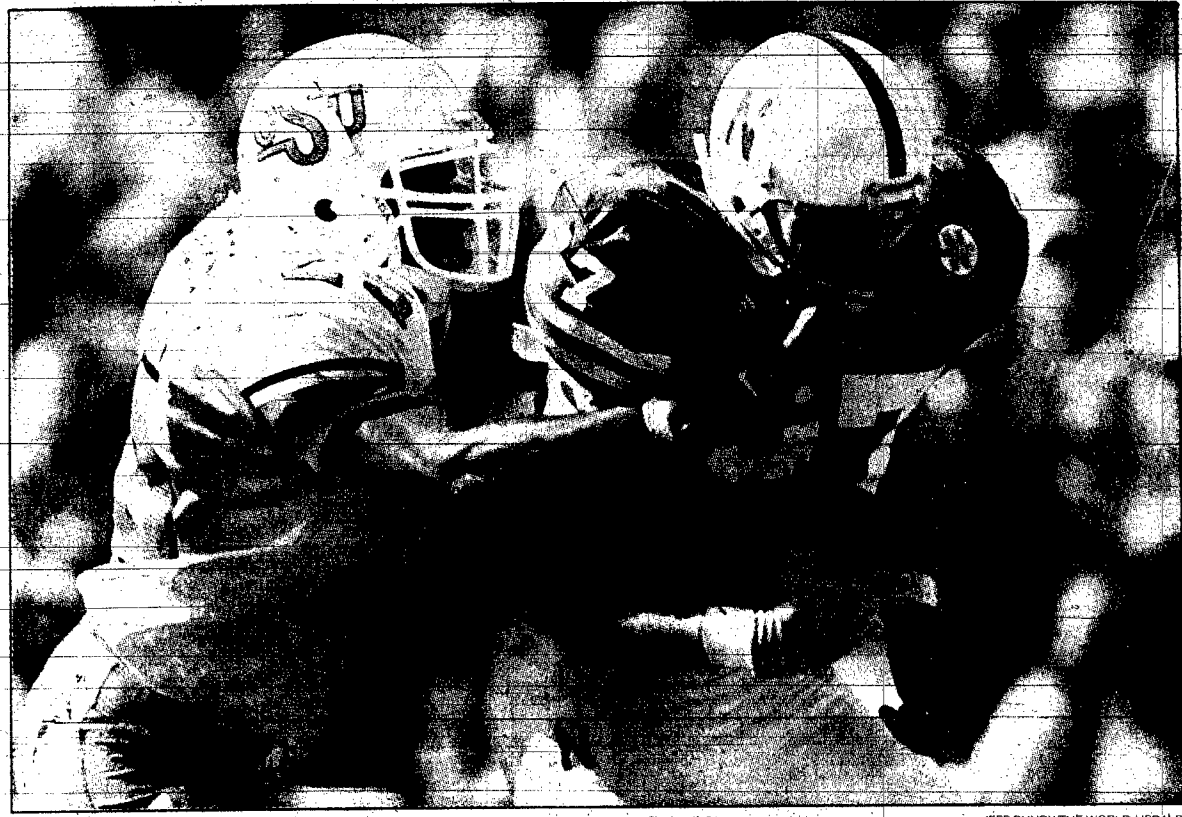


College Football



Nebraska 38, Oklahoma State 14

Huskers' Fast Start Leaves OSU in Dust



QUICK STRIKES: Nebraska's offense, largely stymied a year ago by Oklahoma State, had little trouble making big plays Saturday. Above, OSU safety J.B. Flowers drags down NU's Tracey Wistrom at the end of a 47-yard pass play. At top, NU's Correll Buckhalter pulls away from Flowers on a 22-yard run.

NU Rolls Past 'Pokes; Second Half a Concern

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Nebraska combined a first-half to remember Saturday against Oklahoma State with a second half to forget.

The result was a 38-14 Big 12 Conference victory that produced almost as many frowns as smiles in the Husker camp.

"The first half, we were awesome," Husker rover back Mike Brown said. "The second half, we sucked."

Brown's brutally honest assessment was aimed particularly at the Nebraska defense, which surrendered two touchdowns and 228 yards in the final 30 minutes. But it also generally summed up the mood following Nebraska's 24th straight win over the Cowboys improved the fifth- and sixth-ranked Huskers to 5-0 and 2-0 in league play.

"We didn't play as well in the second half, but I think that was probably because of a combination of things," Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said. "To a degree, it is a little discouraging because you're always looking to play four quarters of good football."

"We didn't play four quarters of great football today, but we did play good football for a decent share of the game."

The Huskers produced their finest all-around 30 minutes of the season in taking a 31-0 halftime lead, before 77,740 at Memorial Stadium — the 230th straight sellout — and a Big 12 syndicated television audience. Nebraska's offense chewed through Oklahoma State's defense, which came into the game ranked third nationally, for 256 first-half yards and scores on five of its first seven possessions.

Defensively, Nebraska held the Cowboys to 45 yards on 28 first-half plays, only one of which was run in Nebraska territory. Oklahoma State completed none of its five passes in the first two quarters, and its longest gain against a Nebraska defense that was ranked fourth nationally was a 12-yard run by Jamaal Fobbs.

The Cowboys, who fell to 2-2 and 0-1 in the Big 12, also lost one fumble and had a punt blocked, with both mistakes setting up Nebraska touchdowns.

"When you play a team like Nebraska that does not beat itself, you can't beat yourself," Oklahoma State Coach Bob Simmons said. "When you give that kind of team momentum and do not carry out your responsibilities, you are in for a long day."

Oklahoma State enjoyed more success in the final 30 minutes, putting together scoring drives of 80 and 64 yards and averaging 5.6 yards on its 41 second-half plays. Four touchdown underdogs, the Cowboys managed runs of 35 yards by Terrance Richardson and 30 yards by Fobbs against a Nebraska defense that hadn't yielded a rush of

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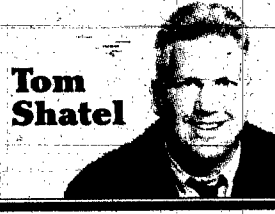
Crowd, Blackshirts Feed Off Each Other's Energy

Lincoln — Did you hear it? Could you feel it? Nebraska's Blackshirt defense rushed out onto the field for its first series against Oklahoma State, and the Memorial Stadium crowd cranked up the volume. The people stood and yelled. The place was loud. For Memorial Stadium. For anywhere.

And then, on OSU's first play from scrimmage, something happened. Oklahoma State's Nathan Simmons took the handoff and dropped the ball. Safety Clint Finley recovered on the Huskers' 49. One play. One turnover. Nine plays later it's 7-0, Nebraska.

Then the Blackshirts ran out again. The crowd lost it again. This time they were louder than before. It was an amazing, spontaneous thing, this great Nebraska defense and the crowd's reaction to them. People know this is a special group. But it's more than that. It's their personalities, their speed that thrills. Their energy. The Blackshirts are like rock stars. When they hit the turf, it's a rock concert. Blackshirtmania.

And so the Pokes went three-and-out, and the stars ran off the field to more cheers, more energy, the stadium rocked and rolling, louder and louder. On NU's first play from scrimmage, quarterback Eric Crouch hit tight end Tracey Wistrom on a



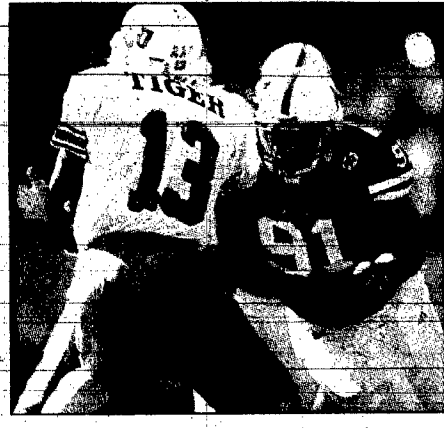
Tom Shatel

47-yard pass off a play-action fake to the 2. Next play, touchdown Huskers. It's 14-0.

They would block a punt, score again. It would be 21-0 after one quarter, 31-0 at the half. The Huskers were blocking. They were running perfect options. They were passing and catching. And the rock stars on defense just kept playing and playing, and the crowd kept going nuts, and you knew something special was happening here.

You could feel the power. You

See **SHATEL** Page 7-Football



SACK: Nebraska's Loran Kaiser (91) chases down Oklahoma State quarterback B.J. Tiger in the first quarter. Kaiser and rush end Chris Kelsay combined for a 7-yard sack on the play, and Brian Shaw's blocked punt on the next play set up NU's third touchdown.

Tide Ends Florida's Swamp Streak in OT

Gainesville, Fla. (AP) — It was the kind of victory that can make a season and save a career. Just ask No. 21 Alabama and its embattled coach, Mike DuBose.

The Crimson Tide snapped No. 3 Florida's 30-game winning streak at The Swamp on Saturday when Chris Kemp got a second chance on an extra-point attempt in overtime and drilled it for a 40-39 win.

In an effort that would have shocked the late Bear Bryant as much as it would have pleased him, the Crimson Tide (4-1, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) controlled the ball for 41:22, racked up 447 yards in offense and matched Steve Spurrier's Gators score for score.

By overcoming Florida (4-1, 2-1), the Tide sent the message that, indeed, Alabama is back, despite the tumult that had engulfed the program this season.

"I am so proud of this coaching staff and this football team for staying together, for believing in each other," DuBose said. "We believed in the team concept when there were lots of times where they could have split and splintered."

Kemp got his second chance after Florida's Bennie Alexander jumped offside on the conversion attempt following Shaun Alexander's 25-yard touchdown run — his fourth score of the day — on the first play of Alabama's overtime possession.

Kemp nailed the second kick, providing the difference, just moments after Florida kicker Jeff Chandler's conversion attempt went wide right.

When he did, Alabama players ran to the 35-yard line, where the Gator logo is painted on the field, jumping and dancing as the Gators walked off in shock.

Reporters and Alabama state troopers swarmed DuBose as he headed to the locker room, victorious and apparently secure again in a job that seemed all but lost just two weeks ago.

His admission that he lied about a personal relationship with a school employee was as frustrating and embarrassing to the Tide faithful as the 14-13 career record he brought into this week's game.

Possibly lost in the disgust was the fact that DuBose was slowly rebuilding the talent pool in a program that suffered NCAA-imposed scholarship reductions in the mid-1990s.

Well after the game was over, a handful of Alabama players came back to the field and celebrated with the Crimson Tide marching band, which played its fight song — "Go, go, go Alabama" — long and loud in the nearly empty Swamp.

"They're still hollering out there and we're in here crying," Spurrier said, "and that's the way sports is."

As usual, Florida put up big numbers — 449 yards — but the one it couldn't overcome was just 18:38 in time of possession. Mixing ball control

with its new, wide-open style, Alabama ran 81 plays to just 52 for the Gators.

The exhausted Florida defense was no match for Alabama as the game wore on, and Zow moved his team as effortlessly as did Johnson, who finished 22-for-31 for 309 yards and four touchdowns.

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"They're still hollering out there and we're in here crying," Spurrier said, "and that's the way sports is."

The seniors kept talking about it, but I think we were just coming out here to play," UNO redshirt freshman linebacker Lawrence Butler said. "But they've talked about it being a rough place to play and being like an old prison yard, and it probably was."

No. 5-ranked UNO's win between the 20-foot-high brick walls of Selke Field sets up a showdown next Saturday at No. 2 Northern Colorado. The Mavs and Bears are both 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the North Central Conference.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha had rarely even come close at St. Cloud in recent years, however, suffering losses of 34-0 (1990), 31-13 (1992), 33-0 (1994), 34-7 (1995) and 46-7 (1997). The last of those cost the Mavs an NCAA Division II playoff berth.

"It was kind of a motivational factor, but I also think more of a motivational factor for us is just going out and winning the game and taking another step toward the conference or the playoffs."

UNO senior offensive lineman Chris Bober said. "But a lot of guys were here

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Allen Powers Kansas State Past Texas

BY LEE BARFKNECHT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Austin, Texas — Kansas State remains undefeated this season because for the second straight week an opponent suffered a brain cramp.

That's the only plausible explanation for kicking a football anywhere near KSU's David Allen, now the NCAA co-leader for career punt return touchdowns with seven.

Allen, who rescued the Wildcats from an upset at Iowa State last week with a 94-yard touchdown runback in the second half, had a repeat performance Saturday in 13th-ranked KSU's 35-17 comeback win over No. 15 Texas.

The Wildcats trailed 14-9 in the third quarter and had generated only 95

yards of total offense through the game's first 35 minutes. Then Texas punter Ryan Long, with a 15-mph wind at his back, punted a ball he wished he had back.

It sailed 48 yards down the east hashmark toward Allen, instead of 10 yards shorter and toward the sideline.

"It was a mistake," Texas Coach Mack Brown said. "We had been kicking away from him all day. But this time we missed by 5 yards."

Allen fielded the ball, juked the closest pursuer, bolted right and raced 74 yards untouched for the six points that gave Kansas State — behind since late in the first quarter — the lead for good with 8:47 left in the third quarter.

"I think that broke the ice," Allen said. "Just like last week at Iowa State, it got our team hyped and we got something going."

From there, Kansas State's defense harassed Texas quarterback Major Applewhite into his fourth, fifth and sixth turnovers of the game, including a 37-yard interception return for a touchdown by linebacker Mark Simonneau early in the fourth quarter.

That let the Wildcats (4-0, 2-0) pull away from the Longhorns (4-2, 1-1) and sent a sellout crowd of 83,082 at Darrell K. Royal-Memorial Stadium home early.

Allen's punt return touchdown tied him for the NCAA career mark set by Oklahoma's Jack Mitchell (1946-48) and matched by Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers (1970-72). His six previous punt return touchdowns were for 70, 63, 69, 93, 77 and 94 yards.

Texas was well aware of Allen's punt



TEXAS TORMENTOR: Kansas State running back kick returner David Allen had two touchdowns Saturday.

return prowess. The 93-yarder came against the Longhorns last year in Manhattan, Kan.

But K-State's Chris Claybon, who threw the final block Saturday to spring Allen, said pride sometimes can get in the way of strategy.

"If you tell your team you're not kicking to a guy, that's admitting defeat," Claybon said. "Besides, I don't know if you can kick out of bounds all day and make a living on 20-yard punts."

"Will anybody kick to Allen the rest of the season?"

"I hope so," he said. "I wouldn't, but I hope so. All I know is it's a great honor to be compared to somebody like Johnny Rodgers."

The special-teams play, highlighted

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