



MATT DIXON/THE WORLD-HERALD

ONE AND ... OHHH

Lee and Bryant among stars on offense, but the defense has hiccups in a wild contest that's too close for comfort

By SAM MCKEOWN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Cut, cut, cut, cut, cut, cut. As Arkansas State's spread, no-huddle, hurry-up offense bled Nebraska's new defense with a series of short, precise passes, Husker fans grew anxious, especially after the Red Wolves recovered an onside kick and threatened to tie the Huskers in a final minute of a four-hour marathon shootout Saturday night.

After NU survived 43-36 over ASU, Husker players said they were calm. Assured.

"I was very confident," receiver Stanley Morgan said. "I was chillin'. It wasn't really a big factor to me. I

knew we would hold them up."

Cornerback Eric Lee, one of the starters in new coordinator Bob Diaco's bend-almost-break scheme, believed Nebraska would rise to the moment.

"Coach Diaco has said it before: There's nothing better than having your defense on the field to win the game," Lee said. "So we definitely kind of embraced it. So when we saw the onside kick get recovered, it was like, all right, this is what we've been waiting for, to bow up and show the nation that, when times get tough, the Blackshirts can get the job done."

In those final plays, Nebraska did

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NEBRASKA 43
ARKANSAS STATE 36

Nebraska's receivers showed they are ready to have a big season, Dirk Chatelain writes. **8CF**

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UP NEXT

at Oregon, 3:30 p.m. Saturday
Fox; 590 AM, 92.3 FM

Nebraska's Tre Bryant is brought down by B.J. Edmonds. Bryant racked up 192 yards on 31 carries as the starter.

On a nervous first night, Tre is NU's No. 1 weapon



Tom Shatel

COLUMNIST

LINCOLN — It was a tough night for magic wands.

The good news is Nebraska won its opener, 43-36, over Arkansas State. But it was a good showing in many other ways on a wild and crazy

night at Memorial Stadium.

For instance, the Huskers got a lot of work on pass defense. They got to work on their onside kick unit. They found out what it was like to be pushed to the last play

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