

POSTGAME



Carl Pelini's defense accepts his challenge with an effort worthy of Blackshirts, and Nebraska controls its divisional destiny in the Big Ten

RED ALL OVER



REBECCA S. GRATZ/THE WORLD-HERALD

A gang-tackling Husker defense was the rule of the day, as Spartan Edwin Baker and mates found out. Here Baker is hauled down by NU's Lance Thorell, No. 23, and Andrew Green, No. 11, as Austin Cassidy closes in.

Husker schemes meet challenge in stifling Cousins, Spartans

By SAM MCKEOWN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Carl Pelini chewed it over during the week, handing out blackshirts to Nebraska's first-team defense before the Michigan State game. Maybe just to show his guys, in the midst of pregame hype for an opponent, that he still believed they were the better bunch.

But NU's defensive coordinator held off. He wanted to see the Huskers play "with an effort we hadn't played with before" against the team with the Big Ten's best statistical defense, linebacker Will Compton said. Pelini said so in his final meeting with the team before kickoff. Remind them who we are — and

NEBRASKA-MICHIGAN STATE PHOTOS, VIDEO

View photo showcases of the fans and the action in and around Memorial Stadium as the Huskers hosted the Michigan State Spartans. Also, see video analysis of NU's 24-3 win. Omaha.com/bigred

how we play defense.

He got his answer in Nebraska's 24-3 dismantling of the No. 9 Spartans.

Five punts. Four sacks. Two fourth-down stops. One tone-setting interception. One rattled quarterback in Kirk Cousins. One shut-down MSU wide receiver in B.J. Cunningham — zero catches — who was swallowed whole by

See Huskers: Page 7

ISU STUNS TEXAS TECH

QB Jared Barnett and Iowa State top the No. 19 Red Raiders. Page 2C

MINNESOTA SHOCKS IOWA

The Gophers surprise the Hawkeyes for a second straight year. Page 3C

MORE HUSKER FOOTBALL COVERAGE INSIDE

The Huskers rode Rex — and Burkhead helped carry them past a team that hadn't lost a Big Ten game in a year. Dirk Chatelain, Page 4C

Michigan State strikes an upbeat tone after the game, but someday they could regret their performance Saturday in Lincoln, writes Lee Barfknecht. Page 5C

Big Ten finally gets a glimpse of the Huskers we all expected

LINCOLN — Welcome to Nebraska, Big Ten.

Look out, Jim Delany. We've got a pennant race in the Legends Division. And it looks like Nebraska is going to join the party this year.

The Wisconsin game was brutal. Ohio State was an escape. Minnesota was easy. In a 24-3 win over stout Michigan State, the Huskers seemed to announce their intention to not only play in the Big Ten this year, but possibly play for it.

One step at a time. That's the Bo Pelini process. But on a clear day in Huskerville, you could see all the way to Snowy Valley at Penn State. And beyond.

On a warm and breezy late



Tom Shatel

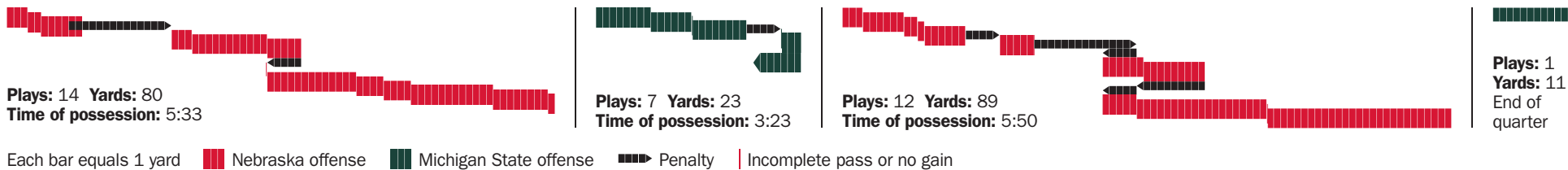
October day, the forecast was warm and fuzzy.

There were smiles all around the Nebraska locker room. These were the confident smiles everyone expected back in August. This was the relentless, tackling, executing defense we expected. This was the physical offense and step-ahead play-calling we expected.

See Shatel: Page 6

CLOCKING THE THIRD QUARTER

Nebraska took control of the game in the third quarter, wearing down the Michigan State defense by running 26 plays and chewing 11 minutes and 23 seconds off the clock.



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