

Michael Kelly
Sports Editor



Shouldering
Some Load

Lincoln — Every time Steve Taylor ran the ball in the third quarter, you could almost feel the Nebraska fans holding their breath. Don't get hurt now, Steve.

Coach Tom Osborne, who had held his star quarterback out of part of the second quarter, removed him from the game Saturday against Iowa State with 6:30 left in the third period.

Not long after that, word filtered through the stands — Oklahoma quarterback Jamelle Holieway had injured his knee against Oklahoma State and was carried off the field.

"It's unfortunate he went down with the injury," Taylor said after Nebraska's 42-3 victory. Other Huskers expressed similar feelings, as did Osborne. Football players live with the knowledge that they can go down on the next play, and in that sense even opponents are mates. The Huskers felt bad about Holieway's injury.

Beyond that, though, NU wanted to play at full strength against Oklahoma at full strength. Athletes are competitors, and the Huskers wanted to go against OU's best — Jamelle.

'Be Aggressive'

Taylor, whose 9-0 team will have two weeks to prepare for the Nov. 21 game in Lincoln against the Sooners and their talented backup quarterback, Charles Thompson, said injury is always in the back of your mind.

It just can't be in the front.

"Yeah, sometimes you worry," he said. "But you have to run the ball and be aggressive. Don't take a hit instead of giving a hit."

Taylor, who missed a game with a right-shoulder injury and might undergo surgery after the season, said he feels good as he approaches the biggest game of his career.

He's not a one-man team, but he's the heart of the offense. A lot of the load will fall on his shoulders.

"Oklahoma is a good team, and they're ranked No. 1," he said. "We're No. 2. We think we're the best team."

Two years ago, the Huskers lost all-conference linebacker Marc Munford to a knee injury just before the Oklahoma game, and his absence was felt in the loss to OU. The Sooners, no matter how good the backup quarterback may be, will miss Holieway.

The Sooners received a double-whammy Saturday. Fullback Lydell Carr also went down with a knee injury.

Yes, there's some glory in major-college football. And then there's the pain.

Not Perfect

As a dress rehearsal for Oklahoma, NU's game Saturday against Iowa State wasn't perfect. But it wasn't exactly a bust, either.

Rolling up the second-highest rushing total in school history, 604 yards, and 666 in total offense, the Huskers overpowered the undermanned Cyclones.

Osborne wasn't ecstatic, and the Huskers might get some static. The coach used words such as sloppy, not intelligent and mentally fatigued to describe some of the play, and added that Nebraska should have scored another 21 to 28 points.

He said, though, he was glad the score didn't get out of hand against his old friend, ISU Coach Jim Walden. And it was actually just a few plays, Osborne said, on which the Huskers mentally let up.

He said he'll put his team through tough practices this week, including a scrimmage, and try to have the team sharp for Oklahoma and then Colorado.

As a coach for 26 years at Nebraska, including 15 as head man, Osborne knows the value of a live scrimmage.

He also knows the value of his quarterback. What a loss it would be if Taylor were seriously hurt in practice.

Players get hurt in non-contact drills, too. They can slip on a flight of stairs on the way to class. Holieway's injury Saturday was not the result of getting hit, but of planting his foot and cutting upfield, just as ex-Husker Doug DuBose did last year.

Injury is always a risk, and Osborne is more than capable of weighing the risks. The defense, no doubt, needs some contact work to get ready for the Oklahoma wishbone. But does Steve Taylor need a live scrimmage at this point in the season?

Say a little prayer.

NU Clicking

The Huskers made four turnovers Saturday, and they know they can't do that against Oklahoma and get out alive. But in spite of a few poor plays Saturday, Nebraska is clicking.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said he can't say that this is Nebraska's best defense, but is confident in calling it the fastest. Fast defenses have the best chance to stop the wishbone.

The all-time fastest Husker, I-back Keith Jones of Omaha, rushed for a career-high 240 yards Saturday, showing speed and power. He used his blockers well, especially sophomore Morgan Gregory downfield on a 69-yard touchdown run.

The Huskers do so many of the little things well, such as the downfield blocking. With Holieway out and with the game to be played in Lincoln, the odds makers might rate the Nebraska-Oklahoma game a tossup.

Oklahoma won't take a holiday. But if NU does the little things well and adds a few big things, the undefeated Huskers could stay that way.

Crippled Sooners Win Game, Lose Holieway, Carr

From World-Herald Press Services

Norman, Okla. — On the same Saturday he surpassed Bud Wilkinson's record for victories at Oklahoma, Barry Switzer might have seen his chances for a fourth national championship crippled by injuries.

Oklahoma's defense scored two touchdowns in the last four minutes to secure a 29-10 victory over Oklahoma State at Memorial Stadium. The victory raised No. 1 Oklahoma's record to 9-0, 5-0 in the Big Eight Conference.

In the process, junior quarterback Jamelle Holieway, Oklahoma's Heisman Trophy candidate and leading rusher, damaged ligaments in his left knee on a 3-yard gain with 6:02 remaining. Senior

fullback Lydell Carr, the second-leading rusher in the Sooners' wishbone, went out with a sprained right knee on Oklahoma's first series.

"We're a beaten-up football team," said Switzer who, staring blankly and nervously wringing his clenched hands, did not look like the person who had just passed Wilkinson's record for victories with 146.

"We've lost two great football players today," Holieway and Carr will miss the Sooners' remaining two games, this Saturday against Missouri and the Nov. 21 showdown against No. 2-ranked Nebraska.

Arthroscopic surgery is scheduled Monday for Holieway, who gained 123 yards and scored once

before being injured. Carr's leg will be in a cast the rest of the season, Switzer said.

The question now is whether Oklahoma's offense has a leg to stand on. The Sooners' quarterback is now Charles Thompson, a gifted, red-shirt freshman who is considered Oklahoma's best passer, and has rushed for 514 yards with nine touchdowns.

Rotnei Anderson, Carr's backup, rushed for 191 yards on 30 carries in his first extended outing. He also fumbled three times.

In Oklahoma's eight previous victories, Anderson, a 6-1, 208-pound junior, carried 22 times for 138 yards. Seven teammates had more yardage going into the Oklahoma State game.

"He's not a Jamelle Holieway," said Switzer, referring to the 5-10, 174-pound Thompson. "He's a very talented player, though."

As for Anderson, Switzer said: "He played well today, except for a couple of fumbles."

The Oklahoma players accepted the loss of their talented teammates.

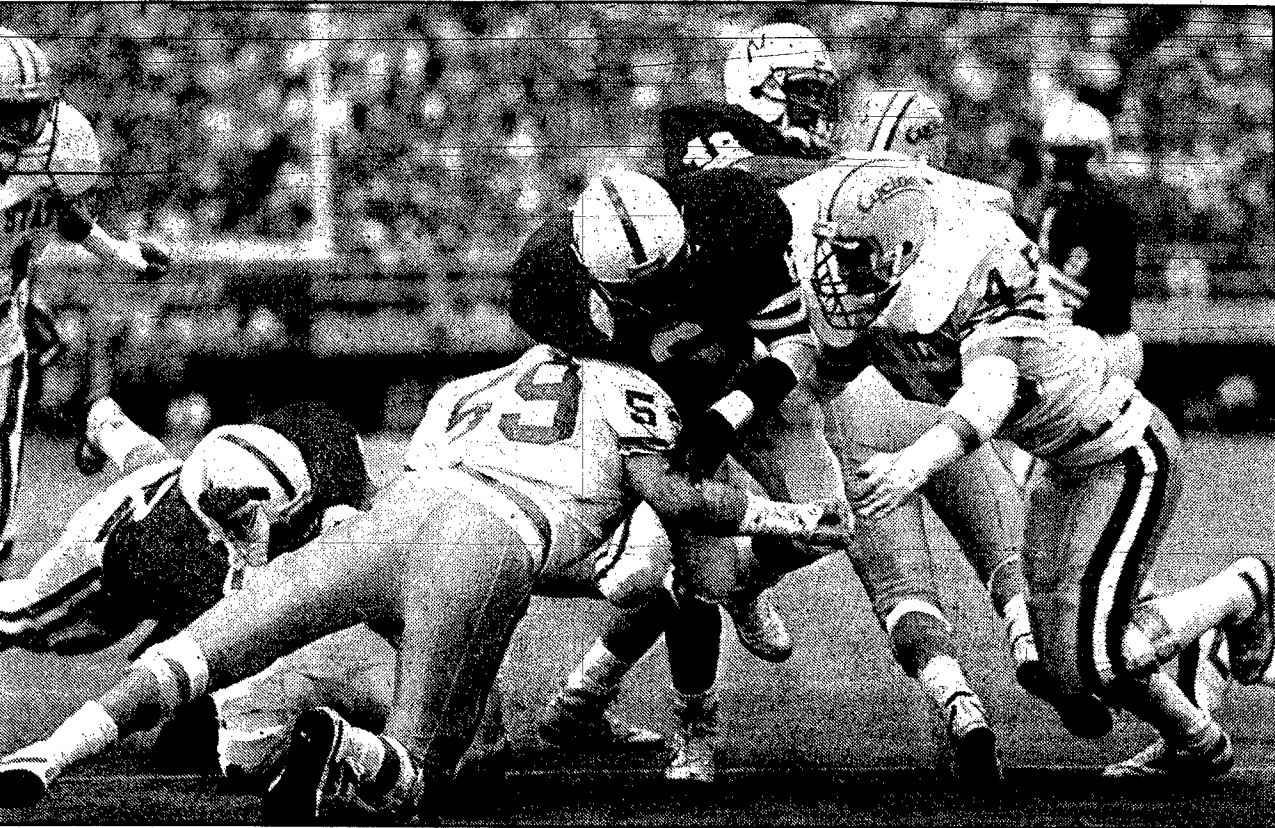
"I have confidence the other two will get the job done," defensive end Troy Johnson said.

"Oklahoma recruits great players," All-America tight end Keith Jackson said. "Even our second-team players will get drafted by the pros. Rotnei Anderson went out and had a great

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Omahan Gains Career-High 240 Yards

Jones' Runs Blow Cyclones Away



Phil Johnson/World-Herald

Nebraska I-back Keith Jones gains 3 yards up the middle before he is tackled by linebackers Randy Richards, No. 59, and Mike Shane, No. 45, in the first quarter. Fullback Micah Heibel scored from the 3 on the next play to give Nebraska a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, and Jones later scored on runs of 27 and 69 yards to highlight his 240-yard day.

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Lincoln — Second-ranked Nebraska's final step before meeting No. 1 Oklahoma was more of a sideways shuffle than a giant leap forward.

Yes, the Huskers gained 666 total yards Saturday and I-back Keith Jones rushed for a career-high 240 yards in a 42-3 victory over Iowa State. But four turnovers and three wasted scoring opportunities bothered NU Coach Tom Osborne.

"I was really not too pleased with some of the execution," he said. "At times, we played sloppy football. At times, we didn't play very intelligent football."

But at no time did Osborne say Saturday's show in front of 76,001 fans — the 154th straight sellout at Memorial Stadium — would affect Nebraska's readiness for the Sooners in two weeks.

"I think we'll play well," he said. "I think we can play with anybody in the country."

"We might win big. They might win big. I don't know what's going to happen."

"But I don't feel like it's a deal where we have to go out and play the best game we've ever played in our lives to win."

The Nebraska players readily admitted Oklahoma was on their minds.

"It was tough to get our heads into this game," said linebacker LeRoy Etienne, who sat out the first quarter for disciplinary reasons. "Everybody was thinking about Oklahoma."

The Huskers, 9-0 overall and 5-0 in the Big Eight, watched the scoreboard, too, keeping tabs on the 9-0 Sooners' 29-10 victory over Oklahoma State.

"Sure, we kept looking for the score," offensive tackle Keven

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Holtz Predicts
Irish Bowl Bid

South Bend, Ind. (AP) — Coach Lou Holtz predicted a bowl bid for No. 9 Notre Dame after the Irish abandoned their passing game and returned to the rush Saturday for a come-from-behind victory over Boston College.

"We're 7-1 and going to a bowl game," he said after Notre Dame's 32-25 win in the non-conference football game. "I don't know which one, but we're definitely going."

The Irish rushed for 253 yards and four touchdowns in the second half, overcoming Eagle quarterback Mike Power's 203-yard passing performance.

"I felt the running game gave us the best chance to win," Holtz said. "We

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How the Top 20s Fared

- AP/UPI
- 1/1 — Oklahoma (9-0) beat Oklahoma State 29-10
 - 2/2 — Nebraska (9-0) beat Iowa State 42-3
 - 3/3 — Miami, Fla. (7-0) beat Miami, Ohio 54-3
 - 4/4 — Florida State (8-1) beat Auburn 34-6
 - 5/5 — Louisiana State (7-1-1) lost to Alabama 22-10
 - 6/6 — Auburn (7-1-1) lost to Florida State 34-6
 - 7/7 — UCLA (8-1) beat Oregon State 52-17
 - 8/8 — Syracuse (9-0) beat Navy 34-10
 - 9/9 — Notre Dame (7-1) beat Boston College 32-25
 - 10/10 — Clemson (7-2) beat North Carolina 13-10
 - 11/11 — Georgia (7-2) beat Florida 23-10
 - 12/12 — Oklahoma State (6-2) lost to Oklahoma 29-10
 - 13/13 — Alabama (7-2) beat Louisiana State 22-10
 - 14/14 — South Carolina (6-2) did not play
 - 15/15 — Michigan State (6-2-1) beat Purdue 45-9
 - 16/16 — Penn State (8-2) beat Maryland 21-16
 - 17/17 — Florida (5-4) lost to Georgia 23-10
 - 18/18 — Indiana (7-2) beat Illinois 34-22
 - 19/19 — Tennessee (6-2-1) beat Louisville 41-10
 - 20/20 — Texas A&M (6-2) did not play
 - 21/21 — Arkansas (7-2) beat Baylor 10-7

- Next Opponent
- Missouri
 - Oklahoma (Nov. 21)
 - Virginia Tech
 - Furman
 - Mississippi State
 - Georgia
 - Washington
 - Boston College
 - Alabama
 - Maryland
 - Auburn
 - Kansas
 - Notre Dame
 - Wake Forest
 - Indiana
 - Pittsburgh
 - Kentucky
 - Michigan State
 - Mississippi
 - Arkansas
 - Texas A&M

Tide 'Goes Beyond Self'
In Upsetting No. 5 LSU

Baton Rouge, La. (AP) — Alabama Coach Bill Curry said his club is probably not as good as it looked Saturday night — except perhaps for running back Bobby Humphrey.

But Humphrey, who ran for 161 yards and a game-clinching touchdown in the fourth quarter, and a spirited offensive and defensive effort helped carry the 13th-ranked Crimson Tide to a 22-10 victory over fifth-ranked Louisiana State in a Southeastern Conference game.

"There was magic on the sidelines tonight," Curry said. "The offense was pulling for the defense, and the defense was pulling for the offense. It's the kind of stuff that causes you to go beyond yourself."

"We may have played a little better than we are tonight — we probably did, with the exception of Bobby Humphrey. I think he's pretty good."

Humphrey said the only magic he saw was the big people up front.

"The offensive line played a great game. They really opened up the holes," he said.

Alabama outgained LSU, the most productive offensive unit in the SEC, 272 yards to 155 on the ground and 354, 313 overall. The Crimson Tide's defense forced five turnovers, while the offense only gave the ball up once.

LSU Coach Mike Archer, who saw his

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Inside Sports

Nebraska Pheasant Hunters
Top Success of Last Season

Nebraska pheasant hunters open the season with better success than they had last year.

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RETURN TRIP: Omaha Westside will make its 11th appearance and Bellevue West its first in the Nebraska high school volleyball tournament.

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NIAC TITLE: Doane College upsets Dana to give Midland the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship.

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PLAYOFFS: Nebraska high school capsules.

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LANCERS WIN: The Omaha Lancers win their second hockey game of the season.

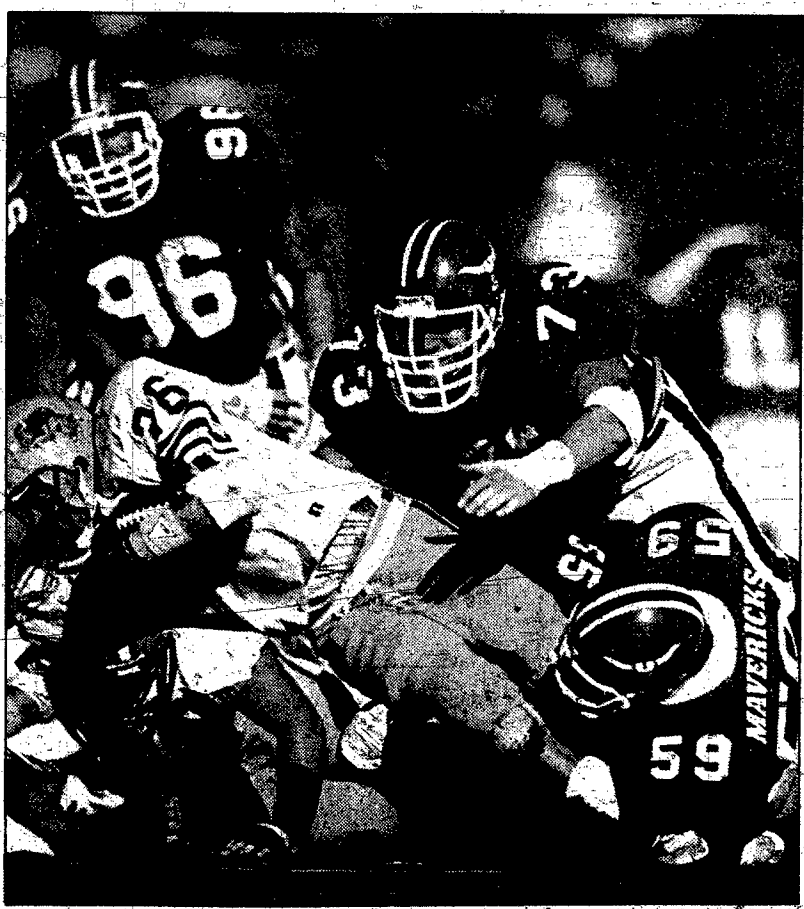
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Mel Evans/World-Herald

UNO's Todd Culp, No. 59, and Ken Maxwell, No. 73, tackle North Dakota State's Tony Satter. Culp made a team-high 14 tackles, and Maxwell recovered a fumble at the UNO 4.

UNO Victory
Is Bottom Line
In Bison Upset

By Doug Thomas

World-Herald Staff Writer

These things didn't matter to the UNO Mavericks after their 27-21 victory Saturday over North Dakota State:

- A 27-10 disadvantage in first downs.
- A 431-236 disadvantage in total yards.
- North Dakota State's 5-4 record.

And these things did matter:

- A guaranteed winning season.
- A victory in the final home game for 17 University of Nebraska at Omaha seniors.
- The team's first triumph since 1983 over the Bison, NCAA Division II champions three of the past four years.

"The seniors played their last home game on a winning note," said strong safety Shawn Sich, a senior from Ord, Neb. "And we beat a very, very good team. So it's a lot of confidence for our program. And it's a good feeling all the way around."

"It's the sweetest win since I've been here," said tackle Tim Messman, a fifth-year senior from Crete, Neb. "Seeing as how we aren't going to the playoffs, just beating the Bison made it all worthwhile."

The Mavs, 6-4 heading into their season finale this week at Morrisville, needed some luck to win Saturday's game, played before an estimated 3,300 at Al Caniglia Field. Penalties wiped out two NDSU touchdowns, including one in the closing minutes. And UNO turned three Bison errors into big plays

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