

Sophomore split end Dave Shamblin begins his pattern as a Missouri player defends. Shamblin caught 4 passes for 84 yards against Missouri.



Nebraska linebacker Tom Ruud (45) and monster Mark Heydorff (22) tackle Missouri tailback Tommy Reamon (21) after a short gain. Reamon had 69 yards in 21 carries against the Huskers.

Photos
by
Mike Theiler

Huskers still aim for Big 8 crown

By Bill Bennett

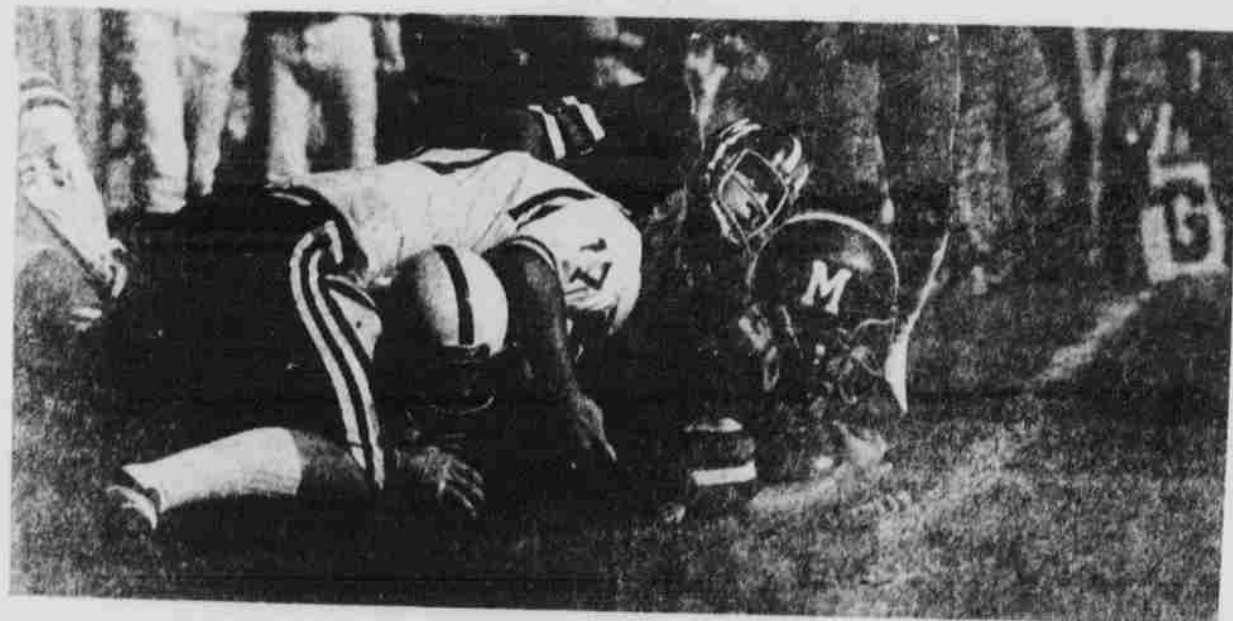
Columbia, Mo.— With blood dripping from a cut on his left eyebrow and his body drenched in sweat, Nebraska defensive tackle and co-captain John Dutton stood in the silent Husker locker room and said, "We'll just have to come back like we did in 1969."

This was the sentiment of all Nebraska football players after their 13-12 loss to the University of Missouri before 68,170 fans at Faurot Field in Columbia, Mo.

In 1969, the Huskers lost to Missouri in Columbia, 17-7, but the following week they defeated Kansas in Lincoln, 21-17. Nebraska tied the Tigers that year for the Big 8 championship.

"Winning the Big 8 is still our goal," Head Coach Tom Osborne said. "We still have to believe we can do it."

Daryl White, offensive tackle and co-captain, said, "We'll be back next week; we won't get down."



Missouri fullback Tom Mulkey (30) didn't score this time as he is stopped by Husker safety Bob Thornton. Mulkey did score in his next attempt, which made the score 12-6, in favor of the Tigers.



Missouri's Scott Anderson (78) reacts jubilantly after recovering Randy Borg's fourth quarter fumble of a Missouri punt on the Husker four yard line. Displaying Nebraska's reaction is defensive end Steve Manstedt (82)

"Our offense played lousy out there, today," he said. Our defense was great, but the offense couldn't score when we had to. We could move the ball, but we couldn't do what counted."

Nebraska had its problems. Humm threw one pass interception and fumbled one, I-back Tony Davis and cornerback Randy Borg fumbled once each and kicker Rich Sanger had a third quarter field goal blocked and missed a fourth quarter attempt.

Humm's second quarter fumble set up a Tiger field goal that tied the score at 6-6, and Borg's fourth quarter fumble on the Nebraska four yard line set up Missouri's winning score.

With 1:55 left in the game, the Huskers drove 71 yards in four plays and cut the Missouri lead to one point, 13-12. Nebraska then went for two points, but was stopped, and it was all over for the Huskers.

Davis was the intended receiver on the two-point conversion play. However, the ball was tipped by a Missouri lineman and intercepted by Tiger safety Tony Gillick.

Osborne said that if he had another chance, he might have called a different two-point play.

"If I had it to do over again, I'd call a time out, because there are three or four other plays we might have tried," he said, "although our completion on that pass is usually pretty high, about 60 per cent."

On the plane ride home, Borg talked about the game and his fumble.

"Their kicker did a good job; he really hung the ball up there," he said. "Their kickoff coverage was excellent, too." Borg intercepted two Tiger passes.

"It's tough to downgrade somebody who just beat you, but the statistics prove that Missouri couldn't move the ball on us consistently," he said.

A look at the statistics reveals Nebraska outdistanced Missouri in almost every category.

Missouri had only seven first downs compared to the Huskers 21. Nebraska passed for 292 yards and rushed for 152 yards, while the Tigers passed for only seven yards and rushed for 163.

Nebraska's most serious injury was to senior split end Frosty Anderson. Anderson was injured early in the first quarter and will be out for three games with a dislocated shoulder. Sophomore Dave Shamblin, Anderson's replacement, caught four passes for 84 yards. Humm said, "Shamblin did a great job."

How they scored...

First Quarter

Nebraska—On its second offensive possession, the Huskers drove 36 yards in eight plays, down to the Tiger 25 yard line, but had to settle for a 42-yard field goal by kicker Rich Sanger. With 6:23 left in the quarter, Nebraska lead 3-0.

Nebraska—Another Husker drive, it covered 68 yards in nine plays. It was stopped at the Missouri 13 yard line and Nebraska again had to settle for a Sanger field goal. This time it was a 29 yarder, and with 0:15 left in the quarter, Nebraska lead 6-0.

Second Quarter

Missouri—Early in the quarter, the Tigers drove 62 yards in 12 plays, but were stopped at the Nebraska 17 yard line. The Tigers had to settle for a 35-yard Greg Hill field goal. With 8:11 left in the quarter, the score was 6-3.

Missouri—The Tigers recovered a Nebraska fumble on the Husker 24 yard line, and drove to the 15 yard line where Hill kicked a 31-yard field goal. At halftime, the game was tied 6-6.

Fourth Quarter

Missouri—A Nebraska fumble of a Missouri punt was recovered by the Tigers on the Nebraska four yard line. Two plays later, Missouri scored and Hill's point-after-attempt made it 13-6, with 2:01 left in the game.

Nebraska—Starting from its own 28 yard line, the Huskers drove 71 yards in four plays and scored on a pass from Dave Humm to wingback Rich Salye. Nebraska's two point conversion attempt failed, and Missouri won 13-12.