

Sunday World-Herald

## FOOTBALL

CF

## Huskers on top, by Josh

Block, TD  
by Bullocks  
crush ISU

By RICH KAIPUST

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — The pattern had become somewhat predictable in Nebraska's first seven football games.

You had the defense that hardly budged. The offense that sometimes barely moved.

Their successes and failures had been the story for the 11th- and 14th-ranked Huskers.

How to shake it up? Maybe add a new twist to the script?

Block party.

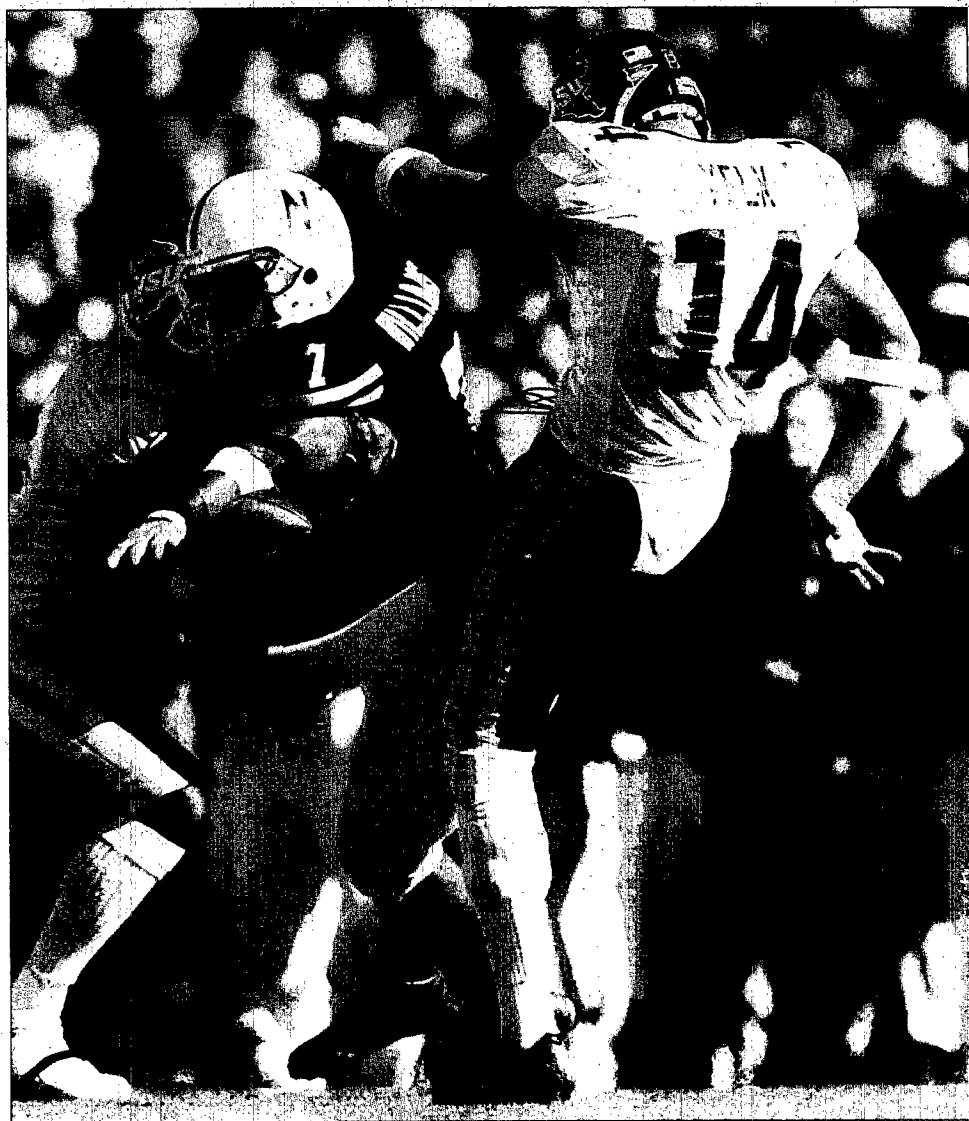
Two blocked punts led to 14 points as NU shut out Iowa State 28-0 to swipe the Big 12 North Division lead. Previously this season, that unit hadn't touched a kick, so Huskers Coach Frank Solich emphasized it during the week.

Josh Bullocks and Demorrio Williams carried it out Saturday before a Memorial Stadium crowd of 77,483.

"We can pretty much win just about any way the coaches want us to," Bullocks said. "It all boils down to the players and how bad they want to get it done."

Nebraska's ongoing search for the perfect game brings them to a challenging November schedule.

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Plays like this helped Nebraska's defense record its second shutout of the season as Demorrio Williams, No. 7, reaches out to block a punt by Tony Yelk, No. 14, in the first quarter. Josh Bullocks returned this punt 26 yards for a touchdown.

KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD  
UNO's Kenny Onatolu celebrates after the Mavericks sealed their 39-36 win over St. Cloud State.Mavs edge  
St. Cloud,  
lose QB■ Kammrad has his  
second straight 200-yard  
rushing game for UNO.

By ROB WHITE

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

UNO kept its season alive, but its future could be very ominous after Saturday's wild, entertaining and even amazing 39-36 victory over St. Cloud State.

To get the win, the Mavericks overcame an 11-point first-half deficit and the play of Harlon Hill Trophy candidate Keith Heckendorf.

But a fourth-quarter injury to their own star quarterback — sophomore Brian Masek — casts doubts on UNO's chances to win an even bigger showdown at North Dakota next week.

But, after thrilling a Caniglia Field crowd of 4,400, the University of Nebraska at Omaha was able to celebrate.

"It's just a great win," said cornerback Brandon Pinderhughes, who had a fumble recovery, an interception, a career-high 16 tackles and four pass breakups. "To battle back and forth and come out with a victory, it's just an emotional high. We've just got that warm feeling right now."

Masek injured his right knee while getting stopped short on a 2-point conversion try with the Mavericks leading 39-28 with 8:54 left in the game. Masek was undergoing treatment after the game and wasn't made available to reporters. His injury is reported to be a sprained medial collateral ligament.

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Masek

## Solich's real season starts with Texas

LINCOLN — The Big Red Revenge and Revival Tour rolls forward. Next stop: Texas.

Paybacks were merely heck for Iowa State on Saturday. Yawn. Nebraska accepted a 28-0 lead from the Cyclones, then pulled back on the throttle. Don't read too much into NU's second-half offensive lethargy. Huskers win. Backups got experience. Thank you and drive home safely.

On to the next season, the real season. On to Texas, Kansas, K-State, Colorado.



Tom Shatel

Nebraska is as ready as it will ever be to write the climax of this season. The Huskers have the saltiest defense in the Big 12 North. They have the best special teams in the division. They have an offense that is serviceable when it doesn't trip over itself.

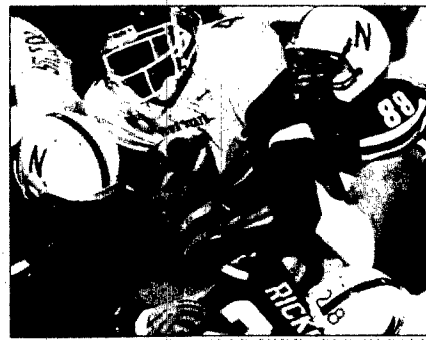
Mostly, they have one fired-up

head coach.

Frank Solich has the look. His eyes are red-intense. The veins in the neck are visible. The voice is louder than his normal room temperature. If there is such a thing as a game face, Solich has enough for four games.

This we know from experience. Solich, being the loyal World-Herald reader that he is, took issue with some things in a local column. Stuff like the backup quarterback not playing more, the fullback's blocking, the

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Iowa State running back Michael Wagner is swarmed by Demorrio Williams, left; Pat Ricketts, No. 28; and Trevor Johnson, No. 88.



Kansas State safety Rashad Washington dives over Kansas quarterback Bill Whitemore to recover a fumble in the first quarter.

## Several schools in hunt in Big 12 North

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Warm up the calculators.

After Saturday, it's looking more and more like the Big 12 North football race could end in a three-way tie at the top with Nebraska, Kansas State and Missouri at 5-3.

That means a seven-step tie-breaking procedure, which will provide more drama than K-State's 42-6 romp over Kansas.

KU, though mathematically still alive, is out of the running because of an injury to senior quarterback Bill Whitemore.

The player most responsible for the Jayhawks' stunning turnaround

from a 2-10 sad sack last season to a team now one win away from bowl eligibility — left in the first quarter with an injured right (throwing) shoulder.

"It's unlikely we'll see him the rest of the year," said Kansas Coach Mark Mangino, who rarely acknowledges injuries.

"There's an outside chance for Iowa State (Nov. 22). But it would be a real stretch."

With KU down 7-0, Whitemore was injured trying to tie the game on a quarterback keeper at the K-State 5-yard line. He emerged from a pile at the 3-keeping his arm to his side.

Kansas State defensive end Andrew

Shull was in that pile near Whitemore.

"He laid there for a second," Shull said. "He wasn't getting up real fast. He didn't say anything. I didn't know he was hurt."

Whitemore tried to play through it. He kept the ball again on the next play, and was stopped at the 1. Kansas kicked a field goal as Whitemore jogged off the field and to the locker room for X-rays, not to be seen again.

With him went any hope Kansas had to win.

On KU's next possession, No. 2 quarterback Brian Luke fumbled trying to make a handoff. Kansas State recovered.

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Leo Barfknecht

Big 12

Football

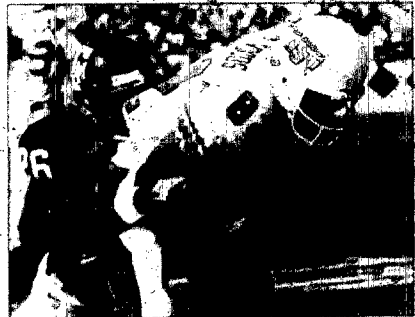
## INSIDE



## Levitation

Roger Jordan, right, helped Northwestern soar past Scott Starks and No. 20-ranked Wisconsin with a 16-7 win.

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## Separation

Rashaun Woods and the Oklahoma State Cowboys broke free from Big 12 South Division rival Texas A&amp;M in a 38-10 victory.

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## Termination

Bowling Green fails to stop Janssen Patton, a Bowling Green, who ended the No. 12 Huskers' unbeaten streak.

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## Jubilation

Brad Smith and the Tigers are all smiles in a 67-31 victory over Texas Tech that kept Missouri in contention for the Big 12 North title.

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