

Sigler's dedication pays off with win for Huskers

by Randy York
Assistant Sports Editor

He'd been out there for five years, worked out winter and summer, prepared for every game as if he were to start; and Saturday, dedication paid off for Ernie Sigler and the Huskers.

Paul Rogers kicked the winning field goal, but Sigler ignited the spark.

After waiting in the wings his entire career, Sigler took control of a sluggish Nebraska offensive machine early in the second half and engineered the Huskers to a 13-10 come-from-behind triumph over Wyoming.

"It's something you dream about all the time," said the sweating but smiling Dallas, Tex., senior.

PRIDE ABOUNDED and it was evident. But when Sigler was asked if the game provided his happiest moment, the humble 22-year old replied, "Only because we won, that's all."

It may properly and appropriately be stated that Sigler has completed his apprenticeship at the quarterback slot after cashing in on his first real opportunity at the Husker helm.

This prompted Husker coach Devaney to say, "Frank (Patrick) has got to beat Ernie out of the job now. Ernie has had as tough a role to get a chance to play quarterback as any that I've coached."

Campus Calendar

MONDAY, SEPT. 16
BAPTIST STUDENT UNION - 8 a.m.
INTERVARSITY - 8 a.m.
PSYCHOLOGY 70 - 8:30 a.m.
ARCH 5 - 9:30 a.m.
TASSELS - 4:30 p.m.
BOWLING LEAGUE ORGANIZATION MTG. - 7 p.m.
AFRO-AMERICAN COLLEGIATE SOCIETY - 7 p.m.
UNICORNS - 7 p.m.
MATH COUNSELORS - 7:30 p.m.
S.D.S. - 8 p.m.

"It's the first real chance we've ever given him. He's been out there now for five years and has played on the scout squad a couple of years. He's taken as tough a beating as I've seen a guy take."

Credit for the revitalized spirit in the second half was pinpointed on Sigler as teammates gushed forth praise.

"YOU'D NEVER know how good it feels," said Sigler. "I've been riding the bench so long, I made up my mind that if I wasn't good enough to play, I still always wanted to be ready. So I prepared myself mentally for every game like I was going to start."

Sigler, who held for all scoring kicks last season, found himself in the same role Saturday with 21 seconds

left in the game. Rogers, the Rock Rapids, Ia., sophomore, showed no signs of rookie apprehension as he promptly delivered the winning goods, a 51-yard field goal which sailed high through the uprights.

Rogers' second fielder handed Nebraska its ninth consecutive opening game triumph. The Cowboy branding snapped a skein of nine straight opening game wins for the Laramie club.

"I had been practicing from that distance a lot," said Rogers. "I knew that if I hit the ball all right with enough power, it would get there."

Rogers missed on an attempt from the 27-yard line in the first quarter. His second boot rang up a three-pointer later in the first

quarter. "My first two attempts really helped me for the last one," said Rogers, who felt that he had broken the ice and was in the groove of things. "It made that first one a lot easier."

After converting the extra point following McFarland's touchdown, Rogers said that Devaney had forewarned him about another crack at a field goal. "He told me to keep cool, we may need you for three more points."

"I'D HATE to have to win a game every week on that long a field goal," Devaney sighed. "We were driving good, but that holding penalty and quarterback loss left us in a situation where we might well have not gotten a chance."

"I thought by the time we got ready to kick, we'd be out of range," he added.

But Nebraska did get that chance and Rogers came through, bringing 65,018 fans into mass ecstasy. But no one could have been more ecstatic than Sigler, the holder, and Rogers, the kicker. After the signal by the referee that the kick was good, the pair embraced at midfield with Sigler wrapping a bear hug around Rogers and gleefully wrestled him to the ground.

"It felt like a million dollars," said halfback Mike Green, who replaced Joe Orduna when Sigler replaced Patrick. "An effort like this is just unexplainable. I felt so pinned down on the bench, but it wasn't too soon when I got the chance to do my part."

"We were determined not to be stopped," said Green in reference to the fresh

backfield Devaney sent in which had soph Dan Schneiss operating at the fullback slot.

Husker punter and defensive back vet Dana Stephenson, who pirated one of three stray Cowboy passes, said, "Sigler definitely lifted the team. But Schneiss and Green did a good job too. I think they got psyched up watching the first team get stopped."

MAYBE SO, BUT the fresh troops seemed to illustrate a Husker depth advantage. "I think experience showed," said Devaney, cautious of making any implications. "We didn't have any offside penalties and Wyoming was anticipating the count. But our line sat in there real

well." Gene Huey, the Pokes' 2-way standout performer, inflicted the damage by latching onto a 54-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter. But the TD snag was the only pass Huey caught the entire afternoon.

"We worked on covering Huey," Devaney said. "He didn't run deep a lot on offense," he noted "because he went both ways. Huey's a fine defensive back. He could play pro ball at either split receiver or defensive back."

And with a batch of mistakes to work on, Nebraska girls for another week of practice sessions, setting its sights on next week's guest, the University of Utah.

Husker Summary

Wyoming	30	0	0	8-19
Nebraska	13	0	0	18-13
Wyoming, FG 31 Jacobs, Jacobs kick.				
Wyoming, Huey 54 pass from Synakowski, Jacobs kick.				
Nebraska, FG 36 Rogers, Nebraska, McFarland 17 pass from Sigler, Rogers kick.				
Nebraska, FG 51 Rogers.				
Statistics	Wyo.	Neb.		
First down	12	15		
Passing yardage	104	322		
Rushing yardage	114	81		
Reb. yardage	44	115		
Penalties	6-20	6-19		
Intercepted by	0	2		
Fumbles lost	1	1		
Yards penalized	113	33		

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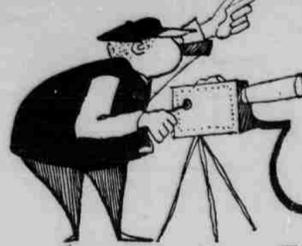
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