

Black Shirts rescue faltering offense

by Jim Johnston

There will be days like that...even for the No. 1 football team in the nation.

Days when sure-handed 1-back Jeff Kinney fumbles the football. Days when the usually sharply executing offensive line is penalized for holding on two straight plays. Days when the always consistent offense can't establish an early running game.

But, amid the blunders and misfortunes of the Nebraska offense, old reliable still comes through. That old reliable defense that has always been a trademark of Nebraska football.

THE DEFENSE has gone unnoticed in Nebraska's first two wins. But in Saturday's 34-7 victory over Texas A & M, defense showed that it still has a place in the eyes of the now offense-minded Nebraska football fans.

Twice during the first four minutes of Saturday's game, the Nebraska defense came to the rescue after two fumbles put Texas A & M in good field position.

Kinney fumbled on

Defending flag champs face repeated success

Two defending champions head the first-week ratings of the 1971 intramural flag football season.

Phi Delta Theta, defending fraternity division and all-university champs, holds the top fraternity league spot again after a 28-8 win over Alpha Tau Omega.

Abel VI, defending Abel Hall dorm league champ, claims the top dorm spot after an 18-0 win over Abel X.

The third defending champion from last year, independent title-holder Dirty Dozen, is undefeated after two games last week, but had trouble winning both contests over weak opponents. The Dirty Dozen holds the number two spot in the independent ratings, topped by the Hawks, who posted 29-6 and 45-12 victories in their opening games.

Several teams are in a

Intramurals

Top games this week should be the Monday encounter between Phi Delta Phi and the Pro Students, and a Wednesday clash between Phi Delta Theta and Phi Gamma Delta, ranked one and two respectively in the fraternity division.

FRATERNITY A LEAGUE

- 1-Phi Delta Theta (1-0)
- 2-Phi Gamma Delta (1-0)
- 3-Ag Men (1-0)
- 4-Delta Upsilon (1-0)
- 5-Delta Tau Delta (1-0)

DORMITORY A LEAGUE

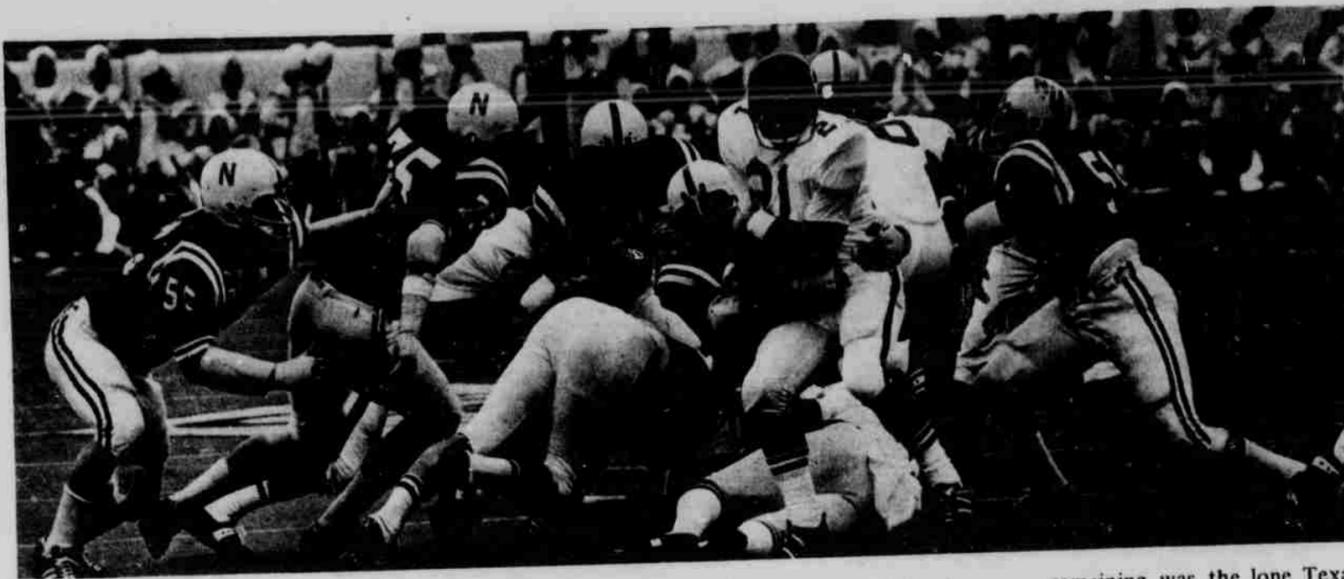
- 1-Abel VI (1-0)
- 2-Schramm IV (1-0)
- 3-Pike (1-0)
- 4-Abel VIII (1-0)
- 5-Harper III (1-0)

INDEPENDENT A LEAGUE

- 1-Hawks (2-0)
- 2-Dirty Dozen (2-0)
- 3-Stoned Cowboys (2-0)
- 4-Pro Students (1-0)
- 5-Apple Huskers (2-0)

Monday

- 5:00-V1, Phi Delta Phi vs. Pro Students; V2, Chi Phi B vs. Abel VI B; V3, Alpha Gamma Rho B vs.



Nebraska's fifth play from scrimmage which gave the Aggies the football just 32 yards from the goal line. But the Black Shirts stopped the Aggies without a first down and then Bill Kosch blocked a field goal attempt.

NEBRASKA TOOK over on its own 20, but tight end Jerry List fumbled three plays later on the Nebraska 47 after catching a pass from Jerry Tagge.

Again, the Black Shirts stopped the Aggies from gaining a first down. As a matter of fact, Texas A & M didn't record its initial first down until just 20 seconds remained in the first half.

Although the Nebraska defense played its best game of the season Saturday, the first two games were also impressive.

Nebraska has allowed just 21 points in three games. And only one of those touchdowns—a 79-yard drive by Minnesota—has been scored against the No. 1 Black Shirt unit.

TEXAS A & M recorded just 100 yards in total offense Saturday—83 yards rushing and 17 through the air.

In three games, Nebraska has limited its opponents to 319 yards rushing and 292 yards passing. That's an average of just 106 yards rushing and 97 yards through the air.

The Nebraska defense has intercepted seven passes, including Bill Kosch's 95-yard touchdown after a pass interception against the Aggies.

"This game (against Texas A & M) kinds of reminded me of two years ago," said Husker

defensive tackle Larry Jacobson. "Every time the offense messed up the defense had to come through. We've been counting on the defense the last two years, but we showed that we can still do the job."

DESPITE THE impressive defensive statistics, the Black Shirts still weren't celebrating after Saturday's win.

"We go the whole game with just one thing in mind," said Jacobson. "We want a shutout. Those rushing statistics don't mean that much, the only thing that counts is the score."

Nebraska, which has given up one touchdown in each game, came the closest to a shutout against Texas A & M. Hugh McElroy's 94-yard kickoff return with just 4:56

remaining was the lone Texas A & M score.

"Every week we're trying for a shutout," said cornerback Bill Kosch. "But every week we just seem to get caught on one play and give them a cheap one."

NEBRASKA head coach Bob Devaney, although expressing disgust with the offense, noticed improvement in some of the specialty units. For the first time this season, Johnny Rodgers found open space on a kickoff and returned the ball 98 yards for a touchdown. Rodgers also found more room than usual on punt returns.

It must be a refreshing feeling for Devaney to relax on Sunday afternoon, worry about his offense and still be enjoying a 27-point victory.

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