



PHOTO BY DAN LADELY

Lunging forward to pick up additional driving yards, Nebraska's Joe Orduna (31) carries into Utah line during Saturday's 31-0 Nebraska victory at Memorial Stadium.

Despite humidity, heat . . .

Huskers keep cool by clobbering Utah

by Randy York
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a hot and humid day and people did sweat. But unlike the Wyoming game, they didn't sweat because of the score.

A series of early breaks mixed with some hard-nosed defense and a precisioned offense helped Nebraska construct a 17-0 first quarter bulge. And that, intrinsically, did not cause much reason to believe that any upset prospects were brewing.

None did brew as the Huskers went on and used 65 players in the 31-0 scalping of the Utah Redskins.

JERRY MURTAUGH, sophomore linebacker from Omaha who collected five solo tackles and broke up one enemy pass in the convincing triumph, made no intention of borrowing a popular car-rental slogan, but it still came out that way.

"I suppose I just tried harder," theorized Murtaugh about the performance following his first Husker starting assignment. "I guess they (the coaching staff) wanted to try me and see what I could do."

Nebraska's stingy defensive outfit seemed to be getting to the ball quicker, evidenced by the five broken up passes credited to five different individuals. Murtaugh claimed his resistive effort came about by using the scrape system in which the defender brushes off blockers, then rushes into the hole.

"The scrape worked real well. They (Utah) didn't pick it up until the fourth quarter," said Murtaugh.

Murtaugh wasn't the only player who tried harder. Dan Kobza, heir to Wayne Meylan at middle guard who had failed to get in on a tackle against Wyoming, tried harder too.

Kobza shared top honors with Murtaugh defensively as the Shelby native was in on six tackles against the Utes and also broke up a pass play. Kobza wasted little time in delivering an explanation for his improvement.

"I'll tell you what happened," said Kobza, "and there's

Current Movies

LINCOLN
Cooper/Lincoln: 'The Dirty Dozen', 2:00, 7:00 & 9:00.
Varsity: 'With Six You Get Egg Roll', 1:21, 3:27, 5:33, 7:39, 9:45.
State: 'Cubasco', 1:20, 3:27, 5:27, 7:34, 9:41.
Joyce: 'Where Angels Go . . . Trouble Follows', 7:20, 9:20.
Stuart: 'The Secret Life of the American Wife', 1:10, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 & 9:25.
Nebraska: 'Salt and Pepper', 1:00, 3:05, 5:08, 7:09, 9:12.
64th & O: 'Hang 'em High', 8:00. 'Attack On The Coast', 9:58. Last complete show 9:00.
Starview: Cartoon, 7:45; 'Mini-Elm Mob', 7:52, 10:54. 'The Young, The Evil And The Savage', 9:31.

OMAHA
Indian Hills: '2001', 8:00.

Re Marks

no doubt about it. I just went down and watched a couple of Meylan's films this week. I used my hands a heck of a lot more."

KOBZA CITED play by the tackles beside him (Bob Liggett and Tom Linstroth). "That helps me tremendously," said Kobza. "It helps close up the middle. I got a chance to get my hands on a few."

Liggett wasn't the only one who was motivated. The Husker offensive unit tuned up for the collision with the Golden Gophers by piling up 518 yards total offense.

"That's the most we've gained for quite a while," said Nebraska Coach Bob Devaney, "as much probably as we've gained in two years."

"Our running game still lacks consistency," Devaney noted. "I'm not just exactly sure what it is."

But NU's passing attack should seemingly cause the case for concern now. Not that Frank Patrick or Ernie Sigler didn't throw the ball well. And not that Nebraska's receivers didn't catch the ball well.

BUT THAT Tom Penney will not be in the Husker lineup at Minnesota after sustaining a fractured collarbone Saturday. Although NU's receiving corps is rated at the top of the depth department, Penney's shoes will be hard

to fill. He caught four passes, including one touchdown grab, for 122 yards in the Redskin conquest.

The loss of Penney marks the second straight week Nebraska will be playing without the services of a co-captain. Jim Hawkins, the other co-captain, suffered a knee injury in the Wyoming tussle and suited up but did not play against Utah.

Devaney said that Hawkins will be ready to go this Saturday, but Penney's injury could keep him out of the lineup from two to three weeks.

Guy Ingles will probably move into the starting role for Penney, Devaney said, but he added that Rex Lowe and Miles Kimmel also fit into the split end picture.

The Utah runaway Saturday also left some vacancies, but at least they are temporary. The decisive edge gave Devaney a chance to play men three-deep at almost every position.

Mike Burdic, soph defensive tackle from Omaha, was one of those. "I was beginning to wonder when I'd get in," said Burdic, who did see action in the second half. "It felt good," said Burdic. "This is the first action I've seen and it's my second year on the varsity team. I hope I get to play some more."

Devaney generally was pleased with the efforts of the rookies, citing a good job by George Chandler, soph

linebacker from Park Forest, Ill.

The rookies got a crack at some action, but the veterans created that chance. Larry Frost, who didn't start the game, was one of those veterans who came through.

"THAT'S THE busiest day I've had," said the junior from Malcolm who has been pressing Mick Ziegler for the starting flankerback post. "It felt real good. Everybody was ready for this game. I've been able to see that all week."

The trigger of the Huskers' first quarter offensive explosion, Ernie Sigler, said he started the game with no obvious game plan since little was known about the Utah team.

Despite the Penney setback, the Huskers will take the field against the highly-regarded Gophers. They will take it minus the services of Nebraska's version of Notre Dame's Jim Seymour. But they will take it with just as much enthusiasm and a heckuva lot more confidence.

NU-Utah game smashes two attendance records

Saturday's Memorial Stadium attendance of 65,424 established a peak for home non-conference game crowds and was also the second largest gathering to watch Nebraska football in Lincoln.

The Utah-Nebraska crowd topped the previous second-best attendance of 65,388 for last fall's Oklahoma State game but fell short of the largest Memorial Stadium gathering of 65,842 for last season's Colorado match.

Nebraska coaches cite improved effort, gains

by Mark Gordon
Sports Editor

Both Carl Selmer and George Kelly looked as if they had been in a steam bath after Saturday's 31-0 blanking of Utah during mid-80 degree temperatures, but they were as pleased as an exerciser who had dropped 20 pounds.

The Nebraska assistant coaches were all smiles in praising their particular segment of the crew that scored the largest Husker victory since 1966's 35-0 whitewashing of Missouri at Lincoln.

DEFENSIVE LINE tutor Kelly said the line realized it failed to play up to perfection when Wyoming gained 258 total yards although dropping a 13-10 game last week.

"We looked real bad the first time they had the ball, but after that we did much better," he said in noting Utah only gained approximately half (138) the total yardage Wyoming piled up in the opening game.

The Husker assistant also said he was pleased that 32 defensive players saw action in the contest that almost cleared the Nebraska bench as 65 Huskers participated in the second victory of the still-young season.

"I hope it was pride that won for us today, since you have to establish pride in a young group," he said. Only two of the starting defenders are seniors and one starter is a sophomore, which is in direct contrast to last fall's starting defense which saw six seniors man the first string positions.

In comparing this year's team to last fall's defensive crew which led the nation's college teams in total defense, Kelly said the 1968 squad is a different version which possesses a fine attitude.

"Sure, their inexperience shows from time to time, but they are improving each week and that's what we like to see," the defensive line guide explained.

Kelly, line coach on the offensive side of Big Red football, also credited his chargers with an improved performance, although he admitted Utah's defenders played "a straighter game than did Wyoming."

"OUR KIDS (offensive line) played a very aggressive game against Wyoming last week, but the Cowboys picked up our tendencies well," he

said. "This week Utah played us straighter and we moved the ball well."

Looking ahead to next Saturday's last non-conference match against Minnesota in the Twin Cities, Selmer said the Gophers were reputed to own a big strong football squad that he predicted would be difficult to move.

"It will be a real tough game for us," he said in noting that Minnesota apparently played a strong game although losing 29-20 to last year's top-rated Southern California crew.

Defensive end Mike Wynn, who batted down one pass during the hectic afternoon, also is keying towards next week's encounter against the 1967 Big Ten co-champions but he now has a different attitude on the upcoming contest.

"Now that our offense came through and proved they can move the ball (by gaining 518 total yards) and our defense has always been good, I am really looking forward to Minnesota," the big junior from Evanston, Ill., explained.

PERSONAL VIEWS — Now that the easy-weekend has passed, Nebraska must realize no more teams like the Utah Redskins will dot the remaining eight weeks of Big Red football 1968 style.

The Big Eight season opens in three weeks against a powerful Kansas Jayhawk crew which slaughtered Big Ten foe Illinois 47-7 Saturday, and no loop team can be considered a soft touch.

Although the Huskers showed one of the most aggressive and enthusiastic attitudes we have seen, punting and punt and kickoff returns show an obvious need for improvement before Nebraska can be called a smoothly-operating unit without any major flaws.

Besides fumbling one

kickoff, Husker returners only dashed 74 yards upfield with six punts and 2 kickoffs Saturday, while Redskin return men were traveling 123 yards positively with the same number of attempts.

Nebraska punters booted five times but showed only a mere 35 yard average after kicking nine footballs for just 33 yards on the average against the Wyoming Cowboys. In contrast Wyoming foes averaged 43 yards per boot and Utah smacked the football for an average 45 yards.

SATURDAY'S WIN which was Husker coach Bob Devaney's 90th career victory, also was costly as co-captain Tom Penny, who played one of the finest games in his career, suffered an apparent fractured collarbone.

The split end, who was the game's leading receiver with four catches for 122 yards including one touchdown and another 57-yard reception, will be lost to Nebraska for an indefinite period.

UPCOMING MATCHES — After downing Colorado State 21-0, the Kansas State Wildcats will suddenly find themselves in a position to gain national attention when they meet one of the country's top-rated crews, the Penn State Nittany Lions at College Park Saturday.

No one can accuse Big Eight teams of scheduling soft touches with top rated clubs such as Texas, Notre Dame, Arkansas, Minnesota and Houston included among the conference teams' non-loop matches.

The Big Eight was once thought of as that other league with a Big in its title, but now the other league with a Big in its name has gradually slipped below the Big Eight in football superiority.

LAST WORDS — While not

wishing to enter into arguments with backers of either Husker quarterbacks, Frank Patrick or Ernie Sigler as to which signal-caller is the better field general, did you notice that Tony Dvorsak was the only perfect passer Saturday with two completions good for 27 yards?

Big 8 Summary

RESULTS SATURDAY			
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0
Nebraska 31	Utah 0	Nebraska 31	Utah 0



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Husker Summary

Utah	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	31	7	9	3	31
Nebraska, PG 28 yards, Rogers.					
Nebraska, Green 3 yard run, Rogers.					
Rogers kick.					
Nebraska, Orduna 1 run yard run.					
Rogers kick.					
Nebraska, Penney 41 yard pass from Patrick, Rogers kick.					
Nebraska, MacFarland 6 yard pass from Sigler, Rogers kick.					
STATISTICS					
First downs	24	11			
Running yardage	304	46			
Passing yardage	314	82			
Return yardage	74	123			
Passes	9-22	10-20			
Intercepted by	0	2			
Fumbles	5-35	8-45			
Fumbles lost	2	3			
Yards penalized	60	28			

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