

UNO BEATS S.D.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha defeats South Dakota 15-8 as Paul Cech passes for two touchdowns and Eric Hill runs for 119 yards in a season-ending North Central Conference football game. Page 9.

ROCKETS ON TOP

Lincoln Northeast wins its third Class A state volleyball championship, defeating Papillion-La Vista. This team, Rockets Coach Sandi Genrich says, could be the best "the state of Nebraska has ever had." Page 9.

Sunday World-Herald Sports

THE ONLY ONE

Elkhorn Senior High is the only school in Elkhorn. The other school whose name is preceded by "Elkhorn," Mount Michael, sits outside the city limits and some wish it were farther away. Eric Olson's column. Page 9.

INSIDE SCORES

Oklahoma 21, Oklahoma State 6... Page 2. Kansas State 32, Missouri 0... Page 2. Iowa 24, Northwestern 10... Page 10.

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SECTION C

Tom Shatel

Only Drama On The Tube

Lincoln The man in the Kelly green sat crammed in a small office in the Memorial Stadium press box, where the only drama in the vicinity was taking place. There, watching a 19-inch color television set, Cotton Bowl scout Bill Hill was riveted to The Game.

You know, the one outside the state of Nebraska.

All you needed to know about Nebraska's 38-13 victory over Iowa State Saturday was that Hill flew from Dallas to Lincoln to watch Miami, not Nebraska, win. Minutes into the third quarter, with the Huskers up 31-6, he got his wish. Florida State misses a field-goal attempt. Florida State heads for Cotton Bowl. Hill heads for airport.

"I think I'll stop by and say good-bye to Bob Devaney first," Hill said.

Now all the Cotton Bowl has to worry about is Florida State going into the tank. That will not happen in Lincoln, Neb., this year. The Huskers have a reason to live until their Nov. 29 date with Oklahoma. Their idea of a letdown came on a chilly and dank afternoon and, like the game itself, it was no big deal.

Not Pretty

"It wasn't the prettiest game I've seen," said Nebraska left guard Erik Wiegert.

But who really cared? Honestly, weren't you with Hill, watching The Game at home, with Kent Pavelka plugged into your ear? Or wondering, as you shivered in the cold stands, what in Bobby Bowden's name the score of The Game was?

And this bulletin just in: Kansas 24, Colorado 10. And another distraction on a day when the equipment manager should have handed out Sony Watchmans to go with the team jackets. As it was, the Huskers spent their pregame moments focused on the TV set in the training room.

"We were a little flat," said middle guard Pat Engelbert. "We got a little complacent. Naturally, that's going to happen."

Naturally. So you can excuse this walk-through victory. That "dog-gone" 55-yard Iowa State punt return, as Coach Tom Osborne called it. The fumble by Mickey Joseph to break a 16-quarter string of no turnovers. Osborne lamented having to punt twice in the third quarter. Picky, picky.

NU's Monster

Nebraska's two-headed rushing monster, Derek Jones, combined for 228 yards and the Blackshirts, despite giving up a handful of long plays, kept freshman quarterback Kevin Caldwell in check. The former Millard South star showed his versatility, particularly in kicking an orange some 40 yards into the end zone.

Later, the zebras stopped the game when oranges flew onto the field, which raises the question: Where were they two weeks ago when snowballs were nipping at Byron Bennett's toes? Must be that Big Eight "fruit rule."

Senior tight end William Washington dared to place high standards on a day better spent by the fireplace. Washington said there was "no excuse" for Saturday's complacency. Not that he had deaf ears for that Miami-Florida State score.

"Well, we were taking notes because we all had interest in it," Washington admitted. "I look Miami. Just call me 'Jimmy the Greek.'"

Florida Trifecta

And call him a genius if he can figure out the Big Eight's bowl situation, though it's clearer now. With Miami's victory, it looks like a Florida trifecta of Orange-Blockbuster-Gator with Nebraska's options limited to the Orange (first place) or Gator (third place), since the Huskers don't figure to finish as runners-up.

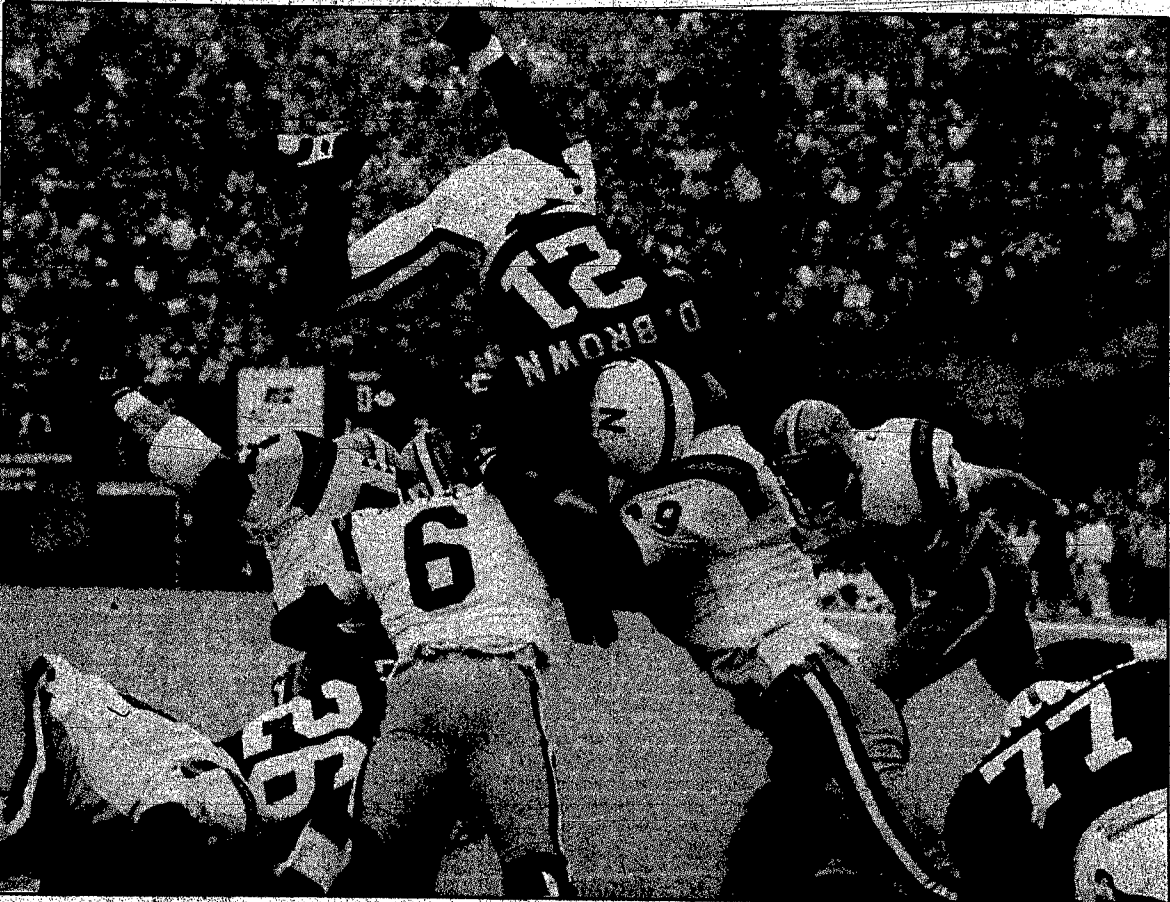
But who knows? The word around Nebraska last week was that Oklahoma was locked into the Gator Bowl. The OU camp vehemently denies that and, furthermore, is concerned that Nebraska is going to try to go behind the scenes to stay them out of a Blockbuster bid. Ace tuned.

We would have asked, George Olson, the Gator Bowl's scout at Memorial Stadium, but he was gone by halftime, beating his Cotton Bowl counterpart to the airport. Here's hoping he got a prime seat in front of the TV at the airport, where, presumably, he was watching for a Colorado-Kansas score.

That was a popular item in the aftermath of Saturday's game. During his postgame interview, Nebraska quarterback Keithen McCant kept craning his neck to see the TV set in the back of the room.

"I'm trying to find a Colorado score," McCant said. On a day that started and finished in front of the tube, it was only appropriate.

NU Is Win Away From Miami



Iowa State defenders, including Shawn Walker, No. 6, keep Derek Brown out of the end zone on first and goal from the Cyclone 3-yard line. ... Keithen McCant scored NU's first touchdown on a third-down sneak from a yard away to kick off a 24-point first half.

Rich Janda/World-Herald

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Lincoln -- Here are two results of interest from Saturday for Nebraska football fans:

The 11th-ranked Huskers defeated Iowa State 38-13 in front of 76,078 fans at Memorial Stadium to move one win away from a share of the Big Eight championship and their first Orange Bowl trip since 1988.

The X-rays of NU quarterback Keithen McCant's bruised right wrist were negative.

It was plain after the game that Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne was as interested in the second result as the first.

"I just hope and pray that Keithen doesn't have anything more than a bruise on his arm," Osborne said. "I'll look like the village idiot if he has a bad injury."

McCant, making a run at All-Big Eight honors, returned to the game in the fourth quarter with Nebraska leading 31-13.

The senior thought his day was done after completing 6 of 10 passes for 161 yards and one touchdown and running nine times for 72 yards and another touchdown in the first three quarters.

But backup quarterback Mickey Joseph fumbled away a snap at the Nebraska 29 with 14:09 left in the game.

That was NU's first turnover in more than 16 quarters, ending a school-record stretch that started in the third quarter of its Oct. 19 game with Kansas State and spanning 300 scrimmage plays and 30 returns.

Four plays after the fumble, Iowa State freshman quarterback Kevin Caldwell of Millard South scored his second touchdown of the game, on an 11-yard run. Suddenly, the 36-point underdog Cyclones had closed to 31-13 with 12:41 to play.

So McCant returned after the kickoff. On the first play, he ran 12 yards on an option. But he suffered a bruise on his throwing wrist when it got caught.

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'Canes Nick No. 1 Seminoles

By Ivan Maisel

The Dallas Morning News

Tallahassee, Fla. -- Early in the season, No. 1 Florida State's kicking woes seemed a trifle, the mole on Marilyn Monroe's otherwise unblemished face.

Instead, the greatest collection of talent Coach Bobby Bowden has assembled in 26 seasons will be remembered for going down kicking -- and screaming.

"Oh man," whispered Seminoles quarterback Casey Weldon, his body balled up inside his locker. "It's killing me."

When Gerry Thomas slid his 34-yard field goal attempt inches wide of the right upright with 25 seconds to play, No. 2 Miami had held on to defeat Florida State 17-16 before a record crowd of 63,442 at Doak Campbell Stadium.

That Thomas had made field goals of 25, 31 and 20 yards earlier in the game only made the last attempt hurt more. The Hurricanes had defeated a top-ranked team for the eighth consecutive time.

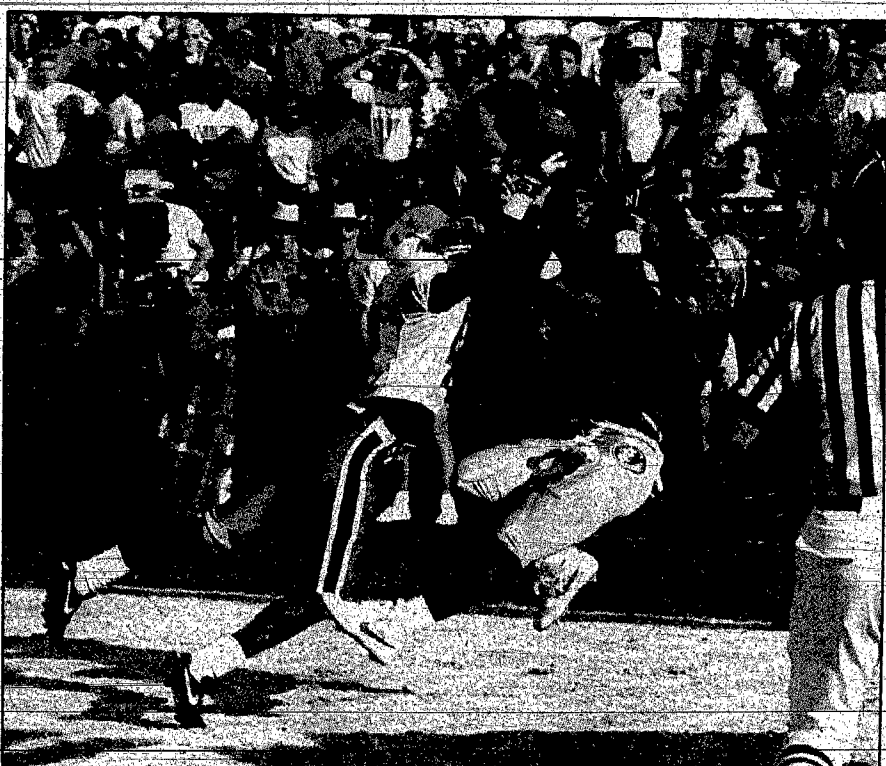
Old joke: How far is it from Miami to Dallas? About one foot.

Instead of going to the Orange Bowl and possibly playing for Bowden's first national championship, the Seminoles, 10-1, will play in the Cotton Bowl.

"They made one more big play than we did," said Bowden, unusually subdued. "We just needed one more. They didn't do it. We're as even as two teams can be."

For the third time in five seasons, the Hurricanes, 9-0, have stopped their upstate rival from wearing a national championship ring. Miami will remain in the Orange Bowl, its home stadium, to play the Big Eight champion.

"It was the greatest win I've ever been involved in," said Miami Coach Dennis Erickson, presumably including the 1989 national championship won by the Hurricanes. Fifteen minutes after



The Associated Press

Miami cornerback Ryan McNeil, left, and Florida State receiver Eric Turrall go for a pass in the corner of the end zone, with McNeil being called for pass interference and giving the Seminoles a first down at the Miami 18... FSU's Gerry Thomas, who missed the last-second kick two plays later, had made 8 of 9 field goals since winning the starting job.

the game, Erickson gulped air as if he were hyperventilating. The Hurricanes, behind quarterback Gino Torretta's leadership and the strong legs of fullback Stephen McGuire, came back from a 16-7 deficit with 10 points in the final quarter.

McGuire gained 142 yards, 31 on the game-winning drive that ended with Larry Jones' 1-yard dive with 3:01 to go.

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Bufs' Rally Leaves KU In the Cold

Boulder, Colo. (AP) -- Resiliency. It resides in Boulder, or at least it did on this particular snowy afternoon.

No. 16 Colorado managed to overcome all manner of obstacles, rallying for 20 straight points to edge Kansas 30-24 Saturday and remain in contention for an Orange Bowl berth or -- depending on subsequent developments -- a spot in the Blockbuster or Gator bowls.

The Buffs battled back from:

The loss of starting quarterback Darian Hagan to an ankle injury in the first quarter.

A 24-10 deficit early in the third quarter after three costly turnovers.

A questionable two-point conversion attempt with 12:11 left that failed and left them trailing 24-23.

A third-and-23 situation from their own 7-yard line when backup quarterback Vance Joseph ran for a 32-yard gain with five minutes left.

A fake punt play that failed with 3:21 left, giving Kansas possession at the Colorado 42.

The Buffs won it with an eight-play, 80-yard drive through the cold, wet snow in the final two minutes that featured Joseph's 22-yard pass to Rico Smith and tailback Lamont Warren's 28-yard run. Fullback James Hill scored the clinching touchdown on a 1-yard plunge with 40 seconds left.

"You have to say there's something about these kids," Colorado Coach Bill McCartney said. "It's never over with us. Most of the day we struggled, but we seem to have a resiliency about us."

"Kansas outplayed us: But when the situation calls for us to fight, we rise to the occasion. Sometimes it isn't pretty. But we're staying alive and doing the

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GOLF

Hulbert Gains Playoff Win in Kapalua Open

Kapalua, Hawaii (AP) -- Just about the only thing Mike Hulbert wasn't penalized for was his patience. Eventually, that paid dividends.

"I didn't think I was ever going to get there," Hulbert said Saturday after rallying for a tie before beating Davis Love III in a playoff at the Kapalua Open golf tournament. "I felt like we were going to go on forever out there."

Love led the \$750,000 tournament from midway through Friday's third round until one hole remained in regulation Saturday. His bogey at the 17th hole allowed Hulbert to tie him. Both men birdied No. 18 to force the playoff.

Hulbert had to overcome four penalty strokes in two days and a four-shot lead by Love to win the tournament at Kapalua Resort on Maui Island.

Hulbert shot a closing round 5-under-par 68 at the par-73 Plantation Course for a total of 16-under 276, leaving him tied with Love.

shot a final-round 72. Love started the day with a four-shot advantage over Hulbert and Jim Hallet.

After Love missed his 6-footer birdie attempt, Hulbert knocked in a 5-footer to win it. It was the first time Hulbert had been in the lead all day.

Andy Bean, Greg Norman and Steve Pate tied for third at 281, five shots off the lead.

Bean had a closing 67 on the strength of a double eagle at the par-5, 663-yard 18th hole.

Hulbert put on a charge midway through the round to whittle into Love's lead, narrowing the margin to one shot after three straight birdies starting at No. 9.

TENNIS

Sampras, Courier Triumph

Frankfurt, Germany (AP) -- Pete Sampras, playing what he said were the two best sets of his career, beat Ivan Lendl, and Jim Courier defeated defending champion Andre Agassi Saturday to reach the final of the ATP World Championship.

It will be the first all-American final since 1979, when John McEnroe beat Arthur Ashe.

Sampras used a powerful serve and volley game to beat Lendl 6-2, 6-3. Courier, coming off a big season that has seen him jump to No. 2 in the world rankings, defeated Agassi 6-3, 7-5.

Courier is 4-4 against Agassi. He has won the last three matches, including the final of the French Open this year.

Today's final will be a clash of styles, with Courier a baseliner and Sampras a serve and volley specialist.

AUTO RACING

Earnhardt Set

Hampton, Ga. (AP) -- His competitors don't like to see Dale Earnhardt stoked up and ready to be overly aggressive.

Unfortunately, for the rest of the 40-car field racing in today's season-ending Hardee's 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Earnhardt has that old fire and appears ready to unleash some of the emotion he has kept bottled up while going about the business of wrapping up his fifth NASCAR Winston Cup championship.

After several races in which team owner Richard Childress chose to use underpowered engines and conservative gearing as insurance against an early departure, Earnhardt and the rest of the Childress team know all the driver has to do today is take the green flag to win his second straight title.

"We can come in here and race hard now and not have to worry about the points," said Earnhardt, who will start fifth.