

College Football

BIG 12, 2

SCORES, SUMMARIES

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SEPTEMBER 14, 1997

PAGE 1-FOOTBALL

Tom Shatel

Can NU Beat Washington?

Lincoln

"Can they beat Washington?" That has been the question of the week, the month, the year. Through the spring, summer and first few weeks of this 1997 season, the Washington Question was on everyone's mind.

Grocers would ask customers "Can I help you?" and they would reply "Yes. Can we beat Washington?"

Police pulling over speeders would walk up to the culprit's window and ask, "You were doing 100 in a 30. But what do you think about Washington?"

But with 7:17 left in the game — yes, a game — Saturday, a much more pressing question was on the minds of Big Red.

How About CFU?

Could they beat Central Florida?

Yes. Sort of. Nebraska prevailed over the Golden Knights, 38-24, at Memorial Stadium. Survived. Outlasted. Whatever. The afternoon ended on a 14-point cushion. But you got the feeling that if quarterback Daunte Culpepper and the Knights had had a fifth quarter to work with, the Huskers would have been backed up on their heels, trying to keep the nation's most underrated playmaker out of the end zone and a black mark off their own record. Against underpromoted but not undermanned Central Florida — Florida State Jr. — four quarters was almost too much.

Now, finally, it's OK to ask the question: Can they beat Washington?

Do you really want to know?

Game of the Year?

This was supposed to be the springboard into the game of the year, if not the century. Nebraska at Washington for all the September marbles and pole position for greater glories ahead. But a funny thing happened on the way to the boredom. The "preseason" ended a week early. The "real season" began a week too soon. And big-game hype was on hold.

This was not a feel-good day. This was not a feel-good game. This is not how you want to go into Washington Week. The Huskers trailed at the half, 17-14. For the first time, apparently, since halftime of the 1981 Auburn game, Big Red fans booed at Memorial Stadium, when senior quarterback Scott Frost ran back onto the field after sophomore backup Frankie London's day was done.

Holding On

Then they held on for dear life, not promoting the kind of dominant-looking-lazy-day-tuneup-for-Washington feeling they might need when they walk into seismicographic Husky Stadium next week.

To top off the day, Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne angrily scolded the fans for booing Frost, who Osborne said played "flawlessly." T.O. was visibly shaking during his comments. Did the fans really move him? Or does the air of uncertainty around his team make him nervous before such a big week?

I'll say this for Osborne: I'll never again doubt him when he says he's concerned about an opponent. Central Florida was almost talented, skilled and gutsy enough to walk into the 76,000-seat red pit and knock off No. 5 Nebraska.

From now on, if Osborne says the sky is falling, I'm looking for a bunker. But how concerned is Osborne about Washington? Is the sky falling this week?

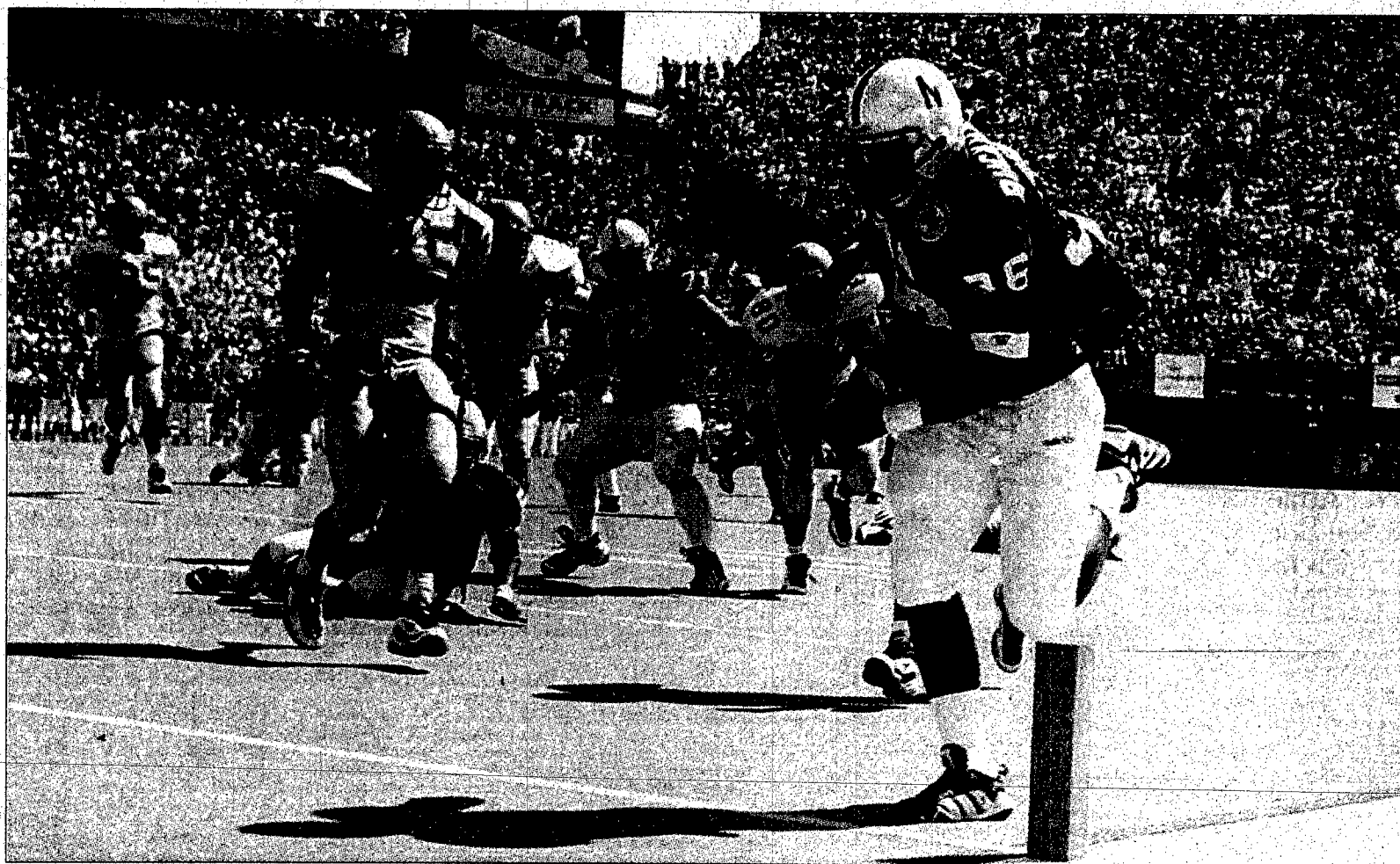
If the fans are disappointed in this, I hope they'll temper their disappointment with the fact that we played a good team today," said Osborne, perhaps tempering his own disappointment.

"We feel we have a ways to go and some things need to really improve. We need to really practice well and do a good job in the next week. Playing a good football team exposes some things. It can help us. The important thing is, they got through it and won it."

But Saturday's bottom line still came with too many qualifiers for a team with national championship goals at the top of the chalkboard.

Good news: The first-team offense and defense got to play an entire game before Washington. Bad news: Central Florida kept them on the field that long.

Good news: The Huskers' young secondary got burned enough but those scars can only help next week. Bad news: Washington, unlike Central Florida, is a real team.



FRESHMAN I-BACK: Nebraska' Correll Buckhalter, No. 36, races for the corner of the end zone to score on a 13-yard run with 6:01 left in the third quarter and break a 17-17 tie. Buckhalter, who rushed for 82 yards on 11 carries, also scored NU's next touchdown on a 5-yard run to extend the lead to 31-17.

Shaky Win Leaves NU Doubts

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Nebraska heads for a showdown in Seattle having raised as many questions as it has answered in its first two games.

Saturday's 38-24 struggle to subdue stubborn Central Florida again raised some concerns about the fifth- and sixth-ranked Huskers' readiness for this week's matchup with third-ranked Washington.

Can the Huskers' defense hold up against a Huskies' offense that will be more talented than either Akron's or Central Florida's? Can Nebraska's offense iron out the inconsistencies that led to Saturday's three-point halftime

NU at Washington

■ **When:** Saturday at 2:30 p.m. CDT

■ **Where:** 72,500-seat Husky Stadium, Seattle.

■ **Television:** KETV-Channel 7 and ABC.

■ **Last meeting:** Washington defeated Nebraska 29-14 on Sept. 19, 1992, in Seattle.

deficit against the 42-point underdog Golden Knights?

"We definitely know that we still have a lot of things to work on."

Husker rush end Chad Kelsay said. "If we play next week like we did today, we're going to get smoked."

Kelsay's comments echoed what teammate Jason Peter said two weeks ago after Nebraska's 59-14, season-opening win over Akron. Several other Huskers said as much Saturday after Nebraska used a strong third-quarter showing to rally from its 17-14 halftime deficit.

But amid the uncertainty, Coach Tom Osborne wanted to make one thing crystal clear to the vocal minority in Saturday's 216th straight sellout crowd of 75,327 at Memorial Stadium. Senior Scott Frost is and will be Nebraska's No. 1 quarterback.

In directing five of Nebraska's six scoring drives against Central Florida, Frost completed 9 of 14 passes for 120 yards. He rushed 10 times for 52 yards. He threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to tight end Sheldon Jackson and scored the Huskers' final touchdown on a 5-yard run.

Frost also heard boos when he re-entered the game in the second quarter, shortly after backup quarterback Frankie London had engineered a 65-yard scoring drive that gave the Huskers their first lead of the game. London's appearance had been predetermined, Osborne said, and was designed to get the Huskers' No. 2 quarterback valuable playing time in a

crucial stretch of the game.

"Other than one or two plays today, Scott played flawlessly," Osborne said. "I didn't see anything he did wrong today. There might have been one or two passes he might have completed, but heaven's sakes, Joe Montana didn't complete every pass."

Asked if he was disappointed with the crowd's booing of Frost, Osborne replied, "I don't think that has any place in this stadium. The fans have seen these guys play a little bit. I've seen them play thousands of plays, every day. Scott is our starter."

Frost quieted his critics by leading Nebraska to scores on four of its first

See HUSKERS Page 4

Lambright Kept Huskies Afloat in Sea of Troubles

BY ERIC OLSON
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Seattle — They could take away some of his scholarships. They could take away some of his television appearances. They could take away his bowl games.

What they, the Pacific-10 Conference council of athletic administrators, couldn't take away was Jim Lambright's pride in Washington football.

the innate kind of pride that would be expected of a man who has been a part of roughly one-third of all Husky games ever played.

People in the UW athletic program say that's the reason, more than any, that the Huskies were able to withstand some of the harshest penalties ever meted out by the conference and, two years after doing their time, now are considered one of the favorites to chal-

lenge for the national championship.

The 55-year-old Lambright, who's in his fifth season as head coach, expected no less of himself or the program.

"I very much see my role as one that ties present-day Husky football with the history," he said.

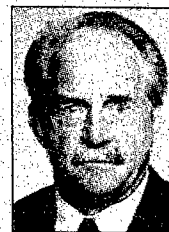
Lambright, who played under Jim Owens and was an assistant under Don James, takes the same approach Tom

See WASHINGTON Page 6

Lambright's Marks

■ Coach Jim Lambright's overall and Pacific-10 Conference marks, with bowl results:

Year	Overall	Pac-10	Bowl
1993	7-4-0	5-3-0	No bowl
1994	7-4-0	4-4-0	No bowl
1995	7-4-1	6-1-1	Sun: Iowa, 38-18
1996	9-3-0	7-1-0	Holiday: Colorado, 33-21
1997	2-0-0	0-0-0	—
All	32-15-1	22-9-1	0-2



Offensive Line, Kicker Boost Mavs Past UNK

BY RICH KAIPUST
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Kearney, Neb. — UNO never trailed but never relaxed Saturday in its 15-13 victory over the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The Mavericks needed three field goals by junior Paul Kosel, 436 yards rushing and a late defensive stop to turn back UNK. At the end of the struggle, UNO slipped away with its sixth straight win on the road.

"Honestly I think we kind of underestimated our opponent slightly," UNO linebacker Demetrius Richards said. "No way in the world I thought it would be this close."

The University of Nebraska at Omaha, ranked No. 13 in NCAA Division II, didn't escape until Nate Sullivan broke up a Justin Coleman pass intended for Trevor Weston at midfield with 1:58 left. The Mavs (2-0) then were able to run out the clock before a Foster Field crowd of 5,885.

"We sucked it up and got it done when we had to," UNO offensive lineman Chris Bober said. "That's one sign of a champion. We just have to pick it up next week in practice."

UNO's 1,480-pound offensive line and the 170-pound Kosel might have been the difference in UNK (0-2) being denied the upset.

Kosel's last field goal, a 45-yarder late in the third quarter, turned out to be the decisive points. Along the way,

■ More UNO-UNK coverage, Page 8.

the line cleared the way for 100-yard rushing games by quarterback Ed Thompson (162) and tailback Jeff Herdzina (128) — and a rushing total that ranks second in school history.

"They're doing a heck of a job right now," Thompson said. "We're getting some long drives, a lot of it running. We just have to take advantage of it down near the end."

UNO never pulled away despite racking up 27 first downs and a huge edge in time of possession (36:30 to 23:30). The Mavs' problem simply was failure to put the ball in the end zone more than once.

"We'd get close and we'd get a holding penalty — four times to be exact," UNO Coach Pat Behrens said. "Those are things we've got to eliminate. You can't expect to win ballgames with field goals. Our field-goal kicker-kicked pretty well today."

The Mavs ran 14 plays to move from their own 19-yard line to the UNK 28 late in the third quarter. Two holding calls stalled the drive, but Kosel hit his 45-yard for a 15-10 lead.

Volker Olbrich's 39-yard field goal pulled the Antelopes back within 15-13 early in the fourth, but they came up empty on their final three offensive series. On UNK's last possession, Weston just missed pulling in a long halfback pass from Mike Smith



TAVIAN BANKS: He's better than former Iowa running back Sedrick Shaw, Tulsa Coach Dave Radar said.

Inside Football

■ UCLA, an 0-2 underdog, shocks 11th-ranked Texas 66-3 on the home field of the defending Big 12 champions. Page 2.

■ Tavian Banks sets a single-game rushing record with 314 yards in Iowa's 54-16 win over Tulsa. Page 3.

■ Purdue outplays No. 12 Notre Dame in every way possible. Page 7.

How The AP Top

25

FARED

1. Penn. St. (2-0) beat Temple 52-10
2. Florida (2-0) did not play
3. Wash. (2-0) beat San Diego St. 36-3
4. Tennessee (2-0) did not play
5. Florida State (2-0) beat Maryland 50-7
6. Nebraska (2-0) beat Central Fla. 38-24
7. N. Carolina (2-0) beat Stanford 28-17
8. Colorado (1-1) lost to No. 14 Mich. 27-3
9. Ohio St. (2-0) beat Bowling Green 44-13
10. LSU (2-0) beat Miss. State 24-9
11. Texas (1-1) lost to UCLA 66-3
12. Notre Dame (1-1) lost to Purdue 28-17
13. Miami (1-1) lost to N. Carolina 38-24
14. Michigan (1-1) beat No. 8 Colorado 27-3
15. Alabama (2-0) did not play
16. Auburn (2-0) beat Mississippi 19-9
17. Stanford (1-1) lost to N. Carolina 28-17
18. Iowa (2-0) beat Tulsa 54-16
19. Clemson (2-0) beat N.C. State 19-17
20. Kansas State (2-0) beat Ohio St. 23-20
21. Michigan State (2-0) beat Memphis 51-21
22. Virginia Tech (2-0) beat Syracuse 31-3
23. So. Cal. (0-2) lost to Wash. State 28-21
24. Ariz. State (2-0) beat No. 13 Miami 23-17
25. Colorado State (2-1) beat Utah St. 34-24

Bufs' Offense Slips a Gear In 27-3 Loss

BY LEE BARFKNECHT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Ann Arbor, Mich. — Running the football no longer is the concern for Colorado. Moving it at all is the worry after Saturday's 27-3 thumping at Michigan.

The seventh- and eighth-ranked Buffaloes punted seven times and threw three interceptions in their first 10 possessions while falling behind 24-0 midway through the third quarter. CU avoided a shutout with 3:32 to go in the third on Jason Lesley's 52-yard field goal, but even then 30 yards in Wolverine penalties were needed to keep the drive alive.

Colorado's point total was its lowest in 101 games dating to a 7-0 shutout at Nebraska in 1988. The 224 total yards (49 rushing, 175 passing) were the fewest since gaining 144 in a 52-7 loss at Nebraska in 1992.

"It's not difficult to give a summary of this game," CU Coach Rick Neuheisel said. "We got our tails whipped."

"I thought our defense hung in there. But you cannot turn the ball over the number of times we did and have success against a team that comes out as fast as Michigan."

The No. 13 and 14 Wolverines were playing their season opener, but it was Colorado (1-1) that looked as if it were

See BUFFS Page 2