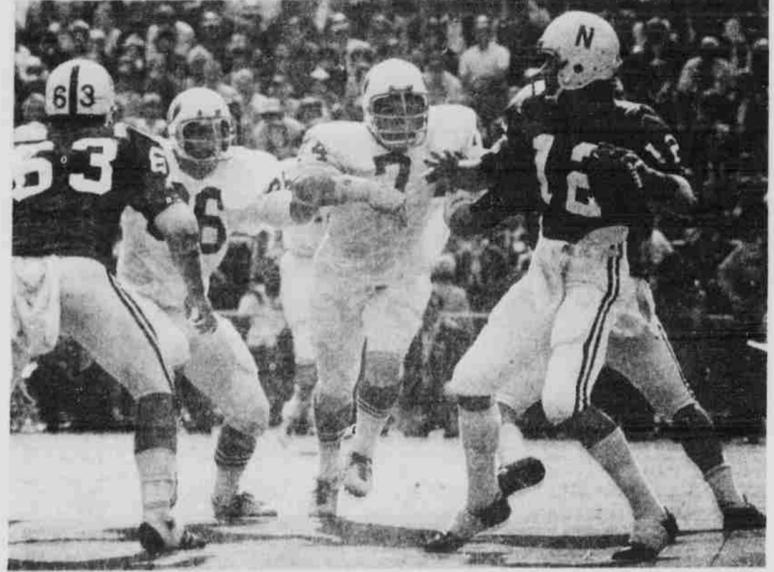




Husker I-Back Tony Davis (25) picks up some of his 51 yards against the Wisconsin defense. Davis also scored two touchdowns.



Junior quarterback Dave Humm (12) fades back to pass as offensive guard Tom Alward (63) provides the blocking.

Huskers rally again for fourth quarter win

By Bill Bennett

As Nebraska and Wisconsin entered the fourth quarter of Saturday's game, the clouds above Memorial Stadium were gray and dismal. The stadium itself wasn't any brighter, because the Badgers were leading Nebraska 16-14 with only 5:09 left in the game.

For the second consecutive week (on Sept. 22 Nebraska was trailing North Carolina State in the final quarter 14-10), the Huskers were losing to a team they were supposed to blow off the field. But thanks to some fourth quarter heroics, the Huskers pulled out a 20-16 victory over the stubborn Badgers.

"It's not that our attitude is bad," defensive end Steve Manstedt said after the game. "It's just that we only went so far in the first half, and then we let up. We can't do that because that gives the other team a big chance."

Both teams scored once in the first half. Nebraska drove 52 yards on their third possession of the game and scored on a nine-yard pass from quarterback Dave Humm to I-back Tony Davis. Rich Sanger's point-after-attempt (PAT) was good, and the Huskers led 7-0 with 4:23 left in the first quarter.

Wisconsin scored in the second quarter after intercepting a Humm pass. They drove 59 yards for the score, and with the extra point, tied the game with 3:02 left in the half.

Nebraska had three excellent opportunities to score in the third quarter but failed to capitalize on any of them.

Then the fourth quarter almost spelled doom for the unpredictable Huskers. With 7:54 left in the quarter, Badger kicker Rick Barrios booted a 29-yard field goal giving Wisconsin a 10-7 lead.

Finally displaying the kind of offense that played against UCLA, the Huskers took the Wisconsin kickoff and drove from their own 20 yard line to score in only six plays. The score came on a 23-yard pass from Humm to split end Frosty Anderson. Sanger's kick was good, and Nebraska led 14-10 with 5:23 remaining in the game.

Then disaster struck the Huskers. The Nebraska kickoff was taken at the Badger four yard line by Selvie Washington and returned for a touchdown. The PAT was no good, and Wisconsin led 16-14 as 76,279 Husker fans sat in stunned silence.

Fortunately, Nebraska again rose to the occasion by driving 83 yards in seven plays and scoring on Davis' 14-yard touchdown run. Nebraska's try for two points failed, and the Huskers led 20-16.

Wisconsin mounted a final drive but was stopped on fourth down at the Nebraska 36 yard line.

In the Nebraska locker room after the game, Head Coach Tom Osborne said, "Wisconsin is the best 0-3 football team I've ever seen."

For the third straight game, middle guard John Bell led the Blackshirts in tackles with 12. Bell was up against Wisconsin's All-American center candidate Mike Webster.

Quarterback Humm set two Husker passing records against Wisconsin. His 297 yards broke Frank Patrick's 1967 record of 290 yards against Oklahoma. His 25 completions beat Jerry Tagge's 1969 record of 23 completions against Kansas, which was tied by Humm against Iowa State last year.

But against Wisconsin, the Husker running attack never got untracked. Wingback Ritch Bahe got 58 yards on four carries, Davis got 51 yards on 16 carries and starting I-back Dave Goeller got 16 yards on 13 carries.

Split end Anderson had the best day of his career as he caught nine passes for 141 yards and one touchdown.

Wisconsin Head Coach John Jardine said the mark of a good football team is the ability to keep cool when behind late in the game.

"And Nebraska did just that," he said. "They are in every sense of the word a very solid football team."

Wisconsin tailback Bill Marek, who gained 145 yards against the Blackshirts, said Nebraska seemed physically stronger than the previous Wisconsin opponents.



Photo by Mike Theller

Nebraska's defensive line, led by tackle John Dutton (90), vainly tries to block Wisconsin's fourth quarter field goal.

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