



Iowa State safety Bruce Fling (9) lunges desperately for Ritch Bahe (24), who turns into the end zone with a 25-yard first quarter reception.



Probable Cotton Bowl bid faces Cornhuskers

By Bill Bennett

Nebraska fans can throw balls of cotton, instead of oranges like they've been doing for the last three years, during Saturday's game in Manhattan, Kan., when the Cornhuskers clash with Kansas State.

After Saturday's 31-7 victory over the Iowa State Cyclones, the Cornhuskers voted to accept a certain bowl invitation if it is offered to them.

Although it is unconfirmed, all factors point to a Cotton Bowl invitation which can be offered to the Cornhuskers Saturday, providing they beat the Wildcats.

Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne admitted to the team meeting, but wouldn't reveal the possible bowl invitation that was voted on.

"We decided on where we would like to go if we get the chance," he said. "Now we just have to wait for the invitation."

Osborne then commented on the victory over the Cyclones. "This was a good Iowa State team. We thought it was better than last year's team," he said. "We took advantage of the breaks in the first half, but like last week, we leveled off in the second half."

Offensively, the Huskers garnered 20 first downs and got 236 yards rushing and 175 yards passing for a total output of 411 yards.

One of the most confusing and interesting offensive plays of the season occurred with nine seconds left in the first half.

Husker kicker Rich Sanger attempted a 36-yard field goal which was good, but Nebraska was penalized for having 12 men on the field. Iowa State accepted the penalty, and the half ended without the Huskers adding three points to their score.

"We had 12 guys on the field," Sanger said, "but they had 13 men plus some band players. I thought

I'd get another chance to kick, but I guess that's not the rule."

Other offensive highlights were the Huskers' ability to score twice in the first quarter after the Blackshirts had recovered two Iowa State fumbles deep in Cyclone territory and Dave Humm's two touchdown passes, a first quarter 25-yarder to wingback Ritch Bahe and a second quarter 67-yarder to split end Frosty Anderson.

"Iowa State has a good team and a good pass rush," said Humm, who completed eight of 19 passes for 138 yards and threw two interceptions. "But our offensive line is getting better at the run blocking and pro pass blocking, and they did a fine job also."

Back John O'Leary, who ran for 63 yards in 10 carries, started the Cornhuskers off right when he returned the opening kickoff 42 yards.

"We've been working on the left return all week," he said. "Personally, I think I should have broken it. I was a little upset with myself."

Anderson described his touchdown pass from Humm. "First, we make the isolation fake to the I-back," he said. "We run that so much anyway that everyone thinks it's an up-the-gut play, so the deep pattern should be wide open."

"But No. 44 (Barry Hill) was a good defender, and I was glad to beat him just once," he said. "Dave lofted the ball, and the wind brought it right in. There was nothing left to do but take it in."

Since Anderson's a senior, this was his last game in Lincoln, but he said that wasn't on his mind while he was playing. "I was never hit with a flood of nostalgia while I was out there," he said. "But after the game you can look back on your feelings. We've got too much on the line to let feelings take over during a game."

Sanger kicked a second quarter 49-yard field goal, which combined with his four extra points gives him a total of 205 career points. "I just wished I hadn't hurt my leg earlier in the year," he said. "But my leg is now all right, and kicking is again a natural thing."

Since he also is a senior, Saturday's game was his last appearance in Memorial Stadium. "It's kind of sad; I hate to leave," he said. "Nebraska people are out of sight."

Defensively, the Blackshirts intercepted three passes, recovered three fumbles and limited the Cyclones to 12 first downs and 261 total offensive yards.

"We played pretty well," defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin said. "We had them well controlled except for their drive in the second half. We stopped them from making the big third down plays on us."

"I'm sure that when (Wayne) Stanley (quarterback) and (Mike) Strachan (tailback) got hurt, it changed their plans a little," he said. "But the best thing about this game is that a lot of people got a chance to play."

Nebraska's defensive secondary limited the Cyclones to 33 yards passing. Monster Mark Heydorff intercepted two passes, while linebacker John Starkebaum intercepted one.

Senior cornerback Randy Borg expressed sadness at playing his last game in Lincoln. "It's a little sad," he said. "I won't feel it as much now as I will in a week or so. It's been a great experience."

A statement that should interest all Husker fans was made by Cyclone cornerback Barry Hill. After comparing Oklahoma, who beat Iowa State last week 34-17, and Nebraska, he said he thought Nebraska was the better team.



Middle guard John Lee (69) pursues Iowa State quarterback Buddy Hardeman (8).



Tony Davis (25) led Husker rushers Saturday with 85 yards in 21 carries. He needs 144 yards to reach 1,000 for the season.

Photos by Mike Theiler

sports shorts

Nebraska's freshman football team ended its season Friday with a 24-14 victory over the Iowa State junior varsity. The freshmen's final record is 4-1.

Nebraska's gymnastics team finished second in Iowa State in the Big 8 Invitational gymnastics meet in the Coliseum Saturday. The Cyclones edged Nebraska 322.05 to 314.10.

High finishers for Nebraska were Gene Mackle, first in the horizontal bar and third in the all around event, Steve Dickey and Hal Traver, second and third on the pommel horse, Pete Studenski, third on the still rings and Barry Cross, third on the parallel bars.

UNL's hockey team defeated Creighton University in Omaha Saturday 3-1.