



Taking Care Of Business

Lincoln
USU is not UCLA, but Utah State served as a good sparring partner Saturday as Nebraska tuned up for the Pasadena Pass-orama.

Utah State quarterback Brent Snyder did his best Troy Aikman impersonation for the Huskers, throwing 39 passes into the Nebraska defense, completing 21 for 187 yards. Aikman, UCLA's Heisman Trophy candidate, steps into the ring at the Rose Bowl next Saturday hoping to figuratively punch the Huskers' lights out.

"It was good to see a lot of balls in the air," said defensive back and co-captain Mark Blazek, who intercepted a Utah State pass. "That can't do anything but help us for next week."

Balls might fill the air in the nationally televised game (ABC network) between nationally ranked UCLA and Nebraska. NU's own Heisman candidate, Steve Taylor, could launch a few of his own — he was 7 for 9 for 143 yards Saturday, especially impressive in a touchdown drive in the final two minutes of the first half.

The Huskers were supposed to overwhelm the Aggies, and they did, 63-13. But it was not just another early-season blowout over an overmatched team.

7.8 Yards a Pop

Nebraska didn't make a turnover, didn't suffer a lot of injuries, didn't receive a lot of penalties (five for 34 yards), played half the student body (104 guys, 11 of whom scored) and just took care of business.

Coaches used three place-kickers, four quarterbacks, five I-backs and six fullbacks, among others, and that helps team morale.

Saturday's game, in a way, was practice for UCLA, a national championship contender. The game wasn't perfect for NU, but who's complaining when you average 7.8 yards per play?

Coach Tom Osborne indicated he was glad to go against a good, pro-type passer such as Snyder, a 6-foot-4, 218-pound senior who ranked sixth in the nation in total offense last year, 252.2 yards per game.

"I think it helped," Osborne said. "We obviously worked a lot on pass defense this week. At times today, we looked really good on pass defense."

The Huskers played their new F.W. Woolworth pass defenses a lot — the five-and-dime. The "nickel" is different from a traditional pro nickel defense in that the Huskers still use four defensive backs, not five as in the pros — NU uses an extra linebacker, with All-American Broderick-Thomas replacing a tackle and tearing after the quarterback.

'Serves Purpose'

The Husker "dime" set is the one with five defensive backs — one of whom moves into a normal linebacker position, with Broderick again on the line rushing the quarterback, "which is what he does best," Osborne said.

After two games, a 2-0 record and a No. 2 national ranking, Ozzie likes the two new defensive sets.

"We match up better personnel-wise," he said. "You've got coverage people in there. I guess it serves its purpose."

The hope in Nebraska is that the nickel and dime slow Aikman and leave the Huskers with a pocketful of change. He's a money quarterback in the colloquial sense and a future money quarterback in the National Football League sense.

Sometimes it's difficult to see the point to a game won by 50 points, but Utah State isn't terrible. Far from it. Some preseason magazines picked the Aggies to win their conference (The Big West, formerly the Pacific Coast Athletic Association), and Coach Chuck Shelton said he expects the Aggies to win seven to nine of their remaining 10 games.

They didn't just roll over and die — especially in a seven-minute, third-quarter drive that got the NU coaches' attention.

Highs and Lows

The Huskers were ahead 28-0, so it was easy to let down — but that's just the point. You can't.

Snyder drove the Ags 15 plays and 73 yards for a touchdown against the Nebraska first-team defense, including a 15-yard run by halfback Brett Payne, who led his team with 43 yards rushing. (The Aggies, counting losses, netted 19 yards rushing for the game, and their rushing attack was... well, no Payne, no gain.)

There were a lot of highlights for Nebraska, including the play of reserve quarterbacks Gerry Gdowski and Mickey Joseph. There were some lowlights, too.

One was rushing 10 men to block a punt in the third quarter, setting up the all-important seventh touchdown, which gave NU a 49-7 lead. The Aggie punter had been playing shortstop all day fielding low snaps, and bringing 10 guys seemed a little heavy-handed, although Coach Shelton said he had no problem with it.

Another uncomfortable moment came at the end of the Aggies' 15-play drive when, with a 35-0 lead, the players and then the cheerleaders encouraged NU fans to make noise and disrupt Utah State. Snyder stepped away three times before throwing a touchdown pass.

NU's LeRoy Etienne, though, congratulated the receiver with a high-five. That's the spirit.

Taylor Directs, NU Hits High Note
As Huskers Tune Up for UCLA



Jim Burnett/World-Herald

I-back Ken Clark, No. 32, helped lead Nebraska's rushing attack, here gaining 13 yards with the help of blocks by fullback Sam Schmidt, No. 25, and guard Andy Keeler, No. 65... Clark's 91 yards led a squad that Utah State Coach Chuck Shelton called "one of the most physical offensive football teams I've seen."

Huskers Poised For No. 1 After Seminoles Lose

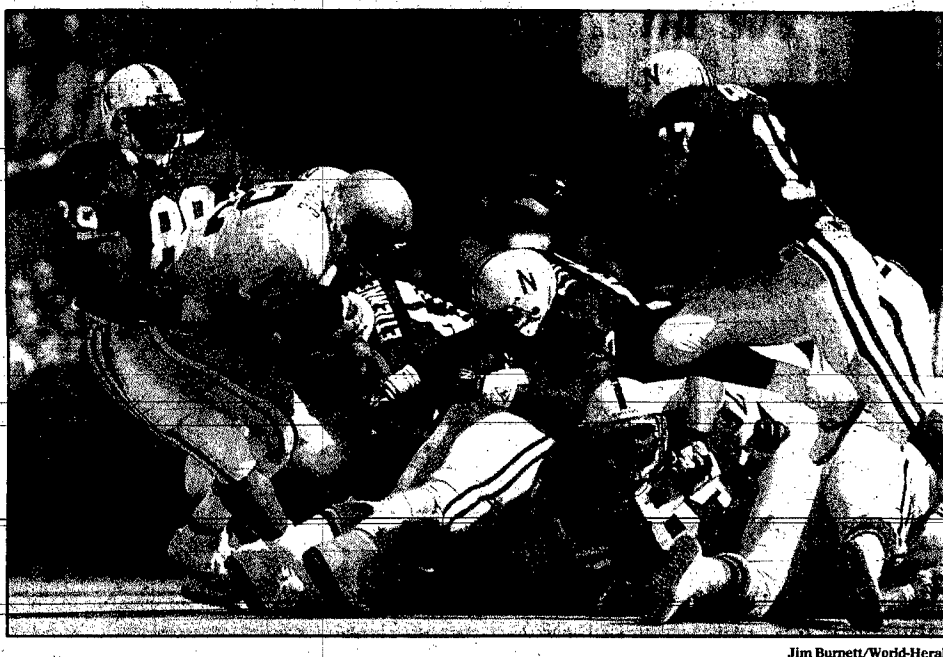
Miami (AP) — The Miami Hurricanes, college football's defending national champions, continued their perfect record against No. 1-ranked teams in this decade by defeating top-rated Florida State 31-0 Saturday night as Steve Walsh passed for two touchdowns and Cleveland Gary ran for one.

Second-ranked Nebraska appeared poised to take over the No. 1 spot after the Cornhuskers improved their record to 2-0 with a 63-13 rout of Utah State Saturday.

The sixth-ranked Hurricanes' hard-hitting, lightning-quick defense smothered one of the nation's most explosive offenses, limiting Florida State to 91 yards in the first half — Miami had 239 — and permitting the Seminoles to cross midfield just twice in the first two periods.

Once they got to the Miami 30, where Richie Andrews missed a 47-yard field-goal attempt, and once to the 48, a 16-yard pass play on which wide receiver Terry Anthony fumbled the ball

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Jim Burnett/World-Herald

Broderick Thomas grabs Utah State quarterback Brent Snyder, No. 12, for one of three Husker sacks... Thomas, with five unassisted tackles, led a defense that limited Utah State to 19 yards rushing and 187 passing.

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How the Top 20s Fared

Table with columns: AP/UPI, Next Opponent, and game results for top 20 teams.

Aikman Passes UCLA to Win

Pasadena, Calif. (UPI) — Darryl Henley returned a punt 89 yards for a touchdown and Troy Aikman launched his Heisman Trophy campaign with three scoring passes Saturday night, powering No. 9 UCLA to a 59-6 rout of San Diego State in the season-opener for both schools.

Eric Ball added 122 yards on 17 carries for the Bruins, who built a 31-0 halftime lead and coasted to their fifth triumph over the Aztecs in as many seasons. In tuning up for next weekend's Rose Bowl showdown against No. 2 Nebraska, UCLA amassed 538 total yards in scoring its most points in a season-opener since 1968.

Aikman, who completed 13 of 17 passes for 155 yards and no interceptions, had TD passes of 43 yards to Laurence Burkley, 15 to Reggie Moore

and 2 to Mark Estwick in the first half. He departed after engineering a touchdown drive that opened the third quarter.

Estwick added a 3-yard TD run and Corwin Anthony a 2-yard scoring catch from backup Ron Caragher in the third quarter for UCLA. Freshman Shawn Willis contributed touchdown runs of 30 and 2 yards in the fourth period. Alfredo Velasco kicked a 32-yard field goal in the second.

San Diego State's Brad Platt, in his first game as the successor to Todd Santos — the most prolific passer in NCAA history — was 16 for 31 for 197 yards. He was sacked five times for 38 yards in losses.

The Aztecs averted a shutout with 10 minutes remaining on Tommy Booker's 13-yard touchdown run.

Henley, who returned a punt 74 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter of last year's 47-14 victory over the Aztecs, spun out of the grasp of two would-be tacklers near the UCLA 10-yard line and broke clear for a 7-0 Bruins lead just 3:25 into the contest.

Seven minutes later, Aikman found Burkley running a post pattern on the first play following a San Diego State punt. The junior flanker swept past Mario Mitchell and scored easily for a 14-0 advantage.

UCLA took the second-half kickoff and rambled 79 yards, finishing with Estwick's 3-yard burst for a 38-0 lead. Anthony's catch gave the Bruins another touchdown with 2:42 left in the quarter.

Inside Sports

Steffi Graf Breezes To Another Victory

Steffi Graf drops just one game against Nathalie Herremann to advance to the fourth round of the U.S. Open. Page 2.

NEW CHAMP: Meldrick Taylor defeats Buddy McGirt to win the IBF junior welterweight title. Page 2.

TRACK CONFIDENCE: Oklahoma's Remington Park faces strong competition, but officials are confident it will succeed. Page 13.

IN THE CHASE: Milwaukee continues its winning ways with a 7-3 victory over Detroit. Page 13.

LOOKING AHEAD: Former Nebraska All-American Irving Fryar wants to put his off-the-field problems behind him and help the New England Patriots win football games. Page 14.

WORTH WAIT: Tenth-ranked Omaha Burke defeats Millard North 20-7 in a game postponed by weather Friday night. Page 19.

Inside Football

Table listing football games and page numbers for various teams like Tulsa, Kansas State, Western Michigan, etc.

Royals Near Brink After Second Loss

By Steve Pivovar

World-Herald Staff Writer
The Omaha Royals face a simple yet complex challenge if they want their 1988 baseball season to extend beyond tonight.

Simple in that the Royals are in a must-win situation. Saturday night's 7-4 loss to Indianapolis in the second game of the American Association championship series eliminated any other option for the Royals, down 2-0 in the best-of-five playoffs.

Complex in that the Royals, unable to win either of the first two games at Rosenblatt Stadium, must figure out some way to beat the Indians at Indianapolis' Bush Stadium, where Omaha has lost five of six games during the regular season.

"When you're down 2-0 in a best-of-five series and you're going to their city, you've put yourself in a pretty good bind," Omaha Manager Glenn Ezell said. "It's not something that can't be overcome. But it's going to be tough." Or, as Omaha third baseman Jose Castro said: "It's not tough to see they have the better end of the deal right now."

The Royals will try to stay alive in tonight's third game by sending right-hander Jose DeJesus to the mound. DeJesus, 23 while spending the last five weeks of the season with Omaha, has an 0-1 record and a 2.94 ERA against Indianapolis in two starts.

The Indians' starter will be 6-foot-10 left-hander Randy Johnson, 8-7 with a no decision in his only start against Omaha this season.

Indianapolis could wrap up its third straight Association playoff title with a win tonight. An Omaha win would force a fourth game Monday night, and Ezell said he would start right-hander Tom Gordon. Gordon, 3-0, pitched two perfect innings to start Friday's 8-7 loss to the Indians but left the game after it was delayed an hour and 12 minutes by rain.

DeJesus, nicknamed "99" because his fastball has been clocked at nearly that speed, and Gordon give the Royals some hope.

"Our backs are against the wall," outfielder Jeff Schulz said. "But they haven't seen our two best pitchers. We

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