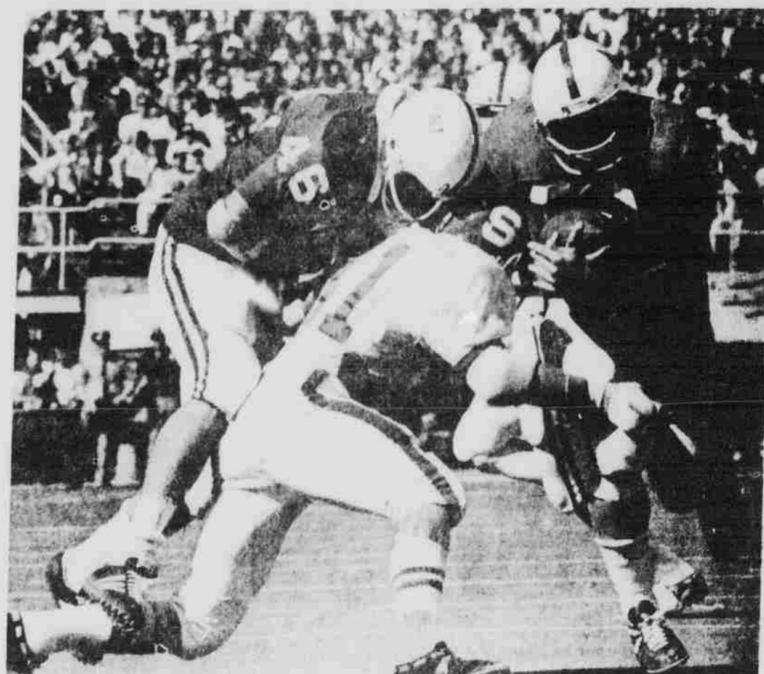


Junior wingback Ritch Bahe (24) starts on a reverse through the North Carolina State defensive line. Bahe rushed for 42 yards against the Wolfpack.



Husker I-Back Dave Goeller (28) runs through the Wolfpack defensive line for some of his 94 yards rushing. Fullback Maury Damkroger (46) provides the blocking.

## Husker rally overcomes Wolfpack

By Bill Bennett

After practice last Monday as the Huskers were preparing for the North Carolina State Wolfpack, Head football coach Tom Osborne said "I hope the game with N.C. State isn't as tough as the UCLA contest, but I'm afraid it will be."

Osborne's fears came true Saturday afternoon before 75,925 fans as the Huskers entered the fourth quarter of the game trailing 14-10, before pulling a 31-14 win.

Nebraska's hopes for an early lead against the psyched-up Wolfpack were not realized as two long offensive drives, engineered by starting quarterback Steve Runtz, were stopped by pass interceptions.

"It was really a disappointment when we got that close and couldn't score," said Daryl White, offensive tackle and co-captain.

And if that wasn't enough, late in the first quarter, Husker Randy Borg returned a punt 42 yards to the State 24 yard line, but fumbled. The ball was recovered by the Wolfpack.

That Husker turnover, the third of the game, set up State's first score. With no time left on the first quarter clock, Wolfpack fullback Stan Fritts broke over left guard for a 59-yard touchdown run, and along with the extra point, State had a 7-0 lead over the stunned Huskers.

"Our defense was slanting the opposite way on that run," said middle guard John Bell, who led the Black shirts with 18 tackles. "I was hit on the play, but I thought he was knocked down, too. When I got up and turned around, Fritts was long gone."

Early in the second quarter, State revealed what they call the "Poocher Punt". State punter Eddie Poole kicked from the 33 yard line of Nebraska down to the one, where the ball was caught in mid-air by a State defender. Everyone in the stadium and the press box thought it was an illegal play, but the rule book states that if an opposing player is not within five yards of the ball, it can be caught in mid-air.

Nebraska finally got on the scoreboard with 4:13 left in the half when quarterback Dave Humm passed 40 yards to split end Frosty Anderson for a touchdown. Rich Sanger's kick was good, and the score was 7-7 at the half.

"At the half, Coach Osborne said that we went out there like a bunch of prima donnas that couldn't be beat," said John Dutton, defensive tackle and co-captain. "He said we had to get our heads together and really stick it to them in the second half."

But Nebraska was a little slow in "getting their heads together." After a 24-yard field goal by Sanger which gave Nebraska a 10-7 lead, State drove 68 yards in 4:64. Fritts scored on a 16-yard touchdown run to give State a 14-10 lead going into the fourth quarter.

"We knew we couldn't give up," said Husker defensive end Steve Manstedt. "We knew we had to do it or else."

And Nebraska did everything but "give up" as the Huskers scored three times in the fourth quarter to assure the victory.

After the game, there was nothing but praise from the Husker players and coaches about the visitors from Raleigh, N.C.

"I'm real pleased the way we came back in the fourth quarter," said Osborne. "They have a fine team. They're a lot better than most people expected."

I-back Tony Davis, who rushed for 106 yards and one touchdown, said the State defense had great pursuit, always hit hard and never gave up. Davis injured his ankle on the second play of Nebraska's first offensive possession and was relieved periodically by Dave Goeller. Goeller rushed for 94 yards.

"I had a rotten game," Dutton said. "I can't remember when I was down so many times." Although Dutton said he was mad with himself, Dutton failed to mention that he was

double and triple teamed most of the afternoon.

Humm, after relieving Runtz in the second quarter, was eight for 14 passing, rushed for one touchdown and had one pass intercepted. Besides his touchdown pass to Anderson, he also threw one to tight end Brent Longwell. Runtz was four for seven passing.

"It sure does feel great to be playing again," Humm said. "But it must be remembered that Steve did a great job against UCLA, and it's not important who plays, it's just important that we win."

White summed up Husker sentiments when he said, "N.C. State could rate with any team in the Big 8."

Over in the State lockerroom, Head Coach Lou Holtz said "Nebraska was a tremendously fine team."

"They have good coaches and good players," he said. "Everything you'd expect from Nebraska."

Holtz was impressed with the Husker fans.

"Osborne knows his fans," he said. "He knows when to call a time out and get all 76,000 people behind his team."

State quarterback Dave Buckley said the Wolfpack couldn't afford to make mistakes and still beat Nebraska.

"When Nebraska was making the mistakes in the first half, we were playing on even terms," Buckley said. "But when we started making mistakes in the second half, the momentum shifted toward Nebraska." A bad snap to the State punter in the fourth quarter gave the Huskers the ball on the Wolfpack 21 yard line and set up the Huskers' third touchdown of the game.

"At first, we were in awe of the stadium and of the team," Buckley said. "But when we scored first, we realized Nebraska could be beat."

Buckley said Nebraska definitely isn't overrated. "If anything," he said, "they're underrated."

Besides the usual bumps and bruises, the Huskers' worst injury may be to kicking specialist Sanger. He might have suffered strained ligaments to his kicking knee, but more tests will be taken to determine the extent of his injury. Mike Coyle is Sanger's backup.



Cornhusker quarterback Dave Humm goes through pregame warmups before the North Carolina State contest. Against State, Humm completed 8 of 14 passes for 102 yards.

### sports shorts

1973 classes will begin tonight at 7:30 in the Herzlik Hall gym. For further information contact the UNL Recreation Office, 1740 Vine St.

An organizational meeting concerning the UNL crew team will be Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in the crew boathouse, directly north of Nebraska Hall. The crew team is now recruiting potential varsity rowers, and coxswains. A lecture and film will be presented. Interested students should contact Head Coach Peter Zandbergen, 489-0802.

The Cornhusker Water Polo Club will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Galbreath pool. For further information contact Mark Rowe, 487-2603.

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