

Husker Defense Plugs Gopher Holes

Davis Praises Line For Fine Blocking

By Charles Davies
Assistant Sports Editor
"It was a tough game," said hard-driving fullback Dick Davis after Nebraska's 7-0 victory over the Minnesota Gophers at Memorial Stadium, Saturday.

The speedy 5' 11" 201-pounder from Omaha amassed 109 yards in 13 carries and caught three passes for 28 yards, including a 46-yard run which second-quarter.

Davis said this was his finest running game in college ball although he was disappointed in his blocking.

"My best blocking performance was against Washington," Davis added.

"KEPT MORALE UP"
"I hope to combine the two games so both my running and blocking will be strong," Davis said.

Quarterback Frank Patrick said, "Davis did a great job, as he kept the team morale up with his performance."

Davis contributed his running success to "a fine job of blocking in the whole line."

"Ben Gregory Nebraska halfback did a great job of blocking on my 46-yard run," Davis said.

The Omaha North star out said he was able to run well inside and outside

against Minnesota's tough defense.

"HIT HARD"
However, Davis came away with a lot of respect for the Gopher's defensive unit. "They hit hard," Davis said, pointing to a deep cut over his left eye.

Minnesota's defense, led by All-American candidate end Bob Stein, proved tough when Nebraska penetrated into their territory.

"They (Minnesota's defense) confused me on sweep runs when I was blocking," the junior art major said.

"We expected their defense to be tough, which it was, from scouting reports," he added.

Minnesota's defensive line averaged 237 pounds per man compared to Nebraska's 233 pounds.

Davis felt that Washington's defense, in the Huskers' 17-7 opening win, was just as tough as Minnesota's. "They both were hard-hitting."

IMPROVE BLOCKING
Davis said that the team wants to improve their performance, particularly their blocking.

"The team also needs to sharpen their ball handling," Davis said, after Nebraska fumbled five times, Saturday.



ORDUNA SPINS . . . to score Husker's winning touchdown against Minnesota.

Black Shirts Sparkle In 7-0 Defensive Bout

By MARK GORDON
Sports Editor

Minnesota expected to crawl to victory through wide Gopher holes Saturday, but discovered them blocked by fired-up Cornhuskers.

Playing against a Nebraska defensive crew that sparkled with aggressiveness and desire, Minnesota's Big Ten Gophers managed only three yards net rushing in the Huskers' 7-0 Memorial Stadium victory.

After the fierce defensive struggle, which Nebraska survived without any serious injuries, most Huskers felt Minnesota owns a strong powerful team.

"They came right at us and we beat them man for man," defensive linebacker Barry Alvarez said, "and they had little deception."

STOPPED ON LINE
"We just stopped them on the line," defensive tackle Harry (Piggie) Meagher added.

Minnesota threatened to break Nebraska's first shutout since Missouri fell 35-0 in 1966 only once when they drove deep into Nebraska territory in the second quarter.

But Nebraska's defense forced Minnesota's Bob Stein to attempt a field goal which failed and his second effort, the result of a Nebraska penalty, also missed from inside the 25-yard line.

While Minnesota coach Murray Warmath said Husker middle guard Wayne Meylan covered the ground of two or three players, he tried yet another method to keep Nebraska's bruising tackler from entering the Gopher backfield.

"They doubled-team me quite a bit," the 6'1" 231-pound standout said. "They were pretty tough."

GOOD BLOCKING
Jim McCord stopped Min and Jerry Patton played well although hampered by an ankle injury.

"Their blocking was real good, but I did have a little trouble moving," Patton said.

Although Minnesota's sophomore

fullback Jim Carter didn't run in Patton's territory, Nebraska's 6'1" 225-pound senior lineman said Gopher Curt Wilson, a quarterback converted to halfback, looked sharp.

"Wilson was pretty quick running from the 'I' back power play, and he had quickness going through the holes," Patton explained.

Nebraska's inexperienced defensive secondary wasn't outdone by the veterans up front. Sophomores Jim Hawkins and Dana Stephenson played well in breaking up passes intended for Minnesota's Hubie Bryant and Chip Litten.

FUMBLES COSTLY
Besides breaking up two passing plays apiece, Stephenson also snared an enemy pass, the third pass interception pulled off by Nebraska in two games.

Although the offense piled up 231 rushing yards and 135 passing yards for a combined 366 total offense, four lost fumbles proved costly.

Twice within the final seven minutes of the game, the Huskers drove inside Minnesota's ten-yard-line only to hand the Gophers the ball on fumbles.

As in the first contest, Nebraska fumbled five times.

Quarterback Frank Patrick, who completed 11 of 20 passes for 135 yards, said the pre-game strategy was followed throughout the afternoon.

"The ends did a fine job," he said. "They found the holes and I, fortunately, was able to hit them."

Nebraska pass receivers caught three passes for 49 yards and Dennis Richnafsky, with four receptions for 45 yards led Nebraska receivers.

"They covered us well as we were trying to hit the man coming across," Richnafsky said.

"GOT BREAKS"

He added that Minnesota captain Tom Sakal, who guarded him from his right halfback slot, was "good on covering outside but I beat him inside a lot."

Offensive tackle Bob

Taucher added that Minnesota was big and strong although not overly fast.

"It just seemed that we were getting our breaks," the 6'5" 245-pound senior added.

By getting a break, the Huskers scored the game's only touchdown, a 25 yard jaunt by Joe Orduna.

With the Huskers marching in the Nebraska six, Patrick tossed a bullet grabbed by Richnafsky, who fumbled on the Nebraska 32 and the Gophers apparently had possession of the ball.

However, the Gophers had jumped offside and Nebraska was awarded the ball at the 37, keeping the drive moving.

Dick Davis, who blasted his way for 103 yards Saturday, grabbed an 18-yard pass followed by Orduna's first varsity touchdown with 4:45 left in the third quarter.

WRAP-UP

GAME WRAPUP — The win was Nebraska's 20th consecutive triumph at Memorial Stadium.

Husker kicker Bill Bomberger missed on three field attempts while Minnesota's Bob Stein fumbled two attempts.

Twice in the first period, the Gophers began drives from their own one-yard strip.

Minnesota gained 140 yards passing for a combined 143 total offense.

Nebraska's punter Dana Stephenson only averaged 31 yards per punt but his towering boots enabled the Huskers to hold Minnesota to no return yardage.

The sharp defenses forced 17 punts; seven by the Huskers and 10 by the Gophers. Nebraska whittled its penalty yards down from 73 against Washington to a mere 10 against Minnesota.

In fact only 30 yards in penalties were assessed in Saturday's Centennial game.

Coach Pleased To Win But Still Not Satisfied

Husker coach Bob Devaney certainly wasn't crying the blues after Nebraska downed Minnesota 7-0 Saturday to preserve his streak of never having a Nebraska eleven fall to a Big Ten squad.

But the nation's winningest coach also wasn't entirely satisfied with his offense that lost four fumbles twice within Minnesota's ten yard line in the fourth quarter when an insurance touchdown would have relieved pressure on the defense.

"Naturally, we were pleased to win," he said. "It was a kind of ball game that does an inexperienced team good."

DIDN'T CAPITALIZE
"But we felt that we didn't capitalize on several breaks," he said, "and in order to have a good sea-

son we have to capitalize more."

The five fumbles against Minnesota added to five in the opener against Washington has caused several long marches to go by the way-side.

Devaney praised Minnesota's defense and also singled out his defensive blackshirt crew that allowed the Gophers only three yards net rushing and 140 yards passing for a combined 143 total offense.

OUTSTANDING DEFENSE
"Our defensive line did an outstanding job, although at times, our pass rush was not as good as it could have been," he said.

Starting defensive ends Mike Wynn and Ivan Zimmer were rested in the game's later stages and Frank Avolio and Len Janik replaced the starters.

"Those two ends were put in to put more pressure on the passer," the Huskers' head mentor explained.

"In the second half we tried to concentrate on fewer plays and to run them a little better," Devaney said of his halftime adjustment.

GOPHER'S TOUGH
Nebraska gained 138 of their 231 yards in the second half and passed for 82 of their 135 aerial yards after the intermission.

"Minnesota has a sound football team," he said. "and their defense became real tough when we got into scoring territory."

"We felt we could stop their running but we questioned if we could stop their passing attack because they had some good receivers," Devaney added of the season's second Husker victim.

He called halfback Joe Orudna's 25-yard-touchdown run in the third quarter which accounted for the game's only score "a fine individual effort."

DEFENDERS PRAISED
He said the line "did a good job of getting him past the line of scrimmage" on the left side power play.

He also said that defensive cornerback Jim Hawkins did a good job of covering Minnesota's receivers such as Chip Litten, who caught five passes for 82 yards.

Hawkins and safetyman Dana Stephenson were each credited with breaking up two passes that might have resulted in costly gains. Stephenson also intercepted a pass, bringing his season's total to two enemy thefts.

NU Potent Against Big Ten

Saturday's 7-0 blanking of Minnesota was the first shutout the Huskers have hung on The Big Ten crew since 1939 when coach L. McC Jones' Nebraskans hit the Gophers 6-0.

The Huskers also defeated their sixth consecutive Big Ten opponent under the Bob Devaney coaching regime.

In Devaney's first coaching season Nebraska edged Michigan 25-13 in 1962. In 1963 he guided Nebraska over Minnesota 14-7 and also the following year by 26-21.

In 1965, en route to a perfect 10-0 regular season slate, Nebraska bombed Wisconsin 37-0 and in 1966, the Huskers again overwhelmed the Wisconsin Badgers 31-3.

The Gophers will meet Nebraska five of the next seven years in Minneapolis, where Minnesota last triumphed over the Huskers 19-7 in 1954.

Other upcoming Big Ten games on the Husker slate include Northwestern in 1971 and 1974 and Wisconsin in 1973.

Greene Named Assistant Coach

Former University sprint star Charlie Greene has been named an assistant to head track coach Frank Sevigne.

Regents approved Greene's appointment beginning Sept. 1 and continuing to next May 31.

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65,361 Fans Set Attendance Record

Saturday's 65,361 fans who watched Nebraska remain undefeated with a 7-0 victory over the Minnesota Gophers set a single game Memorial Stadium attendance record. The gathering

surpassed 1866's top crowd of 65,224 who watched Nebraska clinch their fourth consecutive Big Eight title over Oklahoma, State 21-6 on Nov. 12.

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