

‘We gave it away’

5 turnovers
wipe out
big edge
in yards
for NU

By ELIZABETH MERRILL
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Joe Dailey said it was his fault. The ball sailed to the corner of the end zone, the crowd erupted, and a Southern Mississippi hand delivered one last swat.

The offensive linemen said it was everybody’s fault. After five turnovers, maybe their fingers were too tired to point.

“You know what? I blew it today,” Dailey said after his three interceptions helped Southern Miss stun Nebraska 21-17 Saturday. “I can’t lie. I can’t dress it up. It was all on me. I turned the ball over four times. I’m the quarterback. I’m supposed to take care of the ball.

“It’s my fault, and it’s all on me.”

A song from Barnum and Bailey’s circus played as Southern Miss’ small contingent spilled onto the field and the rest of the 77,877 fans made a quick exit. It was the Huskers’ first nonconference loss at home since 1991, and it exposed a young, vulnerable offense that must take its turnover issues to the road next weekend at Pittsburgh.

In eight quarters, Dailey has thrown seven interceptions. The sophomore also fumbled stretching for extra yards on a key fourth-quarter drive.

But Bill Callahan emerged from the postgame gloom sounding more like Father Flanagan than a coach who had just watched his team lose a game that it dominated in nearly every phase.

“Joe didn’t have his best day, and we’re all aware of that,” Callahan said. “He’s going to mature. He’s going to learn from this.

“We left a lot of opportunities on the field. We’re disappointed. This was a game that was there for the taking, and we gave it away. And there’s nobody to look at but ourselves.”

With 37 seconds to play, it looked as if the Huskers might escape despite all the mistakes. Dailey launched a pass into the end zone, where Matt Herian, his favorite target, appeared open. But Caleb Hendrix got a hand on it and tipped the ball away, leaving Dailey with fourth down on the Southern Miss 17.

He scrambled to find a receiver. *See Huskers: Page 2*



JOE MIXAN FOR THE WORLD-HERALD

Nebraska quarterback Joe Dailey’s fumble in the fourth quarter ended a scoring opportunity when Southern Mississippi recovered on its 12-yard line with 4:28 left. Below, Southern Miss running back, Anthony Harris, foreground, and Travis Cooley celebrate the victory.



JAMES R. BURNETT/THE WORLD-HERALD

NU season becomes all about patience

LINCOLN — Diary of a NU Era. Game Two: Reality bites.

Patience, anyone? Southern Mississippi 21, Nebraska 17. This is reality for Nebraska football, circa 2004. Stuff happens.

This is the stuff that happens when you change head coaches, when you say the man who went 9-3 can take the ship only so far and you want to go further. If you believe in that decision, this is what’s known as a short-term loss toward the bigger gains of the future. One step backward before two steps forward.

This is the stuff that happens when you change systems and you have a sophomore quarterback making his second start.

This is the stuff that happens when that new offense and quarterback



Tom Shatel

face a real defense for the first time, a defense with speed and ability and disguises.

This is the stuff that happens when you turn the ball over five times to a so-called “mid-major” program. Teams like Southern Miss and Troy State are good enough to steal one if you leave the front door open.

Patience, anyone? The reality is that Nebraska football must be all about patience right now. That reality was written on the somber faces of a Husker Nation as it shuffled out of Memorial Stadium *See Shatel: Page 2*



LAURA INNS
THE WORLD-HERALD
Zac Herold, No. 46, celebrates one of UNO’s touchdowns during a 51-13 victory over Minnesota-Crookston.

Mavs bounce back big at home

By ROB WHITE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Minnesota-Crookston played its role of \$28,000 confidence builder quite nicely.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha bounced back from its disappointing loss to Indiana (Pa.) with a 51-13 victory over the Golden Eagles before 2,200 Saturday at Cangilia Field, re-establishing its offensive firepower and dominating on defense.

“Our team responded well today, because this was a hard football team to play against. It’s a team everyone thinks you should beat,” UNO Coach Pat Behrns said. “I do think there are things we need to do better, but we were in control the whole time.”

Quarterback Brian Masek tied a school record with four touchdown passes — two each to Austin Parks and Mike Nizzi — and added two more touchdowns on the ground. And the Maverick defense held UMC to just 111 total yards — almost half coming in the fourth quarter.

“We’re trying to stay in the swing of things,” UNO linebacker Randy Stella said. “We wanted to establish ourselves again and make sure we’re OK and doing the right things. We’re going to go out and regulate now.”

UMC (0-2), which got a \$28,000 guarantee for the game, lost by a wide margin for the second straight time against a North *See Mavericks: Page 2*

K-State’s whipping started early



Lee Barfknecht

MANHATTAN, Kan. — For the first time in a long time, Kansas State’s football team looked more like the Mildcats than the Wildcats.

Flashbacks to the bad old days came zooming back during Saturday’s 45-21 loss to soon-to-be-ranked Fresno State.

This was a Grade A rump-kicking from the first snap to the last. If you need a second opinion, ask KSU Coach Bill Snyder.

“I’ve been here for 16 years, and

through some of those years you can remember the 1-10s and 5-6s,” Snyder said. “But we’ve never had a football team get beat up as badly as we did today.”

Actually, the whipping started 40 minutes before the game. A shoving match and scuffle during warmups as K-State ran through Fresno State’s drills appeared to energize the visitors.

“They came out and tried to intimidate us by jawing,” Bulldogs Coach Pat

Hill said. “But our kids don’t let that stuff bother them.

“You don’t win with your mouth. You win with your hat and your heart.”

It’s a good thing for the Purple People — who won’t be rated No. 13 and 14 anymore — that Fresno State had a 71-yard punt return for a touchdown nullified by penalty in the first quarter and had a pass intercepted at the K-State 1 early in the third. Imagine *See Barfknecht: Page 2*



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fresno State strong safety Vincent Mays, No. 4, sacks Kansas State quarterback Allan Webb in the fourth quarter.

INSIDE



Pile on

Lydell Ross, bottom, and his Ohio State Buckeye teammates often were knocked down, but they bounced back to edge Marshall 24-21.

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Mile-long

Oklahoma’s Mark Bradley scored on a 51-yard run touchdown during a 63-13 win over Houston.

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In-state

Ed Hinkel’s diving catch helped the No. 16-ranked Iowa Hawkeyes subdue Iowa State.

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Not too late

Brady Quinn and his Notre Dame teammates relied on a freshman to score two fourth-quarter touchdowns against Michigan.

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