



MEGAN FARMER/THE WORLD-HERALD

SPRINT TO THE FINISH

NEBRASKA 31, ILLINOIS 16

Newby's heroics and another late surge in a tough game carry the injury-riddled Huskers to 5-0 heading into their week off

By Sam McKewon
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Terrell Newby got the first down by an inch. By game's end, he'd rip off a run that, given the Huskers' game-long struggles against plucky Illinois, seemed like a mile.

When Newby secured Nebraska's 31-16 win with a 63-yard sprint to the end zone, the quiet senior had finally turned the Memorial Stadium crowd to full blast. The 90,394 fans had spent most of the day a little anxious. The Huskers looked listless. They blocked and tackled poorly. Coach Mike Riley conceded Illinois, perhaps headed for the Big Ten West cellar, had the edge for most of the game.

Worst of all, key offensive playmakers — Cethan Carter, Jordan Westerkamp and Devine Ozigbo — kept leaving the game with potentially serious injuries.

Good thing Nebraska gets a bye week. NU will limp into it, but it'll do so with an undefeated smile. The Huskers, 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the Big Ten, have already matched their regular season win total

from 2015. It took the most time-consuming drive in years, a fourth-down gut check and a career-defining game from Newby to do so.

"When it all came down to it today — when nobody else was left — he stepped up," said Riley of Newby, who had 27 carries for 140 yards and two touchdowns. Riley added that Newby "was a real man."

"That guy is grinding," quarterback Tommy Armstrong said.

"I knew I had to carry the load," Newby said.

Did he ever. Nebraska ran the ball 18 times for 114 yards in the fourth quarter. Newby got 16 of those carries for 113 yards. He also caught a third-down swing pass for 21 yards. He ran behind a banged-up offensive line that started opening bigger and bigger holes after being pushed around by Illinois' defensive line for three quarters. Newby played his part, bouncing off Illini defenders, twisting for extra yards.

"We started to wear those guys down,"

See Huskers: Page 10

MORE INSIDE

Even with a loss Saturday, Wisconsin took command of the Big Ten West Division, Lee Barfknecht writes. **5CF**

The Big Red are coming up clutch during their 5-0 start. Why? They're a family, Dirk Chatelain writes. **7CF**

The Nebraska defense seems to be going through a transformation of both confidence and performance. **8CF**

UP NEXT

At Indiana, 2:30 p.m. Oct. 15
TV TBA; 92.3 FM, 590 AM

MORE ON BIG RED TODAY

Replay postgame interviews with Nebraska coach Mike Riley and select players. Also, watch as staff writer Sam McKewon offers his instant reactions. **Omaha.com/bigred**

Terrell Newby had a big second half in Nebraska's win over Illinois. He scored the go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter and had this game-sealing 63-yard TD run in the closing minutes.

Huskers finally break free with a plan that would have made Tenopir proud



Tom Shatel

COLUMNIST

LINCOLN — The pallbearers climbed into the back of a truck.

On a beautiful college football Saturday morning, across town from Memorial Stadium, they came to bid farewell to a legend. An era.

The cars kept coming. And coming. Folks in suits and dresses. Some in red Nebraska shirts. There must have been nearly 150 people at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery at 10 a.m.

"I thought this was a private service," a man said to Todd Tenopir.

"It is private," Todd said with a wink, as if to say his father was a man whose family and friends overflowed.

They were here to bury Milt Tenopir, Husker offensive line coach, legend and most of all, husband, father and granddaddy.

See Shatel: Page 9