



Husker Magic Really Nothing

Lincoln

And so ended the 99th home season of Nebraska football, in the year of '88, the 66th at Memorial Stadium. It was Game 11, the 11th month of the year.

You like numerology? The Husker defensive players did a number Saturday on the Colorado offense, and at the end looked up at the scoreboard and admired their favorite numeral.

It was nothing. In a most unusual game, seventh-ranked Nebraska shut out 19th-ranked Colorado 7-0. It's 1-0, really. One touchdown to none.

The NU defense seemingly has come together. Broderick Thomas & Co. have played well against Missouri, Iowa State and now Colorado, and it's time to go stormin' into Norman.

Oklahoma, that is, Next Saturday. All the usual stuff on the line — Big Eight championship, Orange Bowl, maybe a shot at a national championship. Time for Nebraska to face one of America's best teams and certainly the luckiest, the guys on whom fortune almost always smiles, the ever-lovin' Sooners.

It's called Sooner Magic. Something always happens in close games and OU will win. But guess what, NU won a close game in part because of... well, maybe it was Husker Magic.

Lucky Breaks

Yes, the Huskers got incredibly lucky a couple of times. Perhaps the Sooners are rubbing off on them.

Colorado had moved the ball 35 yards to the Husker 43-yard line in the second quarter, and J.J. Flannigan burst into the open past a Nebraska blitz. All that sat in front of him were the fans beyond the north end zone.

Then, as if someone had stung him in the hand with a slingshot, he dropped the ball at the 22. He recovered, but the shocked Buffaloes stalled.

Coach Bill McCartney of Colorado said Flannigan told him he lost the handle while switching the ball from one hand to the other.

"I don't know why he did that," the coach said. "Obviously, he was nervous that wide open you can't lose the ball."

Flannigan said he relaxed at the wrong time. Colorado almost never relaxes against Nebraska, CU's Designated Arch-Rival. At the half, the Buffs had given up only 90 yards to the Huskers and had gained 131.

'WAR in Lincoln'

Some of the CU players wore T-shirts under their jerseys that said, "WAR in Lincoln, 11-12-88, Black vs. Red." The Nebraska game is a red-letter day, literally, on the Colorado schedule. Besides all that, the Buffs used NU All-America linebacker Broderick Thomas to fire them up.

After CU beat Nebraska two years ago, Thomas raised his right hand and swore that the Huskers wouldn't lose to the Buffaloes again while Broderick played at NU. Saturday, taped on many of the dressing stalls in the visitors' locker room, was a reprint of a newspaper photograph of Thomas, with words added: "This is WAR."

The photo, from the CU student newspaper, the Colorado Daily, showed former CU quarterback Mark Hatcher being carried off the field in the background, his face circled for emphasis, was Broderick Thomas — smiling, or so it seemed.

"The Nebraska Cornhuskers have almost always had the last laugh against the Buffs," the newspaper caption read, "as they did last year when the Cornhuskers' Broderick Thomas grinned at the sight of CU quarterback Mark Hatcher being carried off the field with a broken leg in the fourth quarter during the Buffs' loss."

Pure Broderick

Come on, Broderick doesn't grin at the sight of a broken leg. Who does? He may have been grimacing, not smiling. Someone may have said something away from the injury that made him momentarily smile. No matter. To Colorado, this was war.

"A player of his status shouldn't laugh at a player who's injured," said CU quarterback Sal Aunese. "That's not really nice."

With 10 minutes left, Thomas got into it verbally with McCartney. "He was just running his mouth," McCartney said. "He thought it was necessary to tell me what to do. I wish he wouldn't do that, because he's a great player. I just told him to shut up."

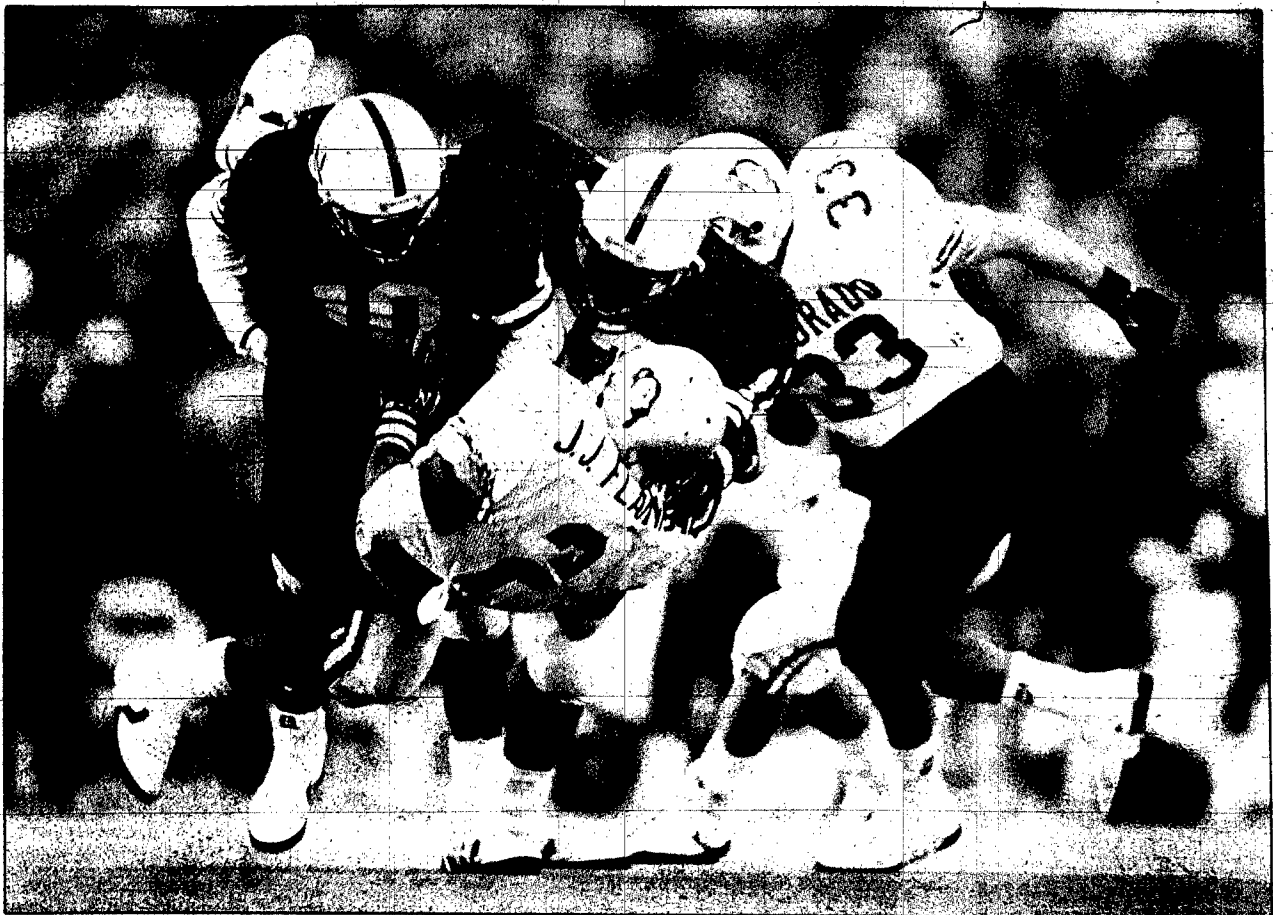
Thomas said he told McCartney to stay on the sidelines and not come on to the field, and told the officials that "if he wanted to play football, he should put on shoulder pads and a helmet and play."

That's pure Broderick. He wouldn't laugh at an injured player, but he'd sure make a crack like that. The exchange, by the way, took place in front of side judge Michael Borgard, who penalized an Oklahoma State player last week for cussing an OU player, a crucial, lucky call in the Sooners' narrow win.

The Huskers got lucky in the fourth quarter when CU fumbled the snap on fourth down at the NU 27. They were lucky, in a sense, that CU's Eric Bienemy, the nation's fifth-leading rusher, missed most of the game with a hamstring pull.

But they were more good than lucky, and will need to play their best this week. Nebraska is overdue to get Oklahoma's number.

NU's Defense Rebuffs Colorado, Sets Up Another OU Showdown



Chris Young/World-Herald

Most of the Nebraska defenders, including cornerback Charles Fryar and linebacker LeRoy Etienne, found Saturday's 7-0 victory over Colorado to be an uplifting experience... Fryar picks up Colorado halfback J.J. Flannigan, No. 2, as Etienne prepares to help hold Flannigan to a 1-yard gain with 4:30 left in the game. NU took over on downs five plays later and ran out the clock.

Sluggish Win Doesn't Stunt OU Confidence

By Steve Sinclair

World-Herald Staff Writer

Columbia, Mo. — Memo to Nebraska:

Oklahoma struggled Saturday in a 16-7 win over Missouri, but the Sooners didn't lose their confidence.

"We're good enough to beat Nebraska," OU linebacker Kert Kasper said after the Sooners claimed their 31st consecutive Big Eight Conference victory before a crowd of 40,704 at Faurot Field.

The eighth-ranked Sooners play the seventh-ranked Cornhuskers in a 2:30 p.m. game Saturday at Norman, Okla., for the Big Eight Conference championship.

"It will be a good game," Kasper said, "and we'll win."

The Sooners, 9-1 overall and 6-0 in the Big Eight, will be trying for their fifth straight win over the Huskers.

"I think maybe they think they can't beat us," Kasper said, "just like OSU when they play us."

The Sooners continued their domination of Oklahoma State with a 31-27 victory eight days ago.

OU escaped against the Cowboys and didn't play up to par against Missouri, but OU offensive guard Anthony Phillips said the Sooners are improving.

"Even though we only scored 16 points today," he said. "I think we're at the top of our game right now."

OU Coach Barry Switzer didn't

Please turn to Page 12, Col. 4

How the Top 20s Fared

Rank	Team	Result	Next Opponent
1/	1 Notre Dame (9-0)	did not play	Penn State
2/	2 Southern Cal (9-0)	beat Arizona State 50-0	UCLA
3/	3 Miami, Fla. (7-1)	did not play	LSU
4/	4 West Virginia (10-0)	beat Rutgers 35-25	Syracuse
5/	5 Florida State (9-1)	beat Virginia Tech 41-14	Florida Nov. 26
6/	6 UCLA (8-1)	beat Stanford 27-17	USC
7/	7 Nebraska (10-1)	beat Colorado 7-0	Oklahoma
8/	8 Oklahoma (9-1)	beat Missouri 16-7	Nebraska
9/	9 Auburn (9-1)	beat Georgia 20-10	Alabama Nov. 25
10/	10 Wyoming (10-1)	lost to Houston 34-10	Hawaii
11/	11 Arkansas (10-0)	beat Texas A&M 25-20	Miami, Fla., Nov. 26
12/	12 Louisiana State (7-2)	beat Mississippi State 20-3	Miami, Fla.
13/	13 Michigan (7-2-1)	beat Illinois 38-9	Ohio State
14/	14 Oklahoma State (7-2)	beat Kansas 63-24	Iowa State
15/	15 Syracuse (8-1)	beat Boston College 45-20	West Virginia
16/	16 Clemson (8-2)	beat Maryland 49-25	South Carolina
17/	17 Georgia (7-3)	lost to Auburn 20-10	Georgia Tech Nov. 26
18/	18 Alabama (7-2)	beat SW Louisiana 17-0	Auburn Nov. 25
19/	19 Colorado (7-3)	lost to Nebraska 7-0	Kansas State
20/	Washington State (7-3)	Oregon State 36-27	Washington
	21 Brigham Young (8-1)	beat Air Force 49-31	Utah

Houston's Sack Attack Bags 34-10 Upset of No. 10 Cowboys

Houston (AP) — Houston's defense sacked Wyoming quarterbacks 16 times Saturday night and dropped the 10th-ranked Cowboys from the unbeaten ranks with a 34-10 victory.

Roman Anderson kicked four field goals, and sophomore quarterback Andre Ware completed two touchdown passes for the Cougars. But the Houston defense took the spotlight against the Western Athletic Conference champions.

"Even though we only scored 16 points today," he said. "I think we're at the top of our game right now."

OU Coach Barry Switzer didn't

Please turn to Page 12, Col. 4

"A lot of people realize now we can play defense, it's not just run-and-shoot," said linebacker Reggie Burnette, who had three sacks, an interception and a fumble recovery.

Tackle Glenn Montgomery led the sack attack with six drops, while Burnette, Keith Jenkins and Alfred Oglesby each had three sacks.

"We really didn't have any trouble with their offensive line," Montgomery said. "We were just trying to flush and contain him. I really didn't expect that much success."

"We watched films and noticed that

Please turn to Page 7, Col. 1

Michigan Gains Rose Trip Mountaineers Step Closer To Fiesta Date With Irish

The Associated Press

The Michigan Wolverines will play in the Rose Bowl and the West Virginia Mountaineers are heading for a showdown with No. 1 Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl.

Clemson, meanwhile, wrapped up its third consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference title by defeating Maryland. The Tigers appear headed to the Florida Citrus Bowl, where they probably will play the loser of next week's Nebraska-Oklahoma game. The OU-NU winner will go to the Orange Bowl and possibly play Miami.

Although bowl invitations don't officially go out until this Saturday, several schools already know where they will be headed for the holidays.

Michigan clinched its fourth Rose Bowl berth of the 1980s as Leroy Hoard rushed for 137 yards and two touchdowns Saturday to lead the 13th-ranked Wolverines to a 38-9 victory over Illinois.

The Wolverines wrapped up the Big Ten Conference title before a Michigan Stadium crowd of 105,714. The Wolverines, who conclude the regular season next week at Ohio State, clinched the title with a 6-0-1 mark and improved to 7-2-1 overall. They will play the Pac-10 champion — UCLA or Southern California — on Jan. 2.

"We won't look ahead to the Rose Bowl, the players are going to look at one game — Ohio State. We're playing

Please turn to Page 2, Col. 5

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Lincoln — Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne didn't know whether to laugh or cry after Saturday's 7-0 victory over Colorado.

What tickled him was the Huskers' first shutout of the season, especially against a team averaging 27.7 points and 398.7 yards a game.

But a sometimes sad show by his offense — averaging a national-best 46 points a game, but limited to 296 yards and one touchdown — has Osborne on guard in looking at next Saturday's Big Eight championship game at Oklahoma.

"This is a funny team," he said. "We think we've got a good offense. Our stats are very good. But we've had two games where we've been shut down pretty good. It's hard to figure."

"We played well overall. But I'm hoping we've got a better game in us next week."

Colorado defensive tackle Cole Hayes said the Huskers will need a better game to beat Oklahoma — much better.

"I wasn't as impressed with Nebraska's offensive line as Oklahoma's," Hayes said. "I think Oklahoma has the ability to run it up on them."

Nobody ran up anything Saturday in front of 76,359 fans at Memorial Stadium.

The only touchdown came with 4:35 left in the third quarter when Nebraska chugged 59 yards in nine plays.

I-back Ken Clark, who gained 165 yards in 28 carries and moved into fourth on NU's single-season rushing chart with 1,330 yards, capped the drive from the 2.

And that score was a chore. The Huskers needed a 10-yard run from Clark on fourth and two at the CU 17 to keep the drive alive.

What caused most of the excitement Saturday were the scoring chances that slipped away.

Nebraska had nothing to do with

Please turn to Page 8, Col. 1

Bowl Lineup

The Associated Press

Here's how the bowl picture shapes up after action on Saturday. Official invitations go out this Saturday (all times CST):

Notre Dame	Fiesta Bowl, Jan. 2
vs. West Virginia	
Rose Bowl, Jan. 2	
Southern Cal or UCLA	vs. Michigan
Orange Bowl, Jan. 2	
Miami	vs. Nebraska or Oklahoma
Cotton Bowl, Jan. 2	
Arkansas	vs. Florida State or UCLA
Sugar Bowl, Jan. 2	
Auburn or LSU	vs. USC or Fla. State
Florida Citrus, Jan. 2	
Nebraska or Oklahoma	vs. Clemson
Gator Bowl, Jan. 1	
Georgia	vs. Mich. State or Colorado
Hall of Fame Bowl, Jan. 2	
LSU or Auburn	vs. Syracuse
Sun Bowl, Dec. 24	
Alabama	vs. Army
Peach Bowl, Dec. 31	
Iowa	vs. NC State or Pac-10 team
Holiday Bowl, Dec. 30	
Wyoming	vs. Oklahoma State
All American Bowl, Dec. 29	
Florida	vs. Illinois or Michigan State
Aloha Bowl, Dec. 25	
Washington State	vs. Houston
Freedom Bowl, Dec. 29	
BYU	vs. Arizona or Colorado
Liberty Bowl, Dec. 28	
Indiana	vs. South Carolina
Independence Bowl, Dec. 23	
So. Mississippi	vs. Texas-El Paso
California Bowl, Dec. 10	
Western Michigan	vs. Fresno State

Mavs End Season With 6-5 Mark, Optimism

By Eric Olson

World-Herald Staff Writer

UNO's football team made quick work of Morningside Saturday, then began looking ahead.

All but four or five of the 75 Mayericks who suited up played in the 41-0 shutout before an estimated 1,700 at Camgia Field, giving UNO's coaches a chance to see the Mavs of the future. For 14 seniors, the game was their last at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"It's a nice win to finish the season," UNO Coach Sandy Buda said. "Our defense got a shutout, our offense scored 41 points, plus we got to play almost everybody on the bench. I don't see much wrong with all that."

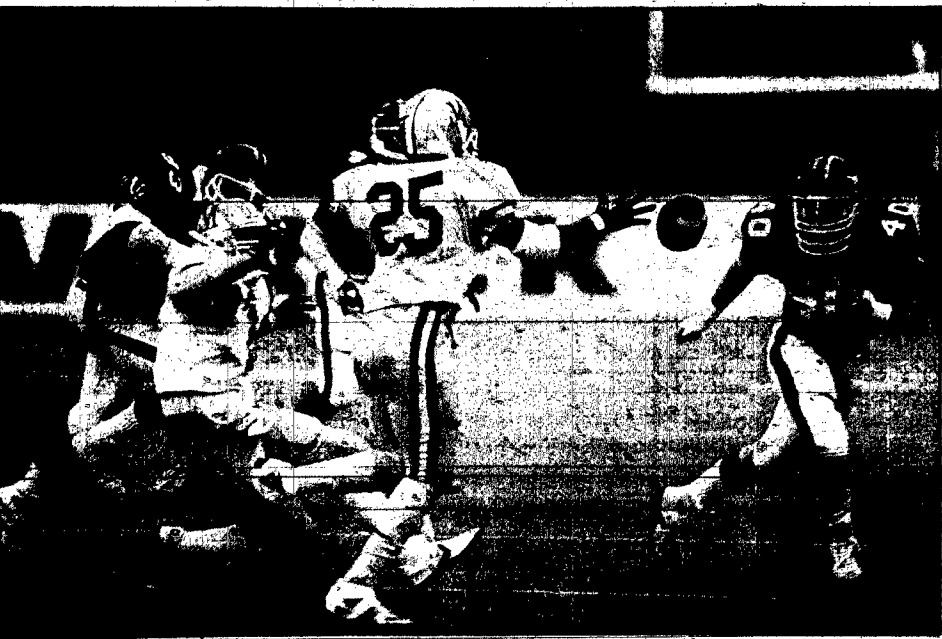
The victory left the Mavs 4-5 in the North Central Conference and 6-5 overall — Buda's ninth winning season in 11 years at UNO.

The Chiefs wound up at 0-9 and 0-11 in Coach Erv Mondt's final season at Morningside. He announced his resignation two weeks ago.

"From beginning to end," Mondt said, "it's been a miserable year. UNO has a sound defensive team, and they handle the ball well on the ground. It's been very frustrating."

It has been frustrating for the Mavs,

Please turn to Page 12, Col. 1



Bill Bateman/World-Herald

UNO's Rich Lutter, far left, forces Morningside quarterback Mike McCune to make an errant pitch to Richard McFendon, No. 25, as the Mavs' Mike Zepin, No. 40, and Eric Robinson, No. 4, move in. Jim Stenger recovered the first-quarter fumble.

Inside Sports

Blair Gains Final, But Raiders Lose

Top-ranked Blair breezes to the Class B final against Lexington, while Spencer-Naper ends Omaha Brownell-Talbot's season.

High School Playoffs, Pages 15, 16.

RECORD CROWN: Lincoln East topples Grand Island for a record sixth state volleyball title.

State Volleyball, Pages 15, 16.

Inside Football

Michigan	38
Illinois	9
Page 4	
Iowa	24
Ohio State	24
Page 4	
Southern Cal.	50
Arizona State	0
Page 4	
UCLA	27
Stanford	17
Page 4	
Clemson	49
Maryland	25
Page 5	
Oklahoma State	63
Kansas	24
Page 13	