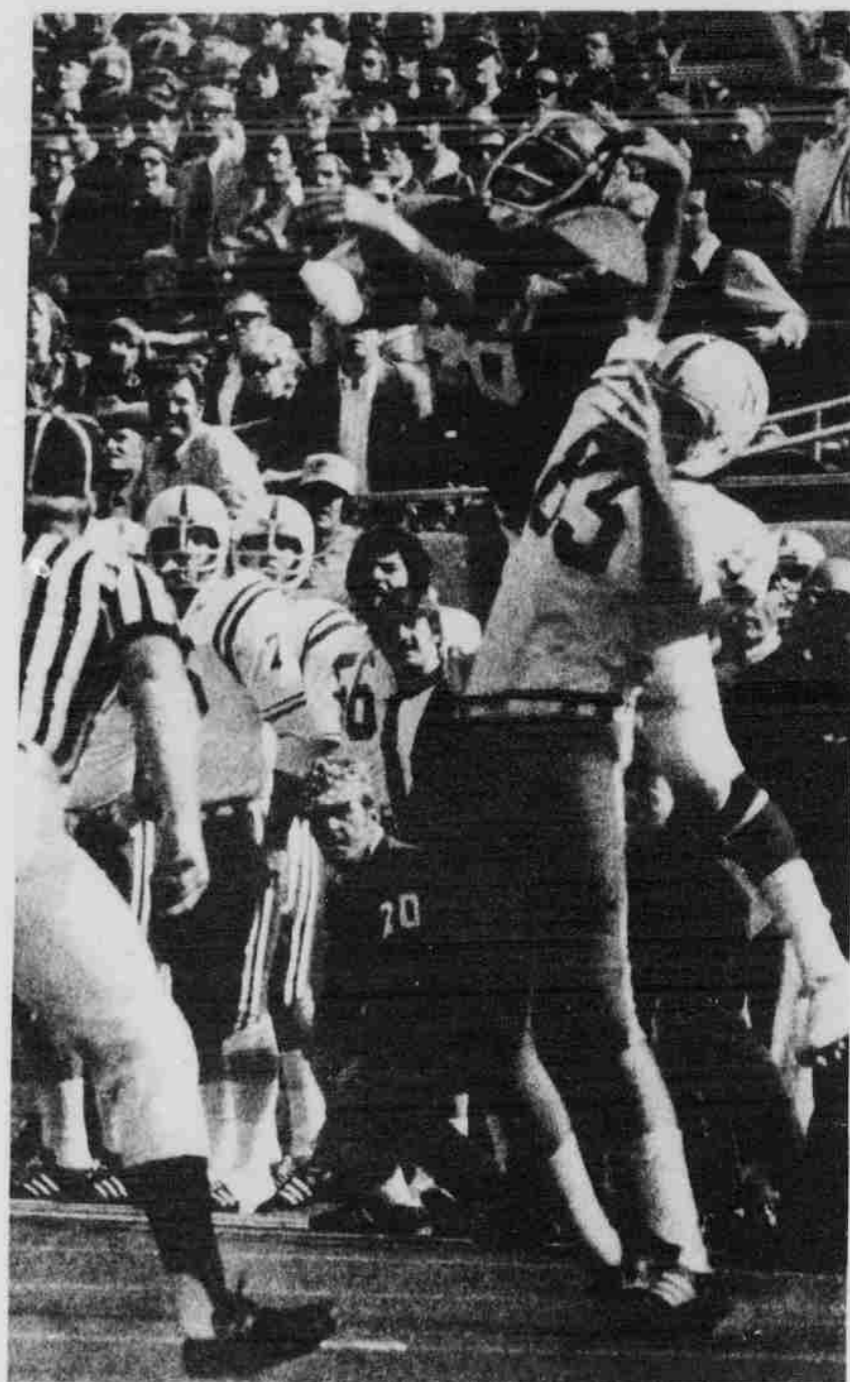




Oklahoma State's wishbone starts to take form as Cowboy quarterback Brent Blackman (10) pitches out to halfback Leonard Thompson (44). Pursuing for Nebraska is John Dutton (90).



This pass from Dave Humm to split end Dave Shamblin (85) is broken up by Oklahoma State defender Lee Stover (46). Shamblin caught two passes for 63 yards.

Cornhusker, Cowboy tie seen as loss by NU team

By Bill Bennett

Stillwater, Okla.— Before the start of Saturday's Nebraska-Oklahoma State football game the score was tied 0-0, and after the hard-fought contest the score again was tied 17-17. But to many of the Nebraska football players the 17-17 tie was like a loss.

"Nobody wants a tie," said defensive end Steve Manstedt, who had 13 tackles against the Cowboys. "Everybody wants to win, and to us, this tie is almost like a loss."

Defensive tackle and co-captain John Dutton said Nebraska is a team of winners, and "we don't like to tie."

"I'm angry that we tied because it feels like a loss," he said. "A tie means nothing to us."

A tie was inevitable when late in the fourth quarter, Nebraska I-back Tony Davis was stopped short of the Cowboy goal on a fourth down play.

"Somebody hit me three yards in the backfield," Davis said. "But I should have scored on the third down play. Whenever I go one-on-one with a guy at the goal line, I should beat him."

Head Coach Tom Osborne decided to go for the touchdown instead of a field goal. Two weeks ago at Missouri, the Cornhuskers attempted a field goal on a fourth and goal situation, but it was blocked.

"I figure we should be able to move the ball a foot," he said. "If it had been a couple of

yards to go, we'd have tried the field goal. But you've got to play percentage football."

Defensively, the Blackshirts were facing a proven Cowboy offensive attack that had averaged over 400 yards a game. Nebraska held the wishbone offense to 294 yards, forced six fumbles and recovered three of them.

Oklahoma State's only sustained drive came in the second quarter when it drove 52 yards in 11 plays and faced a fourth and goal situation at the Nebraska one yard line. It scored when halfback Leonard Thompson dived for the goal line, and the official signaled the touchdown.

But Dutton said the call by the official was a "very close one."

"Some of the sideline people said he wasn't over," he said. Dutton was credited with seven tackles against the Cowboys.

Middle guard John Bell, who had 13 tackles, agreed with Dutton that the touchdown was questionable.

"There was a pileup, and the whistle blew, and then it seemed like he went over," he said.

On the bus ride from Lewis Field to the Stillwater Municipal Airport, O'Leary was another frustrated Cornhusker. He was the starting I-back against the Cowboys, but in the first quarter he strained some ligaments in his left knee. He didn't play in the second half.

O'Leary summed up Nebraska's 1-1-1 conference record by shaking his head and saying, "We just keep beating ourselves."

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