

Michael Kelly
Sports Editor



It Sounded Like An Explosion

What was that sound? It sounded kind of like... well, like an explosion.

It can't be, of course. All those scoring explosion guys from last year are gone, and they took their dynamite performances with them. Didn't they?

But in the second and third quarters Saturday at Memorial Stadium, the Nebraska Cornhuskers pop-pop-popped the ball up the field for five touchdowns and 35 points, just like old times. Against Wyoming, at least, the 1984 Huskers showed that when they don't beat themselves, they can still move the ball with authority.

In the first quarter, they were kicking themselves. Fumbles ended two drives and they didn't score. But they were moving the ball well and eventually, turned a close game (14-7 at half-time) into a typical 42-7 opener.

Meanwhile, Miami finally lost and Nebraska looks like a good bet to move back into that familiar we're-number-you-know-what position when the rankings come out next week. Most teams would love a lofty position like that. But for some of the Huskers, who endured a whole season on top last year only to lose it by a fingernail in the Orange Bowl, the prospect almost caused a groan.

It's too soon.

Here We Go Again

"I hope we're not No. 1, to tell you the truth," said fullback Tom Rathman, who powered to 108 yards on 13 carries (8.3 per carry). "Because that means everybody will be shootin' for us. I don't think this team really needs that exposure."

Wyoming isn't Michigan, the team that finally stopped Miami. But the coaches and writers who vote in the polls will give Miami a deduction for that slip at Ann Arbor, and they'll look at NU's final score, and here we go again. Football's here. We're off to the races.

It's hard to judge, based on one game, how far the Huskers can take this thing. But the game ends and you add up the stars and it's all there on paper.

Nebraska didn't score from a mile out like the Huskers did last year (the longest play from scrimmage was a 26-yard pass play from Craig Sundberg to Shane Swanson) but they averaged 6.8 yards per play.

They ran the ball seven out of every eight plays, which is even more than last year. But the passing game was efficient, 8 for 11, with one interception.

Flying Around

The defense, which apparently has adopted the term "flying around" to describe what they try to do, played a variety of players early. And after some mistakes on the first drive of the game, the defenders did their share of flying around.

Bret Clark and Scott Strasburger, especially, seemed to be flying several feet off the ground. Everyone stayed fresh. Lots of people played.

"The defense played really well," fullback Rathman said. "They were a little too aggressive the first half and got some 15-yard penalties for piling on. But it's good for a defense to be aggressive. When we start to play some of these tougher teams, that will play a big part."

The preseason continues next week, and then Nebraska really has to fly around — to Los Angeles and UCLA one week, and to upstate New York to play Syracuse the next.

Cheers for Defense

Except for the fumbles, one interception and defensive breakdowns on two drives, there's not much to criticize in Saturday's game. At times, Nebraska looked so good, so methodical, it was almost not worth mentioning.

The Huskers bared through the middle of the Wyoming defense, and the NU defense kept forcing Wyoming to punt. When the Cowboys did punt, which was usually away from Jeff Smith, they had to face another cowboy, Shane Swanson.

Swanson, who has put his rodeo career on hold while he plays football for Nebraska, returned four punts for an average of 28.5 yards, including one that stopped five yards short of a touchdown only because he got a cramp in his leg and stumbled.

The sellout crowd seemed to like those punt returns real well, and they liked Smith's 170 yards rushing, but you know who they really cheered?

The defense — which got several standing ovations by shutting down Wyoming.

Linebacker Mark Daum of Dix, Neb., which is closer to Wyoming than to Lincoln, said the cheering fired up the defense and kept them going. "Sometimes last year, the defenders seemed to lose intensity, especially with a big lead. That didn't happen Saturday."

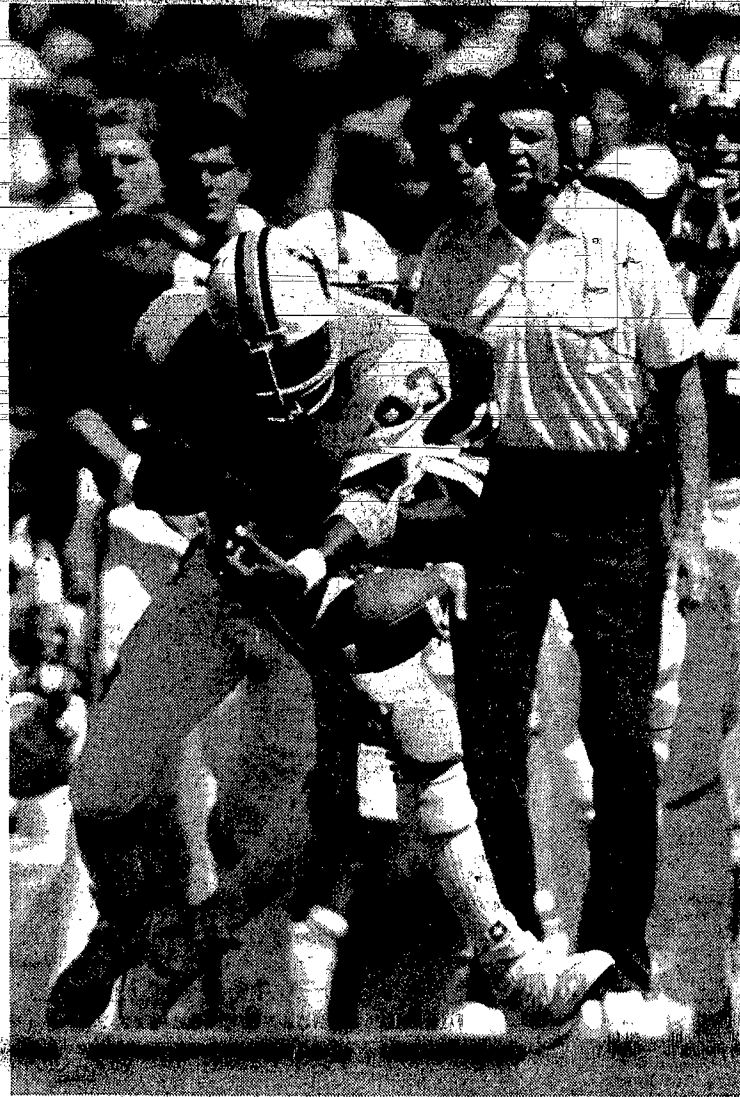
Daum's brother, Mitch, got in for several plays at tight end for Wyoming. The first time, Mark said, he looked at his brother and said, "Hi, how ya doin'?" Mitch nodded back, then cut across the middle where Mark picked him up and they jumped slightly.

NU doesn't have to score from a mile out to have a great football team. Just a bunch of little well-timed explosions will do the job most Saturdays.

If you ask the Nebraska Cornhuskers "How ya doin'?" they can rightly answer, "Just fine, thanks. Just fine."

Blackshirts Help Crush Wyoming

NU's New Act May Be a No. 1 Hit



Jim Burnett/World-Herald

Husker defender forces turnover... Cornerback Neil Harris strips the ball from Wyoming receiver Allyn Griffin after a 26-yard gain to the Nebraska 40 in the second quarter. The fumble was recovered by NU safety Bret Clark.

Mavs Pay High Price In Win Over Kearney

By Jerry Fricke
World-Herald Staff Writer

The University of Nebraska at Omaha beat Kearney State 17-13 Saturday night, but the victory came at a high price.

The Mavericks lost two top players for the season to injuries.

Tim Krof, the No. 1 split end from Omaha Bryan, went out with a broken collarbone late in the third quarter after trying to make a leaping catch of a pass.

Early in the fourth quarter, the game was held up 10 minutes until second-

team linebacker Paul LaFond, a junior from Elkhart, Kan., could be removed from the field because of a broken left leg. LaFond got pinched between two of his teammates and a Kearney player going for a pass.

"This takes a lot away from the win," UNO Coach Sandy Buda said. "You'd like to celebrate, but you can't when you lose two players for the season like that. I'd like to call it a good win, but I guess all I can say is it's a tough win."

"It was a tough game for Kearney, Please turn to Page 15, Col. 1.

Lendl, McEnroe Gain Men's Final

Lloyd's Best Is Not Enough Against Martina

By Helene Elliott
Newsday

Flushing Meadow, N.Y. — She gave her heart and her guts and her best effort, and still that wasn't enough.

Chris Evert Lloyd was disconsolate Saturday over her loss to Martina Navratilova in the U.S. Open tennis final, for reasons beyond the defeat itself, and she made no effort to conceal that. It was the way she lost, the opportunities squandered and the vulnerability not exploited, that left Mrs. Lloyd's

John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl need five sets to reach men's final. Page 14.

voice toneless and her emotions flat after Miss Navratilova flattened her, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"I'm more disappointed this tournament than I have been for a long time," said Mrs. Lloyd, a six-time Open champion who could fail to win a Grand Slam title this year for the first time in 10 years. "If it were Amelia Island or another tournament and I was wiped off

How the AP and UPI Top 20s Fared

AP/UPI	Next Opponent
1/1 — Miami (2-1) lost to Wyoming 22-14	Purdue
2/2 — Nebraska (1-0) beat Michigan 42-7	Minnesota
3/3 — Clemson (2-0) beat Virginia 55-0	Georgia, Sept. 22
4/4 — UCLA (1-0) beat San Diego State 18-15	Long Beach State
5/5 — Texas (0-0) did not play	Auburn
6/6 — Ohio State (1-0) beat Oregon State 22-14	Washington State
7/15 — Notre Dame (0-1) lost to Purdue 23-21	Michigan State
8/6 — Auburn (0-1) did not play	Texas
9/11 — Alabama (0-1) lost to Boston College 38-31	Georgia Tech
10/14 — Iowa (1-0) beat Iowa State 59-21	Penn State
11/7 — Penn State (1-0) beat Rutgers 15-12	Iowa
12/13 — Arizona State (0-1) lost to Oklahoma State 45-3	San Jose State
13/12 — Brigham Young (2-0) beat Baylor 47-13	Tulsa
14/9 — Michigan (1-0) beat Miami 22-14	Washington
15/17 — Southern Methodist (0-0) did not play	Louisville
16/10 — Oklahoma (1-0) beat Stanford 19-7	Pittsburgh
17/20 — Pittsburgh (0-1) did not play	Oklahoma
18/18 — Boston College (2-0) beat Alabama 38-31	North Carolina, Sept. 22
19/18 — Washington (1-0) beat Northwestern 26-0	Michigan
20/19 — Florida State (1-0) did not play	Kansas

the court against Martina, I'd forget it. You don't have too many chances against her, and that's the disappointing thing, I had my chances."

Ivan Lendl will get his chance to win his first U.S. Open title today when he takes on John McEnroe in the men's final.

Lendl, loser of this tournament the past two years, had to fight off a match point to defeat Pat Cash 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-4). The top-seeded McEnroe topped defending champion Jimmy Connors 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

Mrs. Lloyd had Miss Navratilova distracted by a chilly crowd, had her on the run and had her behind a set, a feat no other woman had accomplished at the Open. But in the end, all she had were quashed hopes and a feeling of immeasurable emptiness.

Where once she was unshakable, she was shaken. Where once she was dominant, she is now the weaker partner. Miss Navratilova has beaten her 13 straight times stretching back to the

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Inside Sports

Twins Triumph To Stay on Top

Minnesota and California win to keep pace with Kansas City in the AL West race. Page 4.

CUBS WIN: Rick Sutcliffe pitches a four-hitter as the Chicago Cubs stop the New York Mets 6-0. Page 4.

NFL: New England will test its championship ambitions against Miami in an early showdown. Page 13.

Royals Remain in First-Place Tie On Balboni's Three-Run Homer

Kansas City (AP) — Steve Balboni's three-run homer lifted the Kansas City Royals to a 5-4 victory over Seattle Saturday night.

The victory kept the Royals in a first-place tie with Minnesota in the American League West Division race.

The Royals' first baseman, who had homered Friday night when he returned to action after being out since August 28 with a pulled rib cage muscle, rallied the Royals with his 23rd homer of the season in the sixth inning.

After singles by Jorge Orta and Frank White, Balboni hit the first pitch

A Day for the Blackshirts

Wyoming	0	7	0	0	7
Nebraska	0	14	21	7	42
NU—Sundberg 13 run (Livingston kick).					
NU—Turner 1 run (Livingston kick).					
Wyo.—Lowe 9 pass from Gosnell (Donnelly kick).					
NU—Rathman 16 run (Livingston kick).					
NU—Smith 2 run (Livingston kick).					
NU—Turner 1 run (Livingston kick).					
NU—Hoskins 5 run (Livingston kick).					
A—76,125.					
	Wyoming	NU			
First downs	11	34			
Rushes-yards	42-98	71-440			
Passing yards	104	119			
Total yards	202	559			
Return yards	37	162			
Passes	5-14-0	8-11-1			
Punts	8-49	1-37			
Fumbles-lost	3-1	4-3			
Penalties-yards	4-23	5-50			
3rd-down conversions	3-14	6-8			
4th-down conversions	0-1	0-1			
Time of possession	25:23	34:37			

The defense emerged as at least an equal against Wyoming. The offense was potent, gaining 559 yards. The defense was stingy, allowing the Cowboys just 202.

Nebraska's Smith played his last two seasons in the shadows of Mike Rozier, the 1983 Heisman Trophy winner.

Second-Best Debut

Smith emerged with 170 yards on 28 carries and a 2-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Smith's performance was a career best and the second-best total by a Husker back in an opening game during the Osborne-Bob Devaney coaching era. Only Jarvis Redwine, with 179

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Ready to 'Punish People' Clark Says Blackshirts Are Back

By Dave Sittler
World-Herald Staff Writer

Lincoln — Nebraska's Blackshirt defense demonstrated Saturday that it's on the way back.

"Are the Blackshirts back?" safety Bret Clark asked. "Yes. And we're back to punish people. I think this is the most aggressive defense we've had in a long time."

The first-team defense, which wears black shirts in practice, and the rest of the Husker defenders displayed an aggressive style in saddling Wyoming's Cowboys with a 42-7 defeat in Nebraska's season opener at Memorial Stadium.

The NU defense limited the Cowboys to 98 yards rushing, 104 yards passing and 11 first downs.

That compares with the 23 first downs, 203 rushing yards and 184 yards passing Nebraska's defense surrendered to Wyoming last season.

Clark was the ringleader in the defense's new punishing style. The Nebraska City native had a team-high eight tackles.

"I think Bret knocked the quarterback's head off a few times," defensive end Scott Strasburger said.

Clark, a Husker tri-captain said, "I was really

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Michigan Steals Victory Magic Of No. 1 Miami

By Steve Love
Akron Beacon Journal

Ann Arbor, Mich. — The University of Miami, the No. 1-ranked act in college football, failed to deliver its usual cliffhanger heroics in Michigan Stadium Saturday as the 14th-ranked Wolverine defeated the defending national champion 22-14.

"It seemed like they were a little nervous," Michigan linebacker Rodney Lyles said. "I don't know if it was all the people or what."

If the 105,403 onlookers didn't bother Miami, one Rodney Lyles did.

He intercepted three of the six passes Michigan took from Bernie Kosar, the formerly always-magical sophomore from Boardman, Ohio. Miami also lost two fumbles.

Miami had beaten No. 1-ranked Auburn and rival Florida in five days to regain the No. 1 ranking it took from Nebraska in the Orange Bowl last January.

"Miami was used to miracles."

Not only did it come here with the longest winning streak in college football (13 games), but three of its last four victories came in the final minute of those games.

"Two things went through my mind," Michigan Coach Bo Schembechler said. "One was that it was an insurmountable

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