

POSTGAME



“We’re not going to get that call here. We’re not going to get that call ever, against any team. It doesn’t matter who the referees are, we’ll never get that call.”

— Penn State quarterback Matt McGloin on the controversial fumble

Goal is still within reach



ALYSSA SCHUKAR/THE WORLD-HERALD

Penn State's Matt Lehman stretches to get the ball across the goal line in the fourth quarter with his team down 27-23. NU's David Santos punched the ball loose. Daimion Stafford recovered. Officials ruled it a fumble.

Contested call goes NU's way in another comeback victory

By SAM MCKEOWN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Another day, another deficit, another comeback, another win. Nebraska football could market its sweet-and-sour sauce of first-half malfunctions and second-half heroics and sell it on store shelves. But NU's 32-23 win Saturday over Penn State came with its own unique spices. Three forced turnovers. Third-down efficiency. Two touchdowns into a fierce southern wind. A timely fourth-quarter punt. And even the suggestion of conspir-

acy on a “bang-bang” play that could change the complexion of this still-developing rivalry. The bottom line: The Huskers stayed tied with Michigan for the Legends Division lead, which is to say they're still in the driver's seat, since Nebraska owns the tiebreaker over the Wolverines. The march to a Big Ten title game survives another harrowing chapter. Nebraska now leads the nation with double-digit comebacks, as the Penn State win joins victories over Wisconsin (17-point deficit), Northwestern (See Huskers: Page 8

MORE GAME DAY COVERAGE INSIDE

» Nebraska's offense pounds away at Penn State's defense until it finally broke in the fourth quarter, writes Dirk Chatelain. **Page 6CF**

» The Nebraska defense struggles with Penn State's fast-paced offense in the first half, but adjusts at halftime. **Page 7CF**

MORE HUSKER COVERAGE ONLINE

Watch postgame press conference video with coach Bo Pelini and select players. Also, see a postgame analysis breaking down the contest and photo showcases from the game. **Omaha.com/bigred**

Huskers' McCloskey moment? Maybe NU's due for some luck

LINCOLN — Call it good. The fumble. The karma. The back-breaking, game-deciding, debate-starting break. Nebraska and Penn State are all even now, right? Beaver Stadium had the Crooked Sideline. Memorial Stadium has the Crooked End Zone. Put it on a T-shirt, Nittany fans. We'll hang it in a frame next to the Crooked Sideline shirts from 1982. The football gods work in strange ways. They also work in slow ways. Thirty years ago this season, Penn State tight end Mike Mc-



Tom Shatel

Closkey caught a third-down pass two yards out of bounds that kept alive the winning touchdown drive in No. 8 Penn State's victory over No. 2 Nebraska in State College, Pa. Thirty years later, as Penn State was preparing to drive

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TEXAS A&M 29, ALABAMA 24

Aggies shake up national championship picture

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Johnny Football and the SEC newbies from Texas A&M took down the biggest bully in their new neighborhood and left No. 1 Alabama with badly bruised national championship hopes. Johnny Manziel, better known around Texas as Johnny Football, staked the 15th-ranked Aggies to a three-touchdown lead in the first quarter, and Texas A&M held on to beat the Crimson Tide 29-24 on Saturday. The Aggies (8-2, 5-2), playing in the Southeastern Conference

for the first season after ditching the Big 12, also might have ended the league's run of BCS titles at six years. The defending national champion Crimson Tide (9-1, 6-1), who have been No. 1 almost all season and had won 13 straight, didn't go quietly. AJ McCarron nearly pulled off a second straight scintillating comeback. He threw one touchdown pass and motored the ball downfield before Deshaun

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas A&M wide receiver Ryan Swope reacts after making a critical first-down catch in the fourth quarter against top-ranked Alabama Saturday. The Aggies stunned the Crimson Tide 29-24.

TEXAS TOPS IOWA STATE

Former coach Darrell Royal is honored at the start of the game and QB David Ash throws for 364 yards in the 26-point win. **Page 3CF**

HANGING ON IN OT

The Wolverines keep the pressure on the Huskers in the race for the Legends Division with an overtime win against Northwestern. **Page 4CF**

HAWKEYES DOWNED

A last-second 46-yard field goal against Iowa helps Purdue snap its five-game losing streak. **Page 5CF**



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PENN STATE