

Big Red passes Mizzou Key fumbles plague Missouri offense

by JIM JOHNSTON
Associate Sports Editor

Nebraska played it by the book Saturday in rushing over Missouri 21-7. It was a book written by Cornhusker coach Bob Devaney.

And the opening chapter had several surprising scenes.

Nebraska, the Big Eight's top passing outfit, used I-back Jeff Kinney's running abilities in the opening series instead of testing Missouri's league-trailing pass defense.

Kinney ran up the middle and over right tackle for the first seven Nebraska plays in recording three first downs. Jerry List's 21-yard end around scam set up Nebraska's first score.

Why didn't the Huskers test the Missouri secondary in the opening series? Devaney had the answer.

"We have confidence in our passing game," explained Devaney, "but we wanted to establish our running game and we were going against the wind during the first quarter."

Missouri won the flip of the coin and elected to defend the south goal, forcing the Huskers

to go against an 11-mile per hour wind which reduced the chances of a long bomb.

And the Huskers didn't go to their passing game until quarterback Jerry Tagge fired a 12-yard scoring strike to Kinney with 8:32 left in the opening period.

Nebraska used its running game to rush for 67 yards in its first nine plays from scrimmage. The Huskers, going with Tagge at quarterback, passed only three times in the first quarter.

But when the second quarter rolled around Nebraska was enjoying a 7-0 lead and the game-book author, Bob Devaney, changed his style of writing.

And the switch spelled immediate misfortunes. Nebraska was faced with a first and ten situation on its own ten-yard line when Tagge's pass was intercepted by Lorenzo Brinkley on the first play of the quarter.

Brinkley returned the interception to the one-yard line before quarterback Mike Farmer leaped over for the score.

So why did Nebraska start passing in the second quarter after establishing a potent rushing attack in the opening period? Devaney provided the answer once again.

"We had the wind in the second quarter so we tried our passing," Devaney said. "But we just couldn't protect our passer."

Tagge, the Big Eight's leading passer, completed only four of 13 passes in the first half for a mere 22 yards. So Van Brownson got the call in the second half.

"It just added up to the point where after the first drive we had trouble generating our offense," said Devaney. "I felt that Brownson deserved an opportunity to run the team."

But Brownson, trying desperately to get the Huskers offense moving again, didn't have much luck in the third quarter which finished scoreless.

"We saw why we were having problems with our (pass) protection," offered Devaney, "and we felt we had to go back to our running game."

And it was the running game which eventually won it for the Huskers as Joe Orduna's 41-yard run from scrimmage setup the tie-breaking score by Brownson.

Nebraska rushed for 217 yards and passed for only 71.

by ROGER FIRE
Associate Sports Editor

The Missouri Tigers came to Nebraska Saturday to play a good game of football. Instead, the Tigers played a good game of fumbling football.

The usually error-free Tigers fumbled three times in the third quarter. The fumbles were costly to Missouri as the last fumble enabled Nebraska to pull ahead and finally beat the Tigers 21-7.

The key fumble was made late in the third quarter by Tiger safety Mike Fink. Deep in their own territory, Nebraska punted to Missouri. Fink, back to receive the punt, was unable to hold onto the ball which was recovered by Husker halfback Jeff Kinney. The Huskers scored six plays later.

Tiger coach Dan Devine made no excuses for Missouri's loss to Nebraska. "We were beaten by a good football team today," Devine said. "Our guys played as good as they could, but it wasn't good enough to win. You can't fumble as much as we did and still expect to play good football."

Missouri halfback Joe Moore, the Big Eight's leading rusher with 604 yards going into Saturday's game, had some favorable comments for the Nebraska team. The 6'1" 198 lb. Moore said, "Nebraska played with a lot of en-

thusiasm. I was glad to see Joe Orduna back in his old form, but not against us."

Moore was hit hard early in the game by Husker tackle Dave Walline. After the tackle, Moore left the field with an injury to his left shoulder. The injury turned out to be a complete shoulder separation. "My shoulder is hurt pretty bad," Moore said. "I'm not sure yet whether or not I will be able to play anymore this year."

Co-op's Kroemer tabbed player of the week

"It's a great honor to be named the Intramural Player of the Week," commented Eldon Kroemer.

Kroemer is manager of the Cornhusker Co-op and the quarterback of the flag-football team. Last week, Kroemer guided his squad to a 68-0 romp over Acacia. In the game, Kroemer assisted in 16 touchdown passes and made six extra points.

"I faked it to the halfback, he went down and out and I threw it to him," Kroemer said as he described one of his touchdown passes. Pat Stephen, Dale Dvorak and Jim Mallatt were the receivers of three of Kroemer's T.D. passes.

Another teammate, Roger Swatzke, threw a 50 yard touchdown pass. "Swatzke played a real good offensive game," Kroemer said.

According to Kroemer, the Acacia team wasn't much of a match. "We varied our passing and running plays and our defense was real tough."

Prior to playing Acacia, Kroemer's team had been defeated by the Ag Men 28-10. "If we had played Ag Men like we played Acacia, we would have beaten them," Kroemer said.

Kroemer is a junior in agriculture at Nebraska from Pawnee City.



Eldon Kroemer

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