score put the Gators ahead 14-0. The Vols never recovered as Doug Johnson threw three TD passes, Jacques Green had eight catches for 185 yards and a TD, and Fred Taylor ran for 134 yards.

Manning, without time to drop back and throw deep, could not overcome all those obstacles.

"I needed to play well for us to win the game, and I didn't," Manning said after completing 29 of 51 for 353 yards and three touchdowns. He suffered two interceptions. "I apologize for that. You hate to lose. I probably hate to lose more than I like to win."

The Gators, playing before a raucous record crowd of 85,714, beat the Volunteers for the fifth straight time and

improved their record at "The Swamp" to 44-2 under Spurrier. They also extended their Southeastern Conference winning streak to 23 games.

With the victory in this early season showdown, the Gators (3-0, 1-0 in the SEC) once again find themselves in a familiar situation — in control of the SEC East and still alive for a second straight national title. Coming up are "hugger" games against LSU, Auburn and Florida State.

And once again, the Vols (2-1, 0-1) are in the same sad situation — looking up at the Gators and well aware their title chances have vanished before the end of September. And then there's Vols Coach Phil Fulmer, who is 0-5 against Florida and 45-5 against everyone else.

"It's very frustrating," Fulmer said. "I think our kids thought we were going to play well enough to win. We handled the crowd very well. We just didn't make the plays. They did."

Johnson, making his third start, handled the pressure of a big-game situation just like his predecessor, Danny Wuerffel. Johnson, a 6-foot-2, 212-pound sophomore, completed 14 of 32 for 261 yards, with two of his TDs coming in the first half as the Gators built a 20-7 lead. All three of his TDs came on third-down plays.

In the first half, Johnson had TD passes of 11 yards to Jamie Richardson and 19 yards to Green.



**TIM DWIGHT:** He caught eight passes for 187 yards and three touchdowns in Iowa's 63-20 win over Iowa State. Page 3.

## Football Inside

- Marc Renaud rushes for 112 yards and Sedrick Irvin for 106, and the two combined for 303 all-purpose yards as No. 17 Michigan State beats Notre Dame 23-7. Page 3.
- Clint Stoerner hits wide-open Anthony Eubanks for a 29-yard touchdown with 1:45 left, giving Arkansas a 17-16 upset of No. 4 Alabama. Page 8.

## How The AP Top

# 25

FARED

1. Penn St. (3-0) beat Louisville 57-21.
2. Wash. (2-1) lost to No. 7 Neb. 27-14.
3. Florida (3-0) beat No. 4 Tennessee 33-20.
4. Tennessee (2-1) lost to No. 3 Fla. 33-20.
5. Fla. St. (3-0) beat No. 16 Clemson 35-28.
6. N. Carolina (3-0) beat Maryland 40-14.
7. Nebraska (3-0) beat No. 2 Wash. 27-14.
8. Michigan (2-0) beat Baylor 38-3.
9. Ohio St. (3-0) beat Arizona 28-20.
10. LSU (2-1) lost to No. 12 Auburn 31-28.
11. Alabama (2-1) lost to Arkansas 17-16.
12. Auburn (3-0) beat No. 10 LSU 31-28.
13. Iowa (3-0) beat Iowa State 63-20.
14. Arizona State (2-0) played BYU.
15. Colorado (1-1) did not play.
16. Clemson (2-1) lost to No. 5 FSU 35-28.
17. Michigan St. (3-0) beat Notre Dame 23-7.
18. Virginia Tech (2-0) beat Temple 23-13.
19. Wsh. State (2-0) beat Illinois 35-22.
20. Kansas St. (2-0) did not play.
21. Stanford (1-1) beat Oregon State 27-24.
22. Miami (1-2) lost to Pitt. 21-17 Thursday.
23. Colo. State (2-2) lost to Air Force 24-0.
24. UCLA (1-2) did not play.
25. Georgia (3-0) beat NE Louisiana 42-3.

## Mavs Hold On To Win Again In Fargodome

BY RICH KAIPUST  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Fargo, N.D. — After building up 13 years of bad memories in Fargo, the UNO football team is starting to wipe some of them out.

The Mavericks, winless at North Dakota State in their first 13 visits, beat the Bison on their home turf for the second consecutive year Saturday night, holding on for a 27-21 victory before a crowd of 14,144. In five years and 27 games since the Fargodome opened, UNO now has handed NDSU two of its four home losses.

"Last year we didn't know if we could win," UNO quarterback Ed Thompson said. "This year we knew we had a chance. I think that was the difference."

Or maybe it was Thompson himself. The junior from Cambridge, Neb., passed for a season-high 193 yards and ran for 85 more to lead the University of Nebraska at Omaha offense. The Mav defense complemented the effort by keeping NDSU off the scoreboard in the second half.

"We knew if we stick together and shut them out in the second half, we win," UNO linebacker Cedric Welsh said. "Up 24-21, that's all we had to do."

That's a great team, our offense just played. We won't face many better. If we play like we played today, we

See MAVERICKS Page 4