

Sports

Huskers pluck Jayhawks, 70-0

By Chuck Green
Sports Editor

LAWRENCE, Kan. — For Clete Blakeman, Nebraska's 70-0 thrashing of Kansas Saturday was an opportunity he just couldn't "pass" up.

Blakeman, a junior quarterback from Norfolk, made his first start as a Cornhusker. Steve Taylor, Nebraska's usual starting signal-caller, did not play because of bruised ribs and a sore back.

"This meant a lot to me," Blakeman said of the game. "I've been waiting a long time for this chance. It showed that Coach Osborne has the faith in me to play me like that. I just wanted to go in and do my best."

"It turned out well."

That could have been one of the biggest understatement of Nebraska's season so far. Blakeman completed eight of 12 passes for 94 yards and three touchdowns. When he couldn't find an open receiver or a good pitch man, Blakeman carried the ball 11 times for 61 yards and another touchdown. Blakeman accounted for 155 of Nebraska's yards and 24 of Nebraska's points.

"Clete played very well today," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "He was a very steady performer."

But, Blakeman wasn't the only steady performer for the Huskers. Nebraska's offense rolled up 587 yards, 490 of which came on the ground. Sixteen Huskers carried the ball on offense and seven of them scored. Nebraska's defense held the Jayhawks to 101 yards of offense — Kansas gained 71 yards in the first half — and only nine first downs in the game. Kansas punted 10 times compared to Nebraska's single punt of the day late in the first quarter. Kansas quarterback Kelly Donohoe was sacked five times by Nebraska's defense Saturday. The Jayhawks never caught a Nebraska quarterback behind the line of scrimmage. Twelve Husker defenders recorded

tackles for lost yardage.

It was just that kind of a day for the Jayhawks. Kansas' problems actually started before the game did. After the Jayhawk seniors were introduced — it was Kansas' last home game of the season — the rest of the team ran onto the field. The Kansas cheerleaders held up a paper banner for the team to break through as they took the field. As the first Jayhawk player burst through the banner, he stumbled and fell to the ground.

Shortly afterward, the rest of Kansas' team fell as well. Sports writers in the press box joked about the game, made predictions on how bad Kansas would get beaten and paid more attention to the Oklahoma-Colorado game on their Watchman televisions.

Nebraska took the opening kickoff and drove 80 yards in 14 plays to take a 7-0 lead on a 2-yard run by I-back Keith Jones and the extra point by Dale Klein.

Jones, playing with a cast on his right hand due to torn ligaments in his thumb, led all rushers Saturday with 117 yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries.

On the ensuing kickoff, Jayhawk running back Scott Shriner took the ball at the 9-yard line, returned it to the 20 and was hit by Husker defensive end Jon Marco. Shriner fumbled and the ball was recovered by Nebraska's Jeff Jamrog at the Kansas 20-yard line. One play and 20 seconds later, Jones scored his second touchdown of the day on a 20-yard pitch around the left end. Klein added the extra point to give Nebraska a 14-0 lead.

Nebraska scored on their next drive when Blakeman threw a short pass to wingback Dana Brinson. Brinson caught the ball and was hit immediately by a Jayhawk defensive back. Brinson managed to spin free and run into the end zone to extend Nebraska's lead to 20-0 with 2:53 remaining in the first quarter. Klein added the extra point.

After a delay of game penalty halted Nebraska's next drive, the Huskers stopped Kansas in four plays to regain possession of the ball at the Kansas 33-yard line. Three plays later, Blakeman completed his second touchdown pass of the game, this time to tight end Tom Banderas. Banderas was open in the back corner of the end zone when Blakeman threw the ball, but because of heavy pressure from Kansas defenders, the pass was thrown ahead of Banderas. Banderas dove and caught the ball one-handed to cap the three-play drive.

"I didn't see that one," Blakeman said of the play. "I got hit just as soon as I threw the ball and I was on the ground when he caught it. I heard it was a good catch."

Banderas said he made a few catches like that in high school, but called this one his "best college catch."

"The ball was thrown and I just laid out and stuck out a hand and pulled it in," he said. "It felt pretty good."

It was only the second catch of the season for Banderas, who has been hampered by a hamstring injury for most of the season.

Nebraska added another touchdown with 2:17 left in the second quarter when I-back Jeff Wheeler scored from 1 yard out, capping a nine-play, 57-yard drive. Klein added the extra point to give Nebraska a 35-0 lead at halftime.

Nebraska's defense allowed the Jayhawk offense only 29 yards in the second half. After stopping Kansas in five plays at the start of the third quarter, Nebraska needed eight plays to score again, this time on a 29-yard run by Blakeman. Nebraska scored twice more in the third quarter on an 11-yard pass to Banderas from Blakeman and on a 27-yard run by third-team quarterback McCathorn Clayton. I-back Jon Kelley added touchdown runs of 15 and 32 yards in the fourth quarter to end the scoring.

Kelley, who has not played since the South Carolina game Oct. 4, carried the ball four times

for 55 yards and two touchdowns.

Marco and safety Mark Blazek led Nebraska's defense with five tackles each. Husker linebacker Marc Munford also intercepted a Donohoe pass toward the end of the second quarter and returned it 5 yards.

"It was something we needed," Nebraska middle guard Danny Noonan said of the shutout. "We needed to play a complete game and we didn't give up the big play either."

"That's the second-toughest day I've ever spent on a football field," Kansas coach Bob Valesente said. "The toughest was a couple weeks ago against Oklahoma."

Osborne said he was surprised with the outcome of the game.

"We really expected a dogfight, a 60-minute struggle," Osborne said. "I'm really sorry about the score. We didn't try to humiliate Kansas in any way."

"It's hard to say much after a game like this."

Most of what was said after the game dealt with next week's annual shoot-out with Oklahoma.

"It's for everything," Noonan said. "The coaches say every week that 'this is the most important game,' but this one coming up really is. We need to play four quarters against them."

Defensive end Broderick Thomas wasn't quite as timid about commenting on next week's game.

"I think we can beat them pretty bad," he said.

Another sports writer asked Thomas if he really thought that.

"Well," Thomas reconsidered, "I still have a lot of respect for them. It's going to be a hard-fought game. It could be very close, but I still think we'll come out on top."

I'm not worried about it."

Thomas said he thinks Oklahoma will be at a disadvantage playing in Lincoln in front of Nebraska's fans.

Tigers stroke past NU

If nothing else, Louisiana State's women's swimming team proved their decisive victory over Nebraska last season was no fluke.

The Bengal Tigers, who last year won every event en route to posting a 79-34 victory over the Cornhuskers, nearly equaled that feat Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center as they won all but two events en route to registering a 126-91 victory.

The win raised Louisiana State's dual-meet record to 2-0, while Nebraska dropped to 2-1.

"I'd be wrong to say that not winning didn't mean a lot," Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert said. "I'm disappointed. But with where we are in our training, I don't know if we could have beat them."

Huppert said the major advantage the 10th-ranked Tigers had over the Huskers was Louisiana State chose to don its skin suits and fully-tapered swimmers for the meet.

Swimmers beat LSU

Nebraska's men's swimming team used a first- and third-place finish in the 400-meter free style relay to upset No. 11 ranked Louisiana State Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool.

Nebraska's relay team of Doug Hubner, Dan Novinski, Mike Edmondson and Mike Irvin won the relay, helping boost the Cornhuskers to a 114-103 victory over the Tigers.

Going into the final event LSU trailed by four points, so LSU coach Sam Freas attempted to change the lineup of his relay team in order to gain the necessary points to win. LSU needed to finish in two of the top three positions in order to win the meet.

Nebraska coach Cal Bentz protested this move, saying it was too late to change the relay team and that Freas was stalling to do this.

"We felt the relay had to be up there," Bentz said.

Freas disagreed. He said that he could change his relay team, and that Bentz just overreacted.

"He (Bentz) was just impatient," Freas said. "It came down to the last relay and he got excited."

However, referee Kris Rutford agreed

Nebraska was denied a first-place finish in the meet until the sixth event, when the Husker's Heidi Hecker posted an individual victory in the one-meter diving competition. Hecker finished with a total of 251.70 to outdistance both Alison Maisch and defending NCAA champion Robin Ford of Louisiana State.

The Huskers' final victory of the meet came in the next-to-last event of the day when All-American Erin Hurlley captured a first-place finish in the 200 breaststroke. Hurlley defeated Nebraska freshman Terri Long to win the event.

Huppert said the most promising aspect he was able to derive from the meet was the fact that, out of 29 individual swims, the Cornhuskers managed to post 17 season-best times.

If Nebraska would have been fully tapered, Huppert said the meet's outcome would have been changed drastically.

with Bentz.

"It appeared that the opposing coach tried to stall the meet," Rutford said. "He was trying to balance the relay, and he appeared to try to stall to do that."

When the controversy ended, Nebraska was able to get first- and third-place finishes to clinch the upset.

LSU won the first event of the day, the 400-meter Medley Relay, to grab an early lead in the meet. After Nebraska's Jaco Kruger won the 1,000 meter freestyle, LSU All-American's Neil Harper and Adam Schmitt won the next two events, the 200-meter freestyle and the 50-meter freestyle.

Nebraska's Irvin, the defending Big Eight Champion in the 200-meter intermediate, won that event and Husker Wes Zimmerman placed third.

LSU won the 200-meter butterfly and the 100-meter freestyle before Ed Jowdy, Nebraska's defending Big Eight champion in the 200-meter backstroke, won the backstroke competition.

In the 500-meter freestyle Nebraska swept the top three places, with Irvin coming in first, Kruger placing second and Jim Fellows placing third which helped to tie the meet, 84-84.

Huskers export the Yugos

By Jim Ballard
Senior Reporter

Nebraska basketball fans welcomed Coach Danny Nee with applause Saturday night.

In fact, the 8,681 fans that attended the game gave him a standing ovation when he was introduced and then watched Nebraska defeat a Yugoslavian national team 90-82.

"I was surprised," Nee said. "It was nice, real nice. I was worried about how many people were going to show up because of the football game, but the fans and students were great."

"I'm happy because we won," Nee said. "Everyone was a little nervous playing in front of a home crowd and the kids worked very hard."

"But we have to get better and quick, if we want to get together the type of ball club we want."

After both Joel Sealer and Bill Jackman drilled three-pointers to give Nebraska an early 7-6 lead, Bosnia came back smoking.

The Yugoslavs' Vucevic Borelav hit four straight three-point goals to give them a 10-point lead with 13 minutes left in the half. Nebraska then made some changes.

"We switched defenses and that shook them," Jackman said.

After that, Nebraska gradually climbed back into the game. Jackman scored three early first-half points to keep Nebraska close. With 5:21 left in the first half, Nebraska took the lead 31-25 with another Sealer three-point shot.

Jackman finished the game with 17 points, hitting six of nine shots from the field, including two of three three-pointers.

Nebraska took a 1-point lead to the locker room at half time, but the Yugoslavs came out in the second half and jumped to a six-point lead.

Then Nebraska's Anthony Ballous took over.

Ballous led all Nebraska scorers with 20 points, 13 of which came in the second half.



Wood Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Anthony Ballous puts up a shot over two Bosnia players during the Huskers' 90-82 win Saturday night. Ballous scored 20 points in the game.

Behind Ballous, Nebraska pulled out to a 63-61 lead midway through the second half and never looked back. The Huskers led by as many as 12 points late in the game.

"Coach Nee had said earlier in

the week this was going to be like a final for us," Jackman said. "All the practices were like going to class. The scrimmages were like quizzes. The red-white games were like tests. And tonight was like a final exam."