



Can't Point  
To Just One

Boulder, Colo.

Nebraska points too much to its game with Oklahoma. Colorado points too much to its game with Nebraska. If the "pointing" team wins, which rarely happens, it's great, such as Colorado's victory over NU last year or the infrequent occasions when Nebraska beats Oklahoma.

Usually, all the pointing just ends up disappointing.

The Huskers, rebounding from their loss to Oklahoma, played well Saturday in defeating Colorado 24-7. Coach Tom Osborne, with justification, called it a testimony to their character.

Is it coincidence that the team that gets emotionally wrapped up doesn't play to its potential? And seems surprised at the loss?

"I really felt like we could beat this team," CU Coach Bill McCartney said. "I'm frustrated."

The Nebraska game is a red-letter day for the Buffs, because McCartney five years ago made the Huskers the Designated Rival. On the locker room wall, each opponent is listed in black, and then, in red letters: "NEBRASKA."

'Not Possible'

As you would expect, McCartney didn't buy the premise that he has overmagnified the importance of the Nebraska game. "Nah. Not possible."

As a little adrenalin-boost, he surprised his players when they returned to the locker room from pregame warmups. At each locker, for the first time in CU football history, were black pants. So, rather than wearing black shirts and gold pants, they came out for the kickoff in all-black.

Colorado was dressed, so to speak, for its own funeral.

The Cornhuskers gave CU some chances, with turnovers near midfield on the first two NU drives. Colorado died the first time on a personal foul, and the second time on a low field-goal attempt that was blocked.

"If we get in the lead," McCartney said, "who knows?"

Mistakes often are a combination of your own doing and your opponent's doing, and in this game they proved to be the Buffs' undoing.

The Buffaloes failed to stop Nebraska when they had Keith Jones thrown for a loss on fourth and two, allowing him to turn it into a 13-yard gain that set up the Huskers' first touchdown. Then CU fumbled at NU's 29. Then CU linebacker Eric McCarty dropped a sure interception near midfield and NU kicked a field goal.

Nebraska didn't commit another turnover after the two at the start of the game. CU threw an interception near the end of the first half, putting its defense back on the field and wearing it down. NU's time-of-possession advantage at the half was 2-to-1.

Big Plays

The second-half mistakes were more subtle, not the kind that show up in the statistics. All teams make them. Teams that get too pumped up for certain games seem to make more of them.

Just as Nebraska had players out of position a few times against Oklahoma, leading to big plays, Colorado got out of position and End Zone Jones cut upfield for touchdown runs of 50 and 44 yards.

The Buffs, who shut Nebraska down last year, "stunted" more this year, middle guard Kyle Rappold said. They noticed that those kinds of plays — defensive linemen looping around each other, for example — worked for Oklahoma.

"We tried to catch them in plays we thought they were going to run," Rappold said. "We'd get one or two people out of position. On Jones' last touchdown run, I came upfield too much and he went right around me and a few other guys."

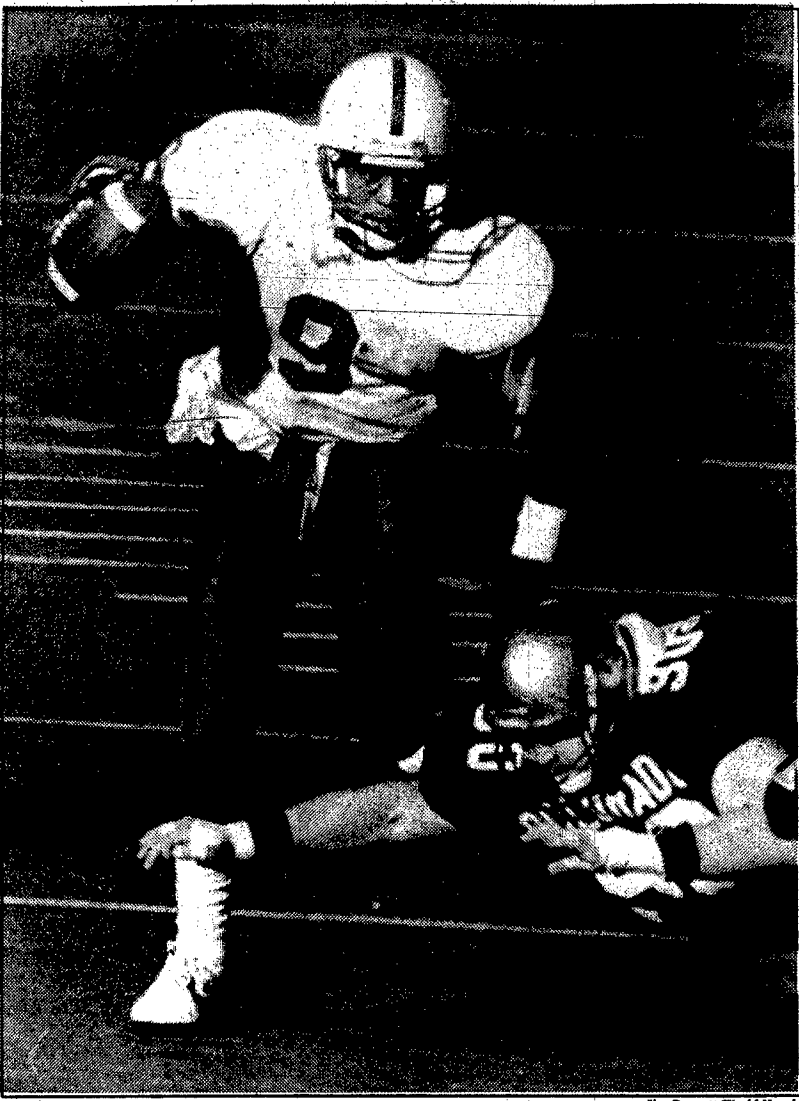
Nebraska's defense played well, and so did the offensive line and E.Z. Jones. The Huskers, criticized for never passing to their backs, passed to backs — but nothing worked in the passing game. Against a team that was giving up 181 yards a game passing, NU managed 3, and quarterback Steve Taylor often had to scramble because no one was open.

"We knew when they were going to pass," said CU defensive back Mickey Pruitt.

CU's biggest mistake became the biggest play of the game — a big hit by NU junior Tim Jackson. With the Buffaloes trailing 17-7 early in the fourth quarter, with third and one at the NU 31, McCartney decided against the fullback-up-the-middle plays that were working, and NU strung out an option play for a 2-yard loss.

The Buffs missed a field-goal attempt that would have made it an interesting 17-10. Three plays later Jones was in the zone.

Bufs Can't Keep Up With Jones;  
NU Off to Fiesta in Festive Mood



Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor, No. 9, tries to hop past Colorado's Lee Brunelli on a 5-yard, first-quarter gain to the CU 25-yard line. Taylor scored six plays later on a 5-yard run.

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Boulder, Colo. — If Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne were a betting man, he wouldn't have touched Saturday's game with Colorado.

"Everything was right for them to beat us," he said. "I felt it was 50-50, at best, that we would win. And I could see us coming in here and getting blown out if we weren't right."

But the Huskers were right. And that made most everything 14½-point underdog Colorado did — the pep rallies, the first-ever use of all-black uniforms, the bowl game-type atmosphere — all wrong.

Nebraska, embarrassed Nov. 21 in a loss to Oklahoma, responded with one of its best efforts of the season to pound the Buffaloes 24-7 and vault into the Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl against 10-1 Florida State with some momentum. About 7,000 to 8,000 Nebraska fans were among the sellout crowd of 52,026 at Folsom Field, where about 600 student seats were empty at kickoff.

No one from Nebraska was more right than I-back Keith Jones.

"This was my last regular-season game," said the senior from Omaha Central, "and I wanted

to go out with a pretty good game."

Pretty good? How about great?

Jones carried 26 times for a career-high 248 yards, including touchdowns of 50 and 44 yards.

His performance: ■ Was the fifth-best single-game effort in NU history, just 37 yards shy of Mike Rozier's record of 285.

■ Made him the ninth back in NU history to top the 1,000-yard mark in a season at 1,232.

■ Moved him to third in career rushing with 2,488 yards. He leapfrogged Jeff Kinney, Roger Craig and Rick Berns Saturday to trail Rozier at 4,780 and L.M. Hipp at 2,814.

Of all the runs Jones made Saturday, one might stick out as the epitome of Nebraska's effort to restore its pride after the loss to Oklahoma.

On the first play of the second quarter, with the score tied 0-0, the Huskers faced fourth and two at the Colorado 22. Osborne, forgoing a field-goal try, called for Jones to blast up the middle.

At the same time he did, a blitzing Colorado linebacker hit him head on.

"He stuffed the fullback into the backfield,"

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NU's Neil Smith Blankets Bufs  
To 'Prove Something to People'

By Steve Sinclair

World-Herald Staff Writer

Boulder, Colo. — Nebraska defensive tackle Neil Smith said he wanted his performance against Colorado to be something special.

"I've been playing good all year," he said. "But this is my last game, and I had to go out and prove something to people — that I am a great player. I can play."

The 6-foot-5, 260-pound senior from New Orleans played one of the best games of his collegiate career in NU's victory over Colorado.

He blocked a field-goal attempt, recovered a fumble, made two tackles for losses — including a quarterback sack for a loss of 12 yards — and led the Huskers with 12 tackles, a career high. He made nine unassisted tackles, also a career high.

"I had a sack, a fumble, a field goal," he said. "It was impressive."

Smith caused problems for CU's wishbone offense despite an Achilles' tendon injury that still bothers him.

"Smith played the whole game hurt," NU de-

fensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. "He played well. He made some big plays."

Smith injured an Achilles' tendon in a practice before NU's 42-3 win over Iowa State. He lasted only a few plays against the Cyclones.

McBride said Smith's injury hampered the Huskers in last week's loss to Oklahoma.

"Neil was hurt even a little more last week," he said. "That really hurt. This week, he kept it loose at halftime and he laid off if a lot this week. He practiced, but he didn't run full speed. He didn't push it."

Smith said the injury still bothers him. He left the field with about seven minutes left in the game for treatment.

"I have soreness," he said. "But once I get the blood pumping through it, you forget it."

Smith said the Huskers didn't want to end the regular season with two straight losses.

"We had to come back and win to show people we're still here," he said. "It's a very big win. We got over the loss of last week. We're back

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Poor Shooting  
Hurts Bluejays

Special to The World-Herald

Berkeley, Calif. — Forward Matt Beeuwsaert scored 15 points and center Hartmut Ortmann added 14 Saturday as

Baylor edges Nebraska 82-79 in the Maui Classic. Page 17.

California spoiled Creighton's basketball season opener, defeating the Bluejays 70-49.

Senior guard Rod Mason, the 1986-87 Missouri Valley Conference Newcomer of the Year after transferring from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, led the Bluejays with 17 points.

Freshman center Chad Gallagher

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How the Top 20s Fared

AP/UPI	Next Opponent, Bowl (Date)
1/ 1—Oklahoma (11-0) did not play	Miami, Orange (Jan. 1)
2/ 2—Miami, Fla. (10-0) defeated Notre Dame 24-0	South Carolina (Saturday)
3/ 3—Florida State (10-1) defeated Florida 28-14	Nebraska, Fiesta (Jan. 1)
4/ 4—Syracuse (11-0) did not play	Auburn, Sugar (Jan. 1)
5/ 5—Nebraska (10-1) defeated Colorado, 24-7	Florida State, Fiesta (Jan. 1)
6/ 6—Louisiana State (9-1-1) did not play	South Carolina, Gator (Dec. 31)
7/ 7—Auburn (9-1-1) defeated Alabama 10-0 Friday	Syracuse, Sugar (Jan. 1)
8/ 8—South Carolina (8-2) did not play	Miami (Saturday)
9/ 9—Michigan State (8-2-1) did not play	USC, Rose (Jan. 1)
10/11—Notre Dame (8-3) lost to Miami 24-0	Texas A&M, Cotton (Jan. 25)
11/12—UCLA (9-2) did not play	Florida, Aloha (Dec. 25)
12/12—Oklahoma State (9-2) did not play	W. Virginia, Sun (Dec. 25)
13/13—Clemson (9-2) did not play	Penn State, Citrus (Jan. 1)
14/17—Georgia (8-3) defeated Georgia Tech 30-16	Arkansas, Liberty (Dec. 29)
15/15—Texas A&M (9-2) def. Texas 20-13 Thursday	Notre Dame, Cotton (Jan. 1)
16/16—Tennessee (9-2-1) defeated Vanderbilt 38-36	Indiana, Peach (Jan. 2)
17/14—Southern Cal (8-3) did not play	Michigan State, Rose (Jan. 1)
18/ —Alabama (7-4) lost to Auburn 10-0 Friday	Michigan, Hall of Fame (Jan. 2)
19/ —Iowa (8-3) did not play	Wyoming, Holiday (Dec. 30)
20/19—Pittsburgh (8-3) did not play	Texas, Bluebonnet (Dec. 31)
21/18—Penn State (8-3) did not play	Clemson, Citrus (Jan. 2)
22/ —Indiana (8-3) did not play	Tennessee, Peach (Jan. 2)

Seven Prep Players Make  
All-Metro Football Team

By Stu Pospisil

World-Herald Staff Writer

Shane McClanahan and Dave Jensen, examples of Omaha Creighton Prep's durability, head The World-Herald's 24th annual All-Metro Conference Football Team.

They are the honorary captains of the 24-player All-Metro first team after leading the Junior Jays to an unprecedented third consecutive Class A state football title.

McClanahan, a 5-foot-10, 175-pound running back, rushed for 1,715 yards in 12 games — the third-best one-season total in conference history.

"His year was just outstanding," Prep Coach Tom Jaworski said, "especially when considering that people knew he was going to get the ball about 75 percent of the time."

Jensen, a 6-5, 266-pound defensive tackle, was an anchor of Prep's defense

that allowed an average of 78 rushing yards a game.

"Teams didn't try to run against us a lot because of the play of Dave and the others in our front seven," Jaworski said. "They didn't give it a real shot."

Prep placed seven players on the first team, the most from any school in the 18-team Metro. Papillion had four players selected, Millard South and Omaha Westside three.

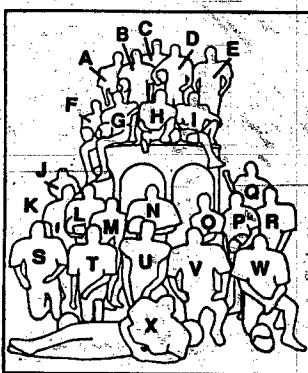
Ten of the 18 schools are represented on the first team, with all but Ralston placing players on either the first or second teams.

Among those on the second team are two Millard North players — quarterback Jim Everton and defensive lineman Creighton Fleming — who received All-Metro first-team status last year as juniors.

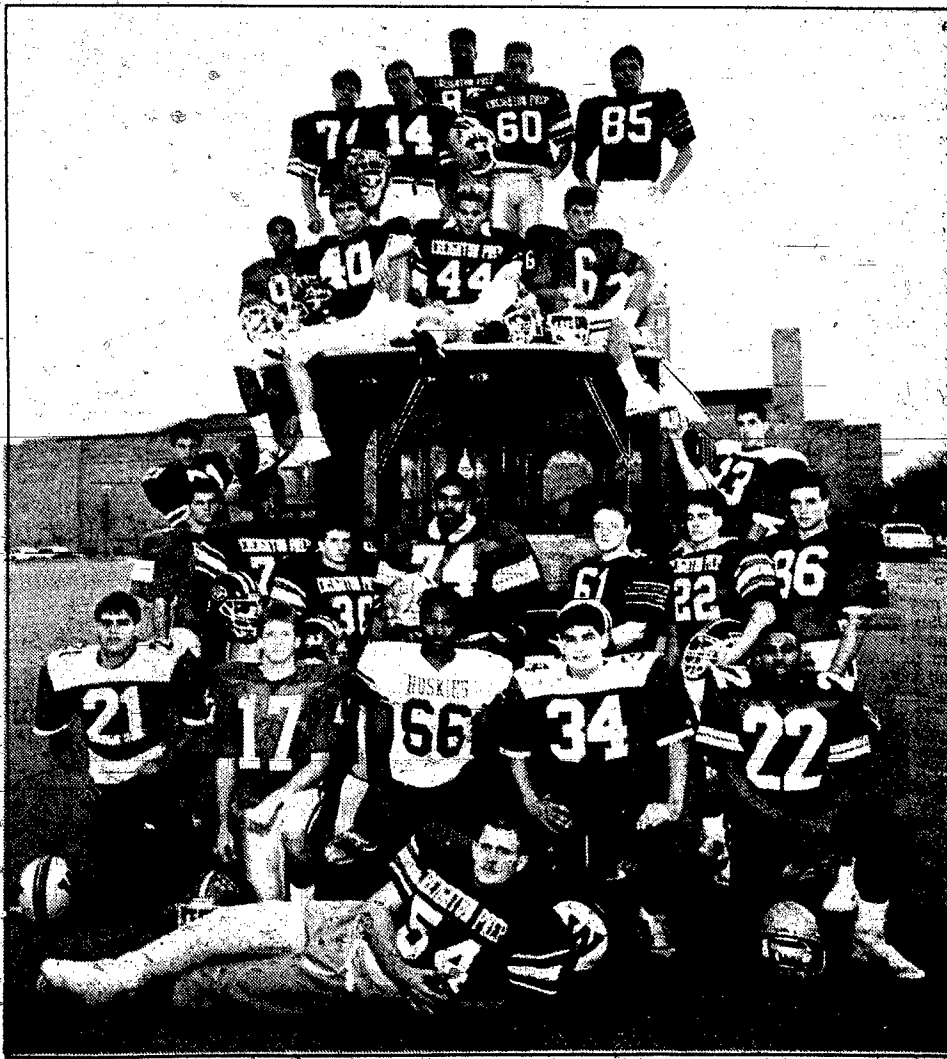
The World-Herald selects its All-

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- A—Matt Franck, Papillion
- B—Bill Jackson, Papillion
- C—Dave Jensen, Omaha
- D—Steve Kurtz, Omaha
- E—Larry Sibley, Omaha Burke
- F—Chris Spencer, Millard South
- G—Mike Danley, Papillion
- H—Joe Kramer, Omaha
- I—Scott Bream, Millard South
- J—Chad Denton, Papillion
- K—Scott Armbrust, Omaha
- L—Junior Bryant, Omaha
- M—Shane McClanahan, Omaha
- N—Jody Sharpe, Omaha Central
- O—Mike Akromis, Omaha Burke
- P—Brian Mueller, Omaha
- Q—Ty Stewart, Omaha Westside
- R—Jeff Jennings, Omaha
- S—D.J. Rezac, Omaha Westside
- T—Andy Bruckner, Millard South
- U—Dorell Drake, Omaha



- Northwest
- V—Dave Shimokawa, Omaha Westside
- W—Richard Wynne, Omaha
- X—Ken Kanger, Omaha
- Y—Ken Kanger, Omaha



The World-Herald All-Metro Conference Football Team takes a ride on Ollie the Trolley, a decorated bus that serves the downtown area. The key and roster, at left, identify the players.

