

MAVS WIN

UNO wins its second straight

North Central Conference game 22-22 over Morningside.

Paul Cech ran for one

touchdown and threw for

another as the Mavs overcame

five field goals by the Maroon

Chiefs' Jorge Diaz. Page 13.

LANCERS FALL

One night after a dramatic

comeback victory over

Thunder Bay, the Omaha

Lancers blow a 34-yard lead

and lose to St. Paul 7-4 in a

United States Hockey League game at Ak-Sar-Ben in front of 5,908. Page 13.

Sunday World-Herald

Sports

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, OCTOBER 27, 1991 20 PAGES

RECREATION, 16 ■ SCOREBOARD, 18

Tom Shatel

All Aboard For Boulder

Say this about the Huskers: They have this come-from-behind thing down pat.

After falling behind 30 early in Saturday's game, Nebraska gathered all its senses, wits and weapons and mauled the Missouri Tigers 63-6 for its second straight comeback victory. The blowout is back. All is right in the world. By the fourth quarter, the wave and Tom Haase were making appearances.

It's time to give the Huskers, 6-1, their due. Time to crank up the bandwagon. All aboard. Coming off an impressive defensive game plan — and execution — and a Darian Hagan-like game from quarterback Keithen McCant, the Big Red Machine is full-steam ahead toward the Rockies and Saturday night's first-place showdown with Colorado.

"It's kind of hard to find a lot at fault," said Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, back in classic understating form.

All aboard. Orange Bowl Executive Director Steve Hatchell and President Harper Davidson had to like what they saw. Problem is, they didn't get a totally accurate reading.

That's something the Huskers haven't given.

Who Knows?

They opened 3-1 with a loss to possible national champion Washington and a sloppy win over Arizona State. They crush Oklahoma State. Everybody does (except Iowa State). They score more points against Kansas State (38) and Missouri (63) than Colorado (10 and 55, respectively) did. But CU shuts out K-State.

Put it in your home computer and what does it mean? Nobody knows.

"Not really," said Nebraska middle guard Pat Engelbert. "We'll have a better indication after the game next week."

Right. Saturday's Missouri waltz didn't seem to give an indication of where this season is headed.

"It tells us we're better than Missouri," Osborne said. "Last week we played a good football team. That's why our players were excited about winning against Kansas State. I don't know how Colorado and Kansas State came out today, but I saw it was 10-0 and it wasn't like they were running all over them."

There was some news: The Charlie McBride and George Darlington batters had a long day. Nebraska's defense rebounded nicely after K-State's Paul Watson put it in a dice-o-matic the previous week. All last week you heard the Huskers say that Watson's 340 yards were deceiving — that's going to happen when you jack it up 40 times.

Big Plays Back

Well, Missouri quarterback Phil Johnson — who supposedly was more mobile and accurate than Watson — threw 29 passes for 189 harmless yards. Playing in what Osborne called the same coverages as the week before, Nebraska got more pressure and contained Johnson with the four-man rush. Nebraska's Kenny White and Lorenzo Brinkley each had an interception.

The difference was that big plays and turnovers — the missing ingredients against K-State — were back. Bob Stull's space-age offense had more punts (seven) than points. Nebraska will take it. Safety Steve Cuttner called it a "tribute" to the defense.

"I feel a lot better about it," said McBride, the defensive coordinator. "A team like that only gets six points. The quarterback didn't get out and run like he has."

Nebraska's did. McCant was nothing less than brilliant, whether he was criss-crossing on a wild 49-yard run to set up a touchdown before the half or calling audibles that burned Missouri's blitz or directing a near-perfect drive that went 74 yards in 13 plays and ate up 5:41. As McBride says, "That's the best defense."

Making Our Climb'

But while Missouri figured to be vulnerable to the option, it was McCant's early pinpoint passes that had the Paper Tigers falling over broken tackles. McCant called Nebraska's effort "focused" but not finished.

"We're making our climb," he said. "I don't know if we've reached a peak."

Missouri's fifth-worst defeat in history evoked tears and anger and caused one player, lineman Mike Bodosky, to call it "the most frustrating moment of my life."

For Nebraska, there was a collective, simultaneous sigh of relief and shrug. Make that seven weeks now that Osborne isn't sure what kind of hand he's holding.

"Every week is a new experience," Osborne said. "We just hope we can get things right."

Saturday was a welcome old experience. All aboard for Boulder. Where it stops, nobody knows.

Becker leads their series 16-9.

McCant Revs Up NU's Offense

By Lee Barknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Lincoln — Welcome back to a normal October football Saturday at Nebraska.

The student section at Memorial Stadium broke out the beach balls in the second quarter. The opponent trailed by 36 points at halftime. Some of the 76,244 fans departed midway through the third quarter. Those who stayed cheered lustily as the Huskers threatened to score a 10th touchdown as time expired.

None of that last-minute magic from the week before was needed as seventh- and ninth-ranked Nebraska bombed Missouri 63-6, sticking the Tigers with their fifth-worst loss in history.

"I thought it might turn into something of a scoring contest," NU Coach Tom Osborne said.

But it was no contest after the Huskers scored touchdowns on eight straight possessions from the first through the third quarters, while the nation's No. 8 defense held a 25-point game offense without a touchdown.

Quarterback Keithen McCant led a turnover-free Husker attack by accounting for 265 yards of total offense and four touchdowns before a shoulder bruise sidelined him with 16:23 left in the third quarter.

"Don't worry about it," he said. "I'll be ready."

End back Derek Brown, slowed by a foot Tuesday and Wednesday, added 111 yards rushing on 18 carries and two touchdowns.

The sophomore's string of seven straight 100-yard games trails only Bobby Reynolds' eight in 1959 and Mike Rozier's 11 in 1982. He is just 83 yards short of becoming the school's 12th 1,000-yard rusher.

On defense, Nebraska gave up 26 yards (77 rushing and 184 passing) — marking its season-low — and forced three turnovers, all of which led to touchdowns.

"Overall, it was a good job," Osborne said. "At times, we didn't do a great job on our returns."

"But other than that, it was hard to find a lot of fault."

NU's victory in combination with Colorado's 14-10 struggle over Kansas

Body Smith/World-Herald

Keithen McCant, No. 18, contributed 265 total yards, tossed three touchdown passes and scored a TD as NU rolled up 63 total yards ... The senior quarterback, who rushed for 124 yards and passed for 144, eyes Missouri's Jason Oliver as he takes off on his 34-yard touchdown run with 4:19 left in the first quarter.

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Puckett HR in 11th Forces Game 7

Minneapolis (AP) — Kirby Puckett was just the difference the Minnesota Twins needed Saturday night to make one of the closest World Series even closer.

Puckett — already a hero for a leaping, run-saving catch and two hits and two RBIs — led off the bottom of the 11th inning with a home run to give the Twins a 4-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves and force a decisive seventh game.

Puckett sent Charlie Leibrandt's 2-1 changeup on a line over the left-center field fence.

"They've been throwing me a lot of changeups the whole Series," Puckett said. "I'm such an aggressive-type hitter ... I just go up there and hack. I just wanted to make him get the ball up."

"He got it up and I got it out."

Atlanta Manager Bobby Cox gambled by bringing in Leibrandt, who started and lost Game 1. Leibrandt was making his first relief appearance in two years and defying baseball odds as a left-hander facing the righty-hitting Puckett.

It was the second extra-inning game of the Series — the first time that's happened since 1975 — and the fourth out of six to be decided by one run on the winning team's last at-bat.

"I feel like I've been in a 15-round fight," Puckett said. "I'm so drained you can't believe it."

The Twins returned home after three straight losses in Atlanta and improved to 7-0 in Series games at the Metrodome. Jack Morris, among baseball's best big-game pitchers, will start for Minnesota tonight against John Smoltz, who shut out Pittsburgh in Game 7 of the National League Championship Series.

The Braves hoped to clinch it behind 21-year-old Steve Avery. He had been winless in four starts this season, but that of the Twins, with a run-scoring triple in the first inning and a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the fifth. He also kept Minnesota ahead with a leaping catch at the fence in the third inning that robbed Ron Gant of extra bases.

Puckett, the MVP of the American League playoffs, began Game 6 in a 3-for-18 slump. He changed his luck, and that of the Twins, with a run-scoring

The Associated Press
The Minnesota Twins mob Kirby Puckett after his 11th-inning home run finished Saturday night's Game 6 ... "This was an amazing game," Puckett said. "This whole Series has been that way."

three days' rest, and the NL playoff MVP was not able to close it out, allowing three runs in six innings.

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triple in the first inning and a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the fifth. He also kept Minnesota ahead with a leaping catch at the fence in the third inning that robbed Ron Gant of extra bases.

Puckett, however, saved his best for last. Leibrandt, who started and lost the

opener, took over for Alejandro Pena in the 11th and Puckett met him with a line drive into the crowd.

Rick Aguilera worked around leadoff singles in the 10th and 11th innings for

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Offense Hurts Kansas State In Loss to CU

By Dennis Dodd

World-Herald Staff Writer

Manhattan, Kan. — In one week Kansas State's offense went from its biggest threat to its biggest enemy.

Bogged down by two missed field goals, four turnovers and Colorado's defense, the upset-minded Wildcats came up empty again Saturday in a 16-9 loss to the Buffaloes at KSU Stadium.

The 16th-ranked Buffs held on before a crowd of 31,397 in a game that set up Saturday night's showdown against Nebraska.

After getting 42 yards in a 38-31 loss at Nebraska the week before, K-State wasted a good defensive effort against CU.

"I think it was a case of two defenses outplaying two offenses," Colorado Coach Bill McCartney said. "Colorado did a better job of not turning the ball over. Kansas State's mistakes beat them, no question about it."

Colorado freshman tailback Lamon Warren contributed a career-best 116 rushing yards and scored the game's only touchdown in the second quarter. Jim Harpe added a 25-yard field goal in the third quarter as the Buffs moved to 5-2 overall and 3-0 in the Big Eight Conference with their second shutout of the season.

It was the fewest points allowed in a Big Eight game by K-State, 43 and 1-2, since beating Colorado 39-6 in 1981. The difference Saturday was that the offense couldn't follow through.

K-State quarterback Paul Warner threw two interceptions inside the Colorado 25-yard line and fumbled at his own

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Tennis

Dream Final

Stockholm, Sweden (AP) — Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker beat their American semifinal opponents Saturday, setting up a dream final between the world's two top-ranked tennis players at the \$1.1 million Stockholm Open.

Becker rallied after losing a tight first-set tie-breaker to beat Jim Courier 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-4 in the more exciting semifinal.

It will be the German's fifth final of the year. He lost the last three — at Monte Carlo, Wimbledon and Indianapolis — after winning his first Australian Open in January.

Becker, the No. 2 seed, used an aggressive serve-and-volley game on the fast indoor surface to wear down the French Open champion.

Edberg, ranked No. 1 in the world and the game's hottest player, beat Aaron Krickstein 6-2, 6-2 to reach his fifth consecutive ATP final.

Today's best-of-five set championship, for one of the world's oldest indoor titles, will be the first meeting of the year between Edberg and Becker.

Becker leads their series 16-9.

Colleges

ISU Program Cuts

Ames, Iowa (AP) — Some sports programs at Iowa State University have been targeted as ISU looks for ways to save money.

Some programs are "extremely likely" to be reduced and others could be eliminated altogether, a university official said.

Reid Crawford, ISU vice president for external affairs, said there is a good chance one or more sports programs may be reduced as part of university-wide budget cuts.

Crawford said there is no set amount that must be saved by the athletic department, but we made cutbacks on offense," Wildcat Coach Francis Peay said.

Crawford said scholarship money to athletes could be trimmed or ISU's scope as a national program could be reduced to a regional or statewide program.

With 5-17 left, Illinois' Steve Feagin failed to get a first down on a fourth-and-2 run and the Wildcats took over on the Illinois 15. Brian Leahy,

the Illinois' fifth, scored a 35-yard field goal with 4:10 to play.

Northwestern scored on its first possession on a 1-yard run by Rodney Ray.

In the third quarter, Ed Suter intercepted Jason Verduzco's pass on the Northwestern 42. Williams scored on a 4-yard run 12 plays later for a 14-0 lead.

College Football

Wildcats Stun Illinois

Evanston, Ill. (AP) — Len Williams set up one touchdown with his passing and scored another on a 4-yard keeper Saturday to lead Northwestern to a 17-11 upset of 17th-ranked Illinois in a homecoming game played in a driving rainstorm.

The victory was the first in the Big Ten this season for the Wildcats, 2-3 overall. Illinois, 4-3, lost its second straight and was eliminated from the Rose Bowl race with a 2-2 conference mark.

"The defense did a good job all day and we made clutch plays on offense," Wildcat Coach Francis Peay said.

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Pro Golf

Rookie Takes Lead

The Woodlands, Texas (AP) — Jeff Maggert, a PGA Tour rookie, birdied the final hole Saturday for a 2-under-par 70 and a three-shot lead after three rounds of the Independence Agents Open.

Maggert, who shot 65 in each of the first two rounds and started the day at 14 under par, picked up two more strokes on the front nine and led by as many as five shots before running into trouble and seeing his lead shrink to one stroke.

But he recovered from bogeys on the 11th and 12th holes and birdied Nos. 15 and 18 to finish 54 holes at 20, 14 under par.

Donnie Hammond, who shot a 68, was tied for second with Mike Holtzman, Billy Ray Brown and Mike Reid at 20.

"If I make more birdies, they're going to have to play pretty well to catch me," said Maggert, who grew up in The Woodlands near Houston.

Maggert birdied the par-4 18th, sinking a 15-footer, while Brown hit into the water and salvaged a bogey.