

# POST GAME

20  17



## Mavericks' marvelous comeback

It took a long time for UNO to find the end zone, but once it did No. 2 Northwest Missouri State couldn't keep pace. With more than 10,000 fans filling Caniglia Field, the No. 11 Mavs launched an onslaught of three fourth-quarter touchdowns to pull the 25-21 upset in what has become one of the better rivalries in NCAA Division II. Story, Page 8CF

# Out of the woods

A resilient Blackshirt defense helps the Huskers hang on



Nebraska cornerback Zack Bowman celebrates with Armando Murillo after intercepting Wake Forest quarterback Brett Hodges' third-and-goal pass in the end zone with 6:05 left in the game. JEFF BUNDY/THE WORLD-HERALD

## Nebraska rushing attack sputters with 115 yards

By MITCH SHERMAN  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — That's some kind of confidence Bill Callahan has in his defense. And his defensive coordinator.

Faced Saturday with a chance to punt and pin Wake Forest near its end zone — the Demon Deacons were trailing by three points with less than two minutes to play — the fourth-year Nebraska coach went for it on fourth down. And failed.

The Blackshirts, though, did not fail, forcing four straight incomplete passes from second-string Wake Forest quarterback Brett Hodges as NU escaped Groves Stadium with a teeth-grinding, 20-17 victory before a crowd of 32,483.

During a timeout before the fourth-down play from the Wake Forest 35-yard line, Callahan conferred with defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove.

"He gave me the approval," Callahan said, "and I said we're going to go for it. He felt very confident we could defend the 65-yard field."

On a warm North Carolina afternoon with about 10,000 NU fans in attendance, neither team

scored during the final 23 minutes, but there was no lack of drama. The last defensive stand capped a furious final eight minutes in which Nebraska (2-0) and Wake Forest (0-2) traded turnovers and the Huskers nearly ate the last 6:05 off the clock.

After NU gained four first downs and ran the football on eight of nine plays, Wake Forest stopped I-back Marlon Lucky cold on third and fourth down with the Huskers desperate for 2 yards to all but clinch victory.

The defending Atlantic Coast champions regained possession with 1:54 to play and picked up a first down on a pass-interference call to their 44-yard line.

Hodges, playing in place of the injured Riley Skinner, then threw incomplete for speedy Kenneth Moore twice. On third down, NU safety Ben Eisenhart appeared to intercept a deflected pass, but replay officials overturned the call and gave Hodges one more chance.

The 6-foot-1 sophomore went for his favorite target, Moore, who was draped in coverage by Grixby. The ball sailed wide as the Wake sideline and fans screamed for a pass-interference. *See Huskers: Page 3*

## Whacky ending

The back-and-forth battle waged Saturday between Nebraska and Wake Forest had its share of game-changing plays in the final minutes:



Wake Forest defensive tackle John Russell pulls down a bobbled throw from Nebraska quarterback Sam Keller at the Husker 10-yard line. REBECCA S. GRATZ/THE WORLD-HERALD

- At the 7:33 mark, NU's Sam Keller drops to throw at his 15. Under pressure and while trying to flip the ball to Marlon Lucky, the ball is jostled from Keller's hand and caught by defensive tackle John Russell. The play is ruled an interception and Wake takes over at the NU 10, poised to take the lead or at least tie with a field goal.
- Moments later, on third down, an ill-advised Hodges pass to the end zone is intercepted by NU's Zack Bowman.
- NU takes over with 6:05 left and goes on a time-burning drive to the Wake 35 where coach Bill Callahan calls for a run on fourth-and-two. Lucky is stuffed and Wake takes over.
- At the 1:23 mark and with Wake moving toward midfield, NU's Courtney Grixby tips a pass on third down that appears to fall into the hands of teammate Ben Eisenhart, seemingly all but ending the game. After review, the pass is ruled incomplete, disappointing NU fans and giving Wake life.
- At the 1:11 mark and on fourth down, Grixby tightly covers Wake's Kenneth Moore as a Hodges' pass falls in front of Moore. Wake fans want interference. They don't get it, and NU runs out the clock.

## It's time to gear for USC

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Ready or not, here they come.

Pete and John David and a stable of horses as deep as Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May. Oh, yes, and that irritating, irreplaceable song, "Fight On," that will play on and on and on. Don't forget the song girls.

Then there's Chris, Lee and Herbie. They are expected to bring their "ESPN GameDay" validation stamp, first time in six years. And ABC's national gang, whoever that is these days.

Sports Illustrated. New York Times. ESPN.com. Anybody who's anybody who still writes about college football for a living.

Even "Anchorman" himself, Will Ferrell, is threatening to show up.

This football game next Saturday night in Lincoln is kind of a big deal.

They are all coming this week to our little corner of the world. *See Shatel: Page 4*



Tom Shatel

### TOP 25



Oregon ..... 39  
Michigan ..... 7

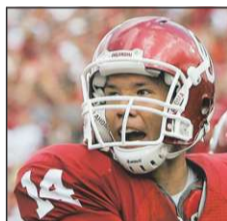
A week after getting stunned by Appalachian State, Lloyd Carr and the Wolverines were handed their worst beating since before Bo Schembechler worked the sideline at the Big House. Michigan hasn't won a game since Schembechler died the day before the Ohio State game last year. *Page 7CF*

LSU ..... 48  
Virginia Tech ..... 7

South Carolina ... 16  
Georgia ..... 12

More coverage, *Page 2CF*

### BIG 12



Oklahoma ..... 51  
Miami ..... 13

Memo to Oklahoma fans who have been worrying about the worthiness of redshirt freshman quarterback Sam Bradford: It's time to find something else to fret about, like whether No. 5 OU — clearly the best the Big 12 has to offer — is a true national title threat. Lee Barfknecht analysis. *Page 2CF*

Texas A&M...30T, 47  
Fresno St..... 45

Missouri ..... 38  
Mississippi ..... 25

Texas ..... 34  
TCU ..... 13

Baylor ..... 42  
Rice ..... 17

Kansas ..... 62  
SE Louisiana ..... 0

Northern Iowa ... 24  
Iowa State ..... 13

Texas Tech ..... 45  
UTEP ..... 31

Oklahoma St. .... 41  
Fla. Atlantic ..... 6

Kansas State ..... 34  
San Jose St..... 14

Colorado .....  
Arizona State ...late

More coverage, *Page 9CF*

### BIG TEN



Iowa ..... 35  
Syracuse ..... 0

Is Iowa that good or is Syracuse that inept? That seemed like a fair question after Iowa rolled to a 28-0 first-half lead without allowing an Orange first down. *Page 7CF*

Penn State ..... 31  
Notre Dame ..... 10

Wisconsin ..... 20  
UNLV ..... 13

### Omaha.com

Husker photo gallery, expanded Big 12 and Big Ten coverage. Also check out the bowl retrospective, photo accounts and full galleries from each of NU's 44 bowls.

### More Husker coverage

**MO BACK IN THE FLO:** His coach was happy with his effort, but NU receiver Maurice Purify sees room for improvement after his first action of the season. *Page 3CF*

**WHICH WAY DID HE GO?:** Wake Forest's misdirection running plays throw Nebraska for a loop, but stiffening in the red zone saves the day. *Page 4CF*

**NOT YET IN RHYTHM:** NU quarterback Sam Keller is still waiting to turn it loose after a performance that had its good points and bad. *Page 5CF*