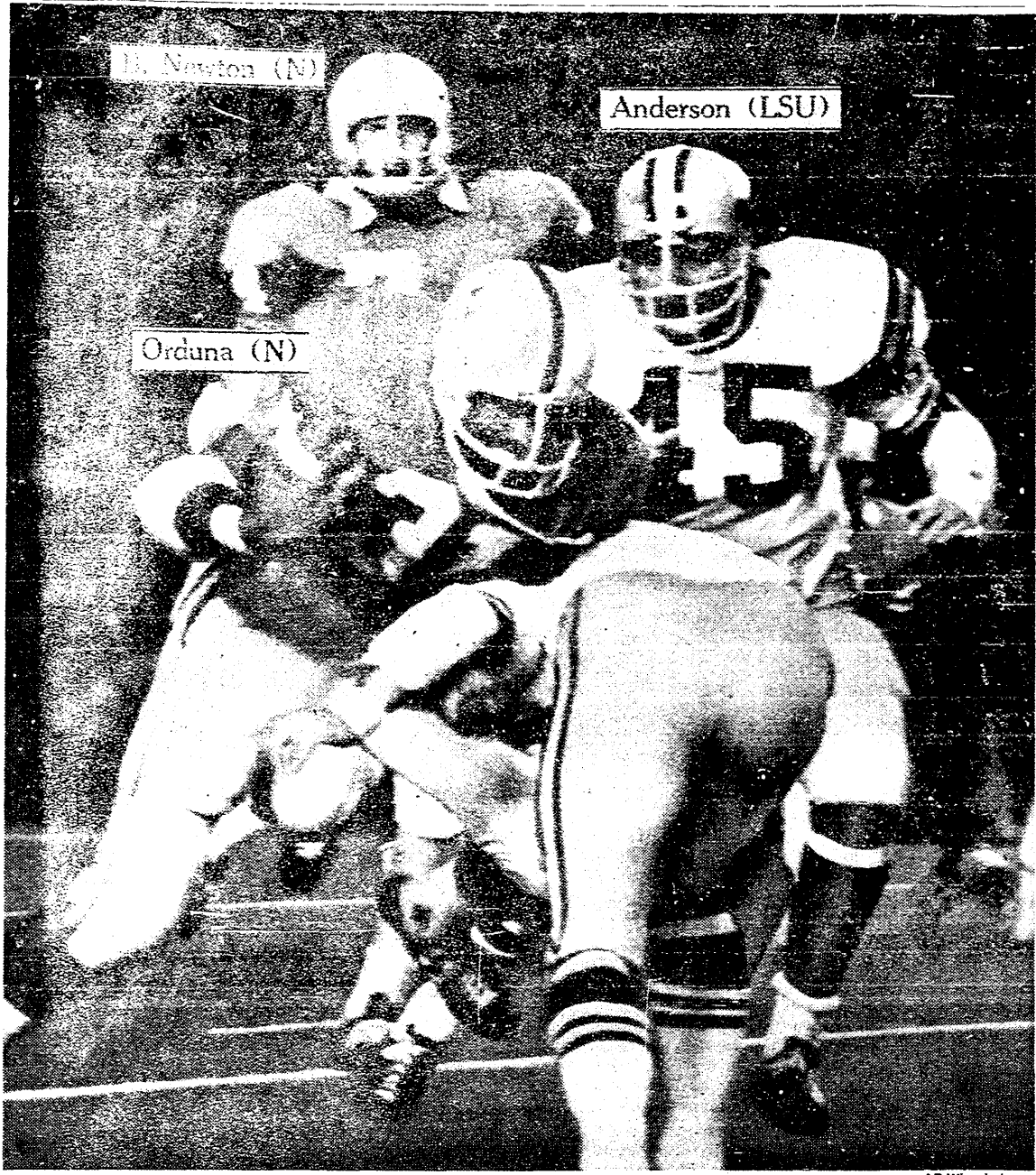


Nebraska's Defense Steals Louisiana State's Thunder



Joe Orduna blasts for three yards . . . Bob Newton looks on as Huskers open scoring.

By Wally Provost

World-Herald Sports Editor
Miami — Cool, courageous Nebraska made an impressive bid for the national collegiate football championship Friday night by knifing through Louisiana State's great defense for a 17-12 victory in the Orange Bowl.

While adding the crown jewels of the Southeastern Conference to its bulging treasure chest, Nebraska also put in a claim for the best defense in the country as a record throng of 80,699 watched in awe on a balmy evening in the high 50's. The Cornhusker Blackshirts' end Willie Harper was voted the game's best defensive player following countless clutch plays that helped jam the LSU attack. Nebraska's 14 times smashed through the enemy line to pin down its backs for losses totaling 107 yards. LSU netted only 51 yards on the ground while finishing second in total offense, 278 to 293.

Husker quarterback Jerry Tagge, who engineered a nerveless comeback drive of 67 yards midway in the final quarter, was hailed by the press as the outstanding player on offense in this hammering struggle for supremacy.

In 11 games during the regular season, LSU had yielded only two touchdowns on the ground. Nebraska crossed the goal line twice — on a three-yard plunge by Joe Orduna and a one-yard shot by Tagge.

Perhaps the most memorable picture of the game will be that of Tagge, perched atop a heap of bodies at the middle of the line, stretching out his long arms to guarantee penetration of the "plane" of the goal with the ball.

Louisiana State had yielded

an average of only 52.2 yards rushing in its championship season. Nebraska netted 132 yards on the ground — a figure that must be compared with title-contending Notre Dame's 78 when Associated Press balloters cast their final votes for the national champion.

Notre Dame, conqueror of Texas' previous poll leaders in their Cotton Bowl match earlier Friday, was a 3-0 victor over Louisiana State late in the regular season.

Nebraska's first points came on a 26-yard field goal in the

counterpart Mike Anderson with totals of 9-1 to the latter's 8-1.

The Cornhuskers trailed by 10-12 going into the final period after LSU delivered its touchdown pass with time having run out in the third period.

N.U. defender Jim Anderson slipped and fell on that play, but Coffee might have made it to the end zone regardless. The 5-11, 170-pound sophomore from Baton Rouge has sprinted the 100 in :09.4 and holds SEC records for both the 220 (:20.8) and 440 (:45.6).

Working from its 33 following Jim Carstens' fielding of a difficult kickoff, Nebraska twice made third-down hurdles—with Orduna carrying on one and Tagge pitching to Jeff Kinney on the other.

The latter thrust was good for 17 yards and a first down on the LSU five.

Kinney hit left tackle for about three behind a cracking good block by Danny Schneiss. Tagge lunged into the center of the line but was about a foot short of the goal. Tagge's next effort got the job done with 8:50 remaining in the game.

Louisiana State then proceeded to make life precarious for head patients among the some 16,000 N.U. followers by driving from its 16 to the 39 with growing momentum.

However, three straight passes by Lee were incomplete, thanks to a heavy pass rush and sharp coverage in the secondary. The third miss found Harper stunning Lee with a thunderous tackle.

When Wayne Dickinson punted on fourth down, LSU rooters yelled with joy as Harper crashed into the kicker. Harper had been blocked into Dickinson by Jim Benglis, though, and the officials ruled no violation.

The pressured punt was good for only four yards, going out on the Tiger 43. Now the Nebraska rooters were whooping it up with 6:25 to play.

Nebraska drove to just outside the LSU 13, but Orduna, who netted a Husker-high 63 yards and averaged 4.8 in an all-around magnificent performance, fumbled on his next carry. LSU recovered on its 13.

Now the LSU quarterback was Bert Jones, the youngster credited with the "strongest arm" in the school's modern football history.

On second down, Jones passed to 6-foot-3 end Gerald Keigley for a first-and-10 on its 26. On the following play, Ed Periard and Johnny Adkins barreled through to knock down Jones for a seven-yard loss.

Next play, it was Adkins, a 220-pound junior from Lynchburg, Va., smearing Jones for a loss of 12. Jones is a tough customer. He got up from that shelling to hit tall, clever Andy Hamilton with a 31-yard pass.

The same combination advanced the ball to the LSU 44 on next down. With 2:07 remaining and the Tigers nearing midfield, their fans were delirious with delight.

Chris Dantin, subbing for the better known Art Cantrelle, benched with an ankle sprain in the first half, dashed to the 47. One yard was needed on third down. Jones kept for two.

On the next play, Harper grabbed the ball and ran five yards to the LSU 43.

Now Nebraska was out to kill time, but LSU called time out after Tagge lost about 12 inches with a cautious lunge and again after Kinney made two

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Irish Defense Has a Feast On Wishbone

Dallas (AP) — A new Notre Dame defense, nine Texas fumbles, and All-American quarterback Joe Theismann chopped off Texas' 30-game victory string in the Cotton Bowl, 24-11, Friday, and probably knocked the Longhorns out of a second consecutive national title.

A glum Texas Coach Darrell Royal said: "To quote Grantland Rice, one of your famous writers, I've learned something that victory cannot bring, to wipe the blood from my face and smile so none can see the sting."

Theismann, Notre Dame's senior All-American, ran for two touchdowns and passed for another.

Texas, the most awesome ground team in the country with its famed Wishbone-T, gave the ball away five times on fumbles — four by All-American fullback Steve Worster.

A Mirror

The Longhorns were tied up by a defense concocted by Notre Dame Coach Ara Parseghian. It had the Wishbone-shaped Texas backfield looking almost into a mirror of itself across the line of scrimmage.

"Basically, we tried to mirror the Wishbone with the same type of a defense," Parseghian said. "We wanted Texas to pass and Eddie Phillips did. He can throw the ball. We broke their consistency pattern."

"We learned a lot a year ago from Texas about the Wishbone and even adopted the offense so we could learn more about it."

"We used a new alignment — there's no way you can cover them with the typical defenses."

Royal said Notre Dame's end "was boxing us on the keep, forcing Phillips to run all the time. They were large enough physically inside that we couldn't get a crease for Worster."

Parseghian took no chances Texas would discover what the Irish planned. He even used 12 men on offense and 13 men on defense during practice sessions to confuse any would-be spies.

46 Years

It was the first bowl victory for the Irish in 46 years and followed a 21-17 loss to Texas in last

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Theismann pulls away from Longhorn . . . scores on three-yard run.

Results of Major Bowl Grid Frays

By The Associated Press.
Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Dec. 12: Tulane 17, Colorado 3.
Sun Bowl at El Paso, Dec. 19: Georgia Tech 17, Texas Tech 9.
Pasadena Bowl at Pasadena, Calif., Dec. 19: Louisville 24, Long Beach State 24.
Tangerine Bowl at Orlando, Fla., Dec. 28: Toledo 40, William & Mary 12.
Peach Bowl at Atlanta, Dec. 30: Arizona State 46, North Carolina 26.
Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl at Houston, Dec. 31: Alabama 26, Oklahoma 24.
Sugar Bowl at New Orleans, Jan. 1: Tennessee 24, Air Force 13.
Cotton Bowl at Dallas, Jan. 1: Notre Dame 24, Texas 11.
Rose Bowl at Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1: Stanford 27, Ohio State 17.
Orange Bowl at Miami, Jan. 1: Nebraska 17, Louisiana State 12.

Win by Irish Fails to Spur Bucks' Team

Pasadena (AP)—Notre Dame's upset of top-ranked Texas failed to provide the spark Woody Hayes expected from his No. 2-rated Ohio State football team, which fell 27-17 in an upset to Stanford in the Rose Bowl Friday.

"The Texas score should have been a boost. But it wasn't," Hayes said.

Hayes, forbidding post-game interviews with his players, said the Big 10 champions wasted too many scoring opportunities.

"Either team could have won it until we got stopped at their 20 and then they hit that mad dog pass on our two," the Ohio State coach said following his first loss in four Rose Bowl appearances.

The "mad dog pass" to which Hayes referred was a 35-yard bomb from Jim Plunkett to Bob Moore at the Ohio State two on the next series.

"Isn't that Plunkett some sort of quarterback?" asked Coach John Ralston, who has been the Stanford head man for all of Plunkett's 32 games there.

"My heavenly days, what are we going to do without him?" Ralston said many of his New Year's Day plays were put in for Ohio State, including the first play from scrimmage.

On that one, Plunkett rolled to his left and handed off to wide receiver Eric Cross on a reverse that went 41 yards to the Ohio State 18.

"We changed our offense for this game," said Ralston. "We wanted to keep them off-balance with play action passes and screens. But in the second half, our receivers came to me and said, 'We think we can beat them with individual routes,' so we changed a little in the second half."

On his more aggressive defense for the final two quarters, Ralston said: "They run real well up the middle and run the option very well, too, so in the first half we were trying to contain them and we were laying back a little bit."

"In the second half, we decided to go after them. If we missed them, somebody would have to take up the slack."

Stanford's first touchdown came on a four yard run by Jackie Brown, the first of his two for the sunny, slightly chilly afternoon. It came after the Stanford defense, much stronger than it had been credited, stopped a Buckeye drive following the opening kickoff.

Stanford traveled 59 yards in six plays for the touchdown and added three more points on a 37-yard field goal by Steve Horowitz.

It was Horowitz who kicked a Rose Bowl record 48-yard field goal opening the third quarter, which narrowed the Indians' deficit to 14-13.

John Brockington scored the

Vol Air Play Sparks Romp

New Orleans (AP) — "They tried to stop our running game, but we passed too," Tennessee Coach Bill Battle said in summing up the Vols' 34-13 victory over Air Force in the Sugar Bowl New Year's Day.

Air Force stopped Tennessee's running game, but it failed to consider quarterback Bobby Scott as a passer and, says Battle, one of the forgotten quarterbacks in the country.

Scott's aerial attack apparently caught the Falcons by surprise and earned him the Most Valuable Player Award. Scott completed 22 of 46 passes for 288 yards.

However, Coach Ben Martin of Air Force said the Volunteers' early passing attack didn't come as a surprise.

"They have passed early before. There were no surprises. They just continued to do what they have been doing well all year," Martin said.

"It's about time he (Scott) won something," Battle said. "He's been winning for us for two years."

Scott, a 195-pound senior from Rossville, Ga., had Air Force defenders off balance throughout the first period. The Volunteers sailed to a touchdown on their opening series, with Scott's doing most of the damage, and scored on their next two possessions.

Halfback Don McLeary punctured the Falcon line on a five-yard smash for the first Vol touchdown and George Hunt's 30 yard field goal made it 10-0 minutes later.

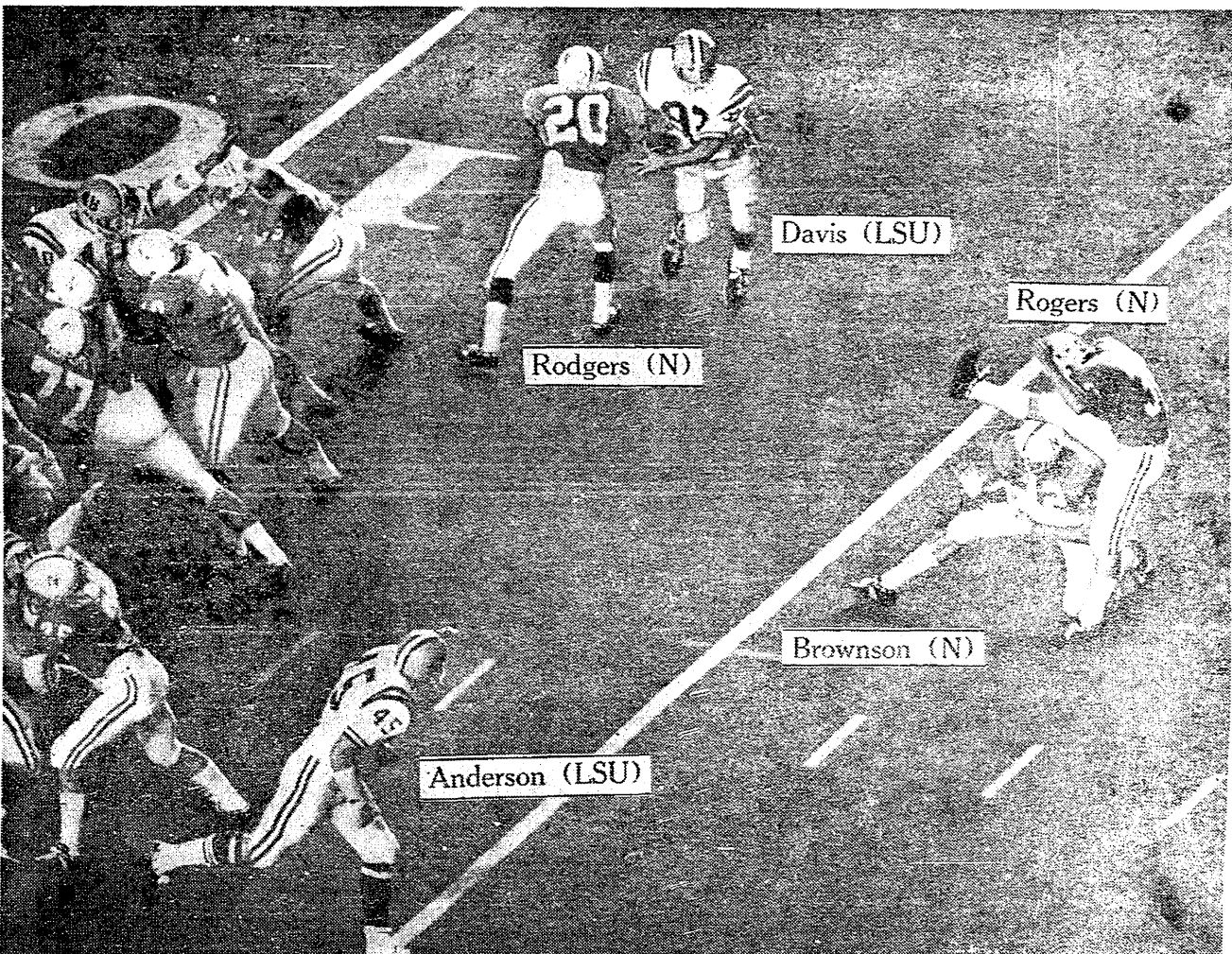
McLeary went 20 yards on Tennessee's next series for another touchdown and the Volunteers had a 17-0 edge.

Tackle Jamie Rotellas' recovery of Air Force fullback Brian Bream's fumble started the Vols going again late in the first quarter and Scott hit Gary Theiler with a 10-yard strike and the Volunteers had a 24-0 cushion.

Air Force got on the board when Scott bobbled a snap from center in the first quarter's fading minutes and Darryl Haas recovered for the Falcon touchdown with Craig Bary booting the conversion.

Bobby Majors, another in the long line of Majors' family players at Tennessee, put the game out of sight with a 57-

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Paul Rogers sends ball soaring . . . and Huskers enjoy 3-0 lead on 26-yard field goal in first quarter.

Even Pope Would Go With N.U., Bob Says

By Conde Sargent

World-Herald Sports Writer
Miami — Bob Devaney sighed and said he knew it all along. Nebraska's football team — his ninth — deserved to be the leading college club in the country.

"Even the Pope would have to vote us No. 1," the happy Irishman said in the dressing room following the Huskers' 17-12 conquest of Louisiana State Friday.

"These guys," he continued, "sure deserve to be No. 1. There is no question now. They've worked real hard to get this. After they heard the scores of the afternoon games, they were elated that there was another door open."

The Huskers were slow to get through that door and get it closed, Devaney said.

Last 45 Seconds

"The game wasn't won until the last 45 seconds when we intercepted the pass (linebacker Bob Terrio did it)."

Nonetheless, the coach labeled the Vig Eight championship team his "best" while Nebraska.

"We have not been in the

habit of turning the ball over that much (fumbles, interceptions, mistakes). But we hadn't played for a while. We ran these guys a lot to get them ready. We ran them until their legs were sore. It's hard to get outside (at Lincoln) so we felt we had to push them a lot harder down here. Maybe they didn't like it but they didn't complain."

"LSU is a good football team," the Nebraska coach continued. "A very good team. I would have to classify them with Southern California which tied us earlier this year."

"We gave LSU many chances

to win. But we have come from behind before and I thought we could again. We had enough time. It looked for a time like we were not going to get out here alive.

Wrong Guess

"LSU took the momentum away from us and we helped them some with some mistakes. We guessed wrong about their defense in the first half. We threw on first down and ran on second. In the second half we ran more on first down. They played us according to formation instead of according to down and distance. We were wrong on that."

Regarding Nebraska's several offside penalties, Devaney said LSU's defensive signals caused some of the mixups. "They weren't doing anything illegal; we call the signals the same way. We quit going on the first sound at the line and that helped."

The coach, then, was off for a trip back to the hotel in practice pants because he was tossed into the showers. Awaiting was a champagne toast.

"A guy sent us some last time

we were down here," said Devaney, referring to the 1966 loss to Alabama in the Orange Bowl. "We drank it but it didn't taste very good."

Likely, it was the best ever brewed Friday night.



Top Netminder

Jim Shaw, the Central Hockey League's leading goalie, is scheduled to be in the nets for Dallas against Omaha at Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum Sunday at 7 p.m. Shaw a rookie, has allowed 44 goals in 20 games for a 2.31 average. The first-place Knights have a 2-1 edge in the season series over Dallas.

Ryan, A.L. Play for Title—Page 12