

Buff or NU? Stull Won't Say

Columbia, Mo. — Missouri had just been shellacked again by one of the top teams in the nation, and a beleaguered Coach Bob Stull heard the inevitable question about two of the top teams in his league. Who's better, Colorado or Nebraska? In other words, what did you think of the latest execution?

Give the man a blindfold and a cigarette. Which is worse, a hanging or a firing squad? Colorado had beaten his team 49-3, and Nebraska did it Saturday, 50-7.

Stull, in his first year as Mizzou head coach after building a program at Texas-El Paso, wouldn't give a direct answer.

"It's hard to compare," he said. "You'll make that comparison when you see them."

A slight smile creased his lips, as if to say: Just wait, Nebraska.

He parried another question later about relative team speed: "I don't know. It's hard to tell. They're both good teams. You'll find out in a few weeks."

The loss of tailback Eric Bieniemy, who suffered a broken leg Saturday at Iowa State, will hurt Colorado, Stull said, but won't devastate CU. The Buffs still have the other kid, J.J. Flannigan, to run the ball.

"The other kid is a pretty good player," Stull said. "He's faster."

CU's Game at OU

And so the countdown is on. In three weeks the undefeated Huskers go to Colorado against, one hopes, an undefeated Buffalo team. Let's make it nice and clean, two teams with spotless records.

Nebraska has no way to lose before then, but the Buffs must go to Norman to play the ever-loving Oklahoma Sooners the week before NU plays at Colorado. Not only could CU lose at OU — the Buffs probably will not — but Colorado could come away from the game banged up.

The schedule leading up to The Big Game suits Nebraska better than Colorado. If the Huskers win in the Big Game, they'll have to face the Sooners in Lincoln on Nov. 18.

And even though it's hard to tell how good the Huskers are, even though they haven't been tested by a good team, even though they haven't faced an opponent with anything close to the speed and power and emotion of Colorado, things are coming together for NU.

Nebraska officials deflect critics of the weak NU schedule by saying, in effect, hey, these games are set up years in advance, when this year's players are little boys, and who knows who will be good and who won't be by the time the games are actually played?

McCartney's Success

For the most part in college football, the rich stay rich and the poor go begging. But every once in a while there's a school such as Colorado, which comes from the dregs, hires a dynamic coach and gives him time, and reaches for the mountaintop.

A popular notion these days is that coaches should have tenure, that they shouldn't be fired if they're working hard and not cheating, that boosters and universities are too impatient.

McCartney is a terrible example for those who don't want coaches fired, because everyone hopes they can come up with such a coach — one who can take your school to the top. CU stayed with him, but maybe it's because they knew they had latched on to the right guy.

Nebraska is getting better, and the young players are coming of age. Sophomores won't really be sophomores in November. The inexperienced will be almost veterans. And Gerry Gdowski will be what amounts to a "returning starter" at quarterback.

He doesn't dazzle or dazzle or even sizzle like some of the more widely known quarterbacks, but he more than gets the job done. He accelerates quickly when there's an opening. He sees the field well — from the time he walks to the line of scrimmage to survey the defense and decide whether to change the play, to the split-second decision to give up the ball or not on the read-option to the fullback or the pitch to the I-back.

Unless he gets hurt, he'll be the man when the Huskers head for the mountains.

Beating the Blitz

Saturday's game was another blowout in a season of blowouts. Missouri kept shooting itself in the foot, limping to a 36-0 deficit three minutes before the end of the first half.

The Tigers didn't hit Nebraska with the all-out blitz they used last year to almost upset the Huskers, figuring that NU had prepared for that. When Mizzou did blitz, it didn't go well — on Nebraska's first drive, Gdowski saw it coming and found Morgan Gregory in one-on-one coverage for a 19-yard touchdown.

The rout was on. NU blocked two punts, one for a safety and one for a touchdown, and the Tigers hurt themselves with fumbles and penalties.

The total yardage, 473 to 265 in Nebraska's favor, doesn't sound like a 50-7 game. But there it was.

Are the Huskers as good as Colorado? It's hard to compare. Just wait. We'll see.

A's Stewart Cuts Down Giants in Series Opener

Oakland, Calif. (AP) — This time, Dave Stewart finished what he started. And this time, Kirk Gibson wasn't there to finish off the Oakland Athletics.

The Athletics, showing off the pitching and power that made them baseball's best team in 1988, dismissed the San Francisco Giants 5-0 Saturday night in the World Series opener.

Stewart threw a five-hitter for his first shutout since Aug. 30, 1988, and his first World Series victory. Stewart was within three outs in Game 1 last October against the Los Angeles Dodgers until Gibson homered into history off Dennis Eckersley.

"Last year has nothing to do with it," Stewart said.

World Series

RESULT SATURDAY
Oakland 5, San Francisco 0
Oakland leads best-of-7 series 1-0.
GAME TOWNSHIP
Time CDT
San Francisco (Reuschel 17-8) at Oakland (Moore 19-11), 7:20 p.m.

But Oakland Manager Tony LaRussa wasn't so sure. "Everybody remembers last year," LaRussa said. "But it doesn't end here. We still need to win three more."

Stewart threw 139 pitches. He was in trouble only once, when the Giants opened the ninth with a pair of singles. He struck out Matt Williams and, after a passed ball, fanned Ernest Riles and got Candy Maldonado on a grounder.

"There was necessity for a little extra in the last inning," Stewart said. "I wanted the shutout and I knew I needed strikeouts to do it."

"I didn't feel like I worked 139 pitches' worth. But mentally, I had to do some work out there."

After the longest layoff ever between the playoffs and the World Series, the first Battle of the Bay was no contest at all. Oakland roughed up National League ERA champion Scott Garretts

for five runs in four innings, including home runs by Dave Parker and No. 9 hitter Walt Weiss, and it was over.

"We have a real quiet calmness this year," Parker said. "There's a feeling like we have to take care of business."

Like Stewart and his serious stare. "He pitched just the way our scouting reports told us he would," San Francisco Manager Roger Craig said. "We just couldn't make contact."

Rick Reuschel will try to get San Francisco even when he starts Game 2 tonight against Mike Moore. Television coverage begins at 7 p.m. on ABC, KETV-Channel 7 in Omaha.

The Athletics finished with 11 hits, including three by Mark McGwire. Only

Jose Canseco's input was missing from the Oakland assault. He was 0 for 3 after going 1 for 19 — hitless in his last 19 tries — against the Dodgers in 1988.

"His first couple of at-bats, I think he was trying to do more than he was capable of," LaRussa said.

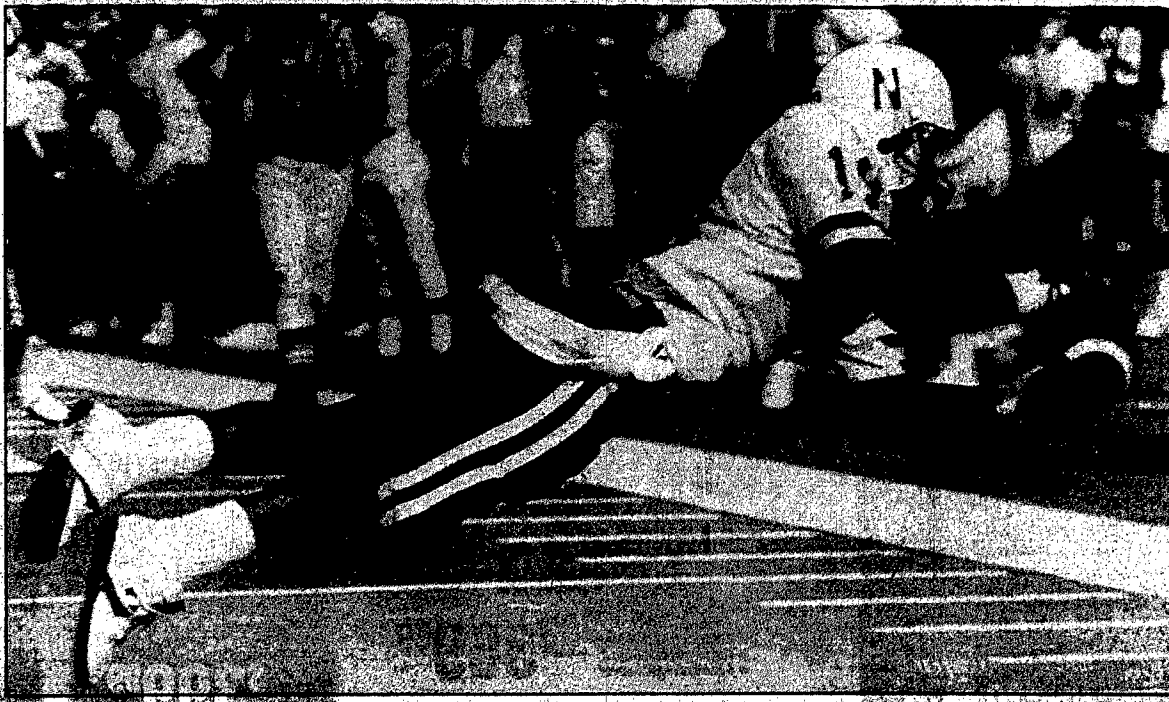
Stewart, who won twice in the playoffs, walked one and struck out six. Eckersley never even warmed up as Stewart got his shutout after going 38 starts without one this season.

Stewart had allowed only one hit after the fourth inning when Will Clark and Kevin Mitchell opened the ninth

Please turn to Page 4, Col. 1

26 First-Quarter Points Crack Tigers

Huskers' Early Scoring Blitz Sacks Mizzou



Morgan Gregory makes a diving catch to score Nebraska's first touchdown on a 19-yard pass from Gerry Gdowski... NU took control of the game quickly, scoring four times in the first 6:30 of the game to jump out to a 23-0 lead in the 50-7 victory over Missouri.

By Doug Thomas

World-Herald Staff Writer

Columbia, Mo. — Nebraska had a better blitz than Missouri did Saturday.

The Huskers' lasted an entire quarter.

They pounded the Tigers with 26 points in the first quarter and cruised to a 50-7 win before 55,620, the largest crowd at Faurot Field since the 1985 Nebraska-Missouri game.

It was Nebraska's biggest first quarter since a 35-point spree in last year's Oklahoma State game. And it came against a Tiger defense using some of the same blitzes that had the Huskers reeling through much of their 26-18 win last year in Lincoln.

"They blitzed quite a bit today," said NU Coach Tom Osborne, whose third- and fourth-ranked Huskers improved to 6-0. "But we did a better job with the blitz."

"We were better prepared to play today. We audibled better and did a better job."

The man calling the audibles, quarterback Gerry Gdowski, ran 11 times for 101 yards and two touchdowns and threw for another score in the first half as the Huskers sprinted to a 36-0 lead.

In last year's Missouri game, by contrast, Nebraska had no points and 15 total yards by halftime.

"I think we were a lot more emotionally charged this week than maybe any week except for Minnesota," said split end Morgan Gregory, who opened the Huskers' scoring by catching a 19-yard touchdown pass from Gdowski.

"Just off what they did last year, we

Please turn to Page 6, Col. 5

High-Scoring Buffs Draw ISU Fans' Boos

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Ames, Iowa — Any doubts about Colorado's return to Big Eight football prominence should have been erased Saturday.

Not because CU smeared Iowa State 52-17 before 41,515 homecoming fans at ISU Stadium.

Not because the Buffaloes, ranked third and fourth nationally, set school records with a 35-point second quarter and a 45-point first half.

And not because they gained 662 yards and got two touchdowns rushing and two passing from quarterback Darian Hagan.

The real sign that the Buffaloes are back among the big boys is that they were booed late in the first half and accused of running up the score after calling two timeouts in the final minute.

"I felt we needed to try to score again before halftime," CU Coach Bill McCartney said, giving a speech that sounded a lot like ones Tom Osborne of Nebraska and Barry Switzer of Oklahoma have offered over the years when leading 45-10 at half.

Tied at 10-10 "It gave us a chance to substitute wholesales," McCartney said. "We weren't trying to pour it on."

Trying or not, the Buffaloes did after pulling away from a 10-10 tie early in the second quarter.

"After seeing that team, I hate to think what it will be like to face the other two," said Iowa State Coach Jim Walden, whose Cyclones play Oklahoma and Nebraska the next two weeks.

"I believe that Colorado could be the best team in the country. Whoever is able to beat them, in my mind, would be ranked No. 1."

But don't try to talk to the Buffaloes about rankings.

"We don't pay any attention to that

stuff," said free safety Tim James, whose two second-quarter interceptions helped set up two CU touchdowns. "If you lose a game, you're out. You just play, you don't talk about it."

6-0 in '91

Don't try to talk to the 6-0 Buffs about the league title, either, or the Orange Bowl bid that goes with it. Even if the last time CU started 6-0 was in 1961 — the only time CU won the Big Eight outright and the last time NU and OU didn't earn a share of the title.

The Buffs lost leading rusher Eric Bieniemy to a broken leg in the second quarter. The senior, however, said he plans to be back in two weeks for an Oct. 28 game against Oklahoma.

"It's really absurd for Colorado to sit here and say we've got our sights set on those things," McCartney said. "We haven't beaten Nebraska and Oklahoma in the same year for 28 years, so we're not going to sit here and look past them."

What McCartney will look at is how his team has developed through the first half of the season, and how it has dealt with the death of former quarterback Sal Aunese from cancer.

"I feel real good about our team — the unity, the morale and the intangibles," he said. "This is a team that has gotten itself ready to play every week regardless of the circumstances."

Memories of Aunese

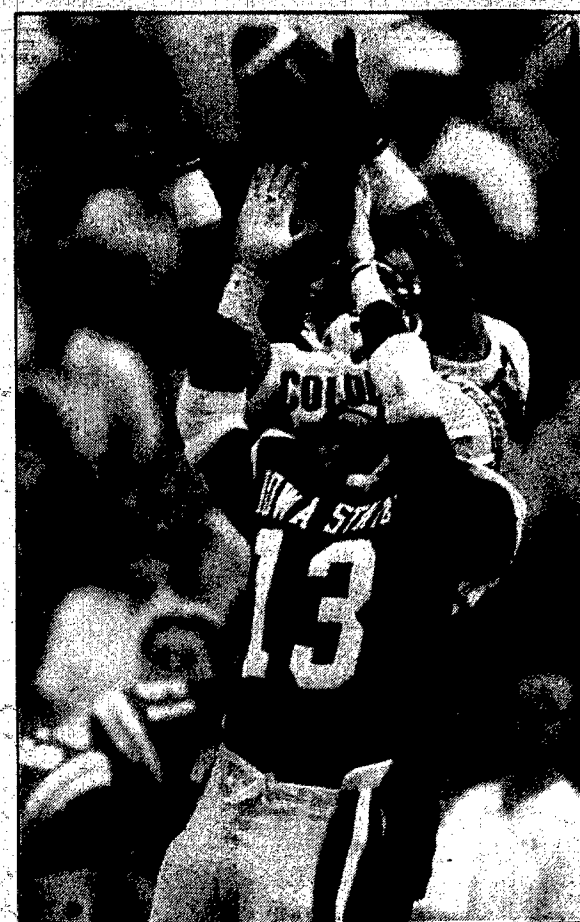
But isn't there a danger that Colorado's emotional gas tank will soon run dry?

"Not at all," McCartney said. "This team has an intensity to it that will override any letdown situation."

Split end Jeff Campbell said the inspiration to play that way comes from Aunese.

"Sal showed us a lot about being a

Please turn to Page 10, Col. 1



Iowa State's Andrew Buggs, No. 13, breaks up a pass intended for Colorado's Jeff Campbell... Buff quarterback Darian Hagan passed for two touchdowns and ran for two more as the No. 3-ranked Buffs overwhelmed ISU 52-17.

Chris Younge/World-Herald

Irish Defense Contains Run, Stifles Falcons

Air Force Academy, Colo. (AP) — Air Force, a team that usually runs over its opponents, got flattened by Notre Dame on Saturday night.

Raghib "Rocket" Ismail scored on a 56-yard punt return and a 24-yard reverse and the top-ranked Fighting Irish shut down Air Force's wishbone rushing attack for a 41-27 victory over the No. 17 Falcons.

Air Force entered the game as the nation's top rushing team, averaging 449 yards per game. But Notre Dame's hefty linemen outmuscled the smaller Falcons, allowing the Fighting Irish to outrush their opposition 322-168.

"I didn't expect us to play as well as we did against the run," Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz said. "Our defense has carried us all year. I'm just glad our offense responded when it needed to."

The victory improved Notre Dame's record to 6-0 and extended its winning streak to 18 games, longest in the nation. It was the first loss for Air Force after six victories.

Air Force quarterback Dee Dowis was held to 39 yards rushing on 11 carries, nearly 100 yards below his average. However, he completed 15 of 24 passes for a career-high 306 yards and two touchdowns before a record crowd of 53,533 at Falcon Stadium.

"I didn't play very well," Dowis said. "I've got some things to learn."

Fullback Anthony Johnson scored two touchdowns for Notre Dame, on a 1-yard run in the first quarter and a 27-yard pass from Tony Rice in the second period.

Rice, who like Dowis is considered a leading Heisman Trophy contender, rushed for 71 yards on 14 carries and completed 9 of 13 passes for 123 yards.

"Our offense is picking up slowly," Rice said. "I think by the last game

Please turn to Page 9, Col. 1

Inside Football

North Dakota.....	33
UNO.....	23
Page 13	
Iowa.....	31
Wisconsin.....	24
Page 11	
Arizona.....	42
UCLA.....	7
Page 13	
Texas A&M.....	17
Houston.....	13
Page 13	
Pittsburgh.....	31
Navy.....	14
Page 14	

Young Longhorns Rally To Shock Sooners 28-24

Dallas (AP) — After 84 years, you'd think the Texas-Oklahoma Red River rivalry would have had everything. Not quite.

Texas started an all-freshman backfield Saturday and was an 18-point underdog to 15th-ranked Oklahoma. Yet it was the Longhorns' fans who tore down a goal post and carried Coach David McWilliams off the field as Texas won 28-24 on Peter Gardere's 25-yard touchdown pass to Johnny Walker with 93 seconds to play.

The Longhorns hadn't defeated Oklahoma since 1983 and barely beat Rice 31-30 last week on a controversial touchdown.

"We got to do it, and we have got to

have the TD," Gardere said in the huddle before the 66-yard game-winning drive. "It's been a long time since we beat them. Let's do it now."

It was the first time Texas' seniors had defeated the Sooners.

McWilliams said he thought Gardere had overthrown Walker.

"Somehow he came down with the ball," McWilliams said. "Well, we finally beat Oklahoma. This means we can turn things around and be a good team. I think the team knows now what it takes to be a champion."

McWilliams, savoring his first win as a coach over the Sooners, said: "I was

Please turn to Page 10, Col. 1

How Rated Teams Fared

AP/UPI	Next Opponent
1/ Notre Dame (6-0) defeated Air Force, 41-27.	Southern Cal.
2/ Miami (6-0) defeated San Jose State, 48-16.	Florida St., Oct. 29
3/ Colorado (6-0) defeated Iowa State, 52-17.	Kansas
4/ Nebraska (6-0) defeated Missouri, 50-7.	Oklahoma State
5/ Michigan (4-1) defeated Michigan State, 10-7.	Iowa
6-5 Tennessee (5-0) did not play.	Alabama
7/ Arkansas (5-0) defeated Texas Tech 45-19.	Texas
8/ Houston (4-1) lost to Texas A&M, 17-13.	SMU
9/ Pittsburgh (5-0-1) defeated Navy 31-14.	Notre Dame, Oct. 28
10/10 Southern Cal (5-1) defeated California, 31-15.	Notre Dame
11/ Alabama (5-0) defeated Southwest Louisiana, 24-17.	Tennessee
12/11 Auburn (4-1) defeated LSU, 10-0.	Florida State
13/12 North Carolina State (6-0) did not play.	Clemson
14/13 Clemson (5-2) lost to Georgia Tech 30-14.	N. Carolina St.
15/ Oklahoma (4-2) lost to Texas, 28-24.	Iowa State
16/15 Illinois (4-1) defeated Purdue, 14-2.	Michigan State
17/14 Air Force (6-1) lost to Notre Dame, 41-27.	TCU
17/16 Washington State (5-1) played Stanford, late.	Arizona
18/18 Florida State (4-2) defeated Virginia Tech 41-7.	Auburn
20/16 West Virginia (4-1) did not play.	Cincinnati
21/19 Michigan State (2-3) lost to Michigan, 10-7.	Illinois
22/ UCLA (3-3) lost to Arizona, 42-7.	Oregon State
23/ Penn State (5-1) defeated Syracuse, 34-12.	Alabama, Oct. 28
24/ South Carolina (4-1) did not play.	Western Carolina
25/ Brigham Young (5-1) defeated Colorado State, 45-16.	Texas-El Paso
25/ Florida (5-1) defeated Vanderbilt 34-11.	New Mexico
/19 Hawaii (5-1) did not play.	Colorado State