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Super passing game lifts Reds to 5-4 win

It was a beautiful day for a game: no wind, temperature 72 degrees, field slick but fast.

The teams were matched perfectly. The two 11-man squads already were on the field, one clad in red and white, the other-in blue and white.

They were going through their warmup drills as the crowd gathered slowly around the rectangular stadium.

"This'll be a whitewash," one fan crowed. "The Blues don't stand a chance against our defense."

"No," claimed another, "they won't get a shutout. Their offense isn't that strong, even if they do have a good defense."

The crowd had finished assembling, and the teams lined up across the field. Then the ball dropped, the crv went up from the gallery, "Let's foos," and the battle was on.

A violent pull from defense shook the stadium, but the Blue's stalwart goalie kicked the ball out. He retaliated with a rocket of his own, and as the ball caromed off an opponent and into the Red goal mouth, the roar went up from the crowd, "Cheeeaap."



Once again the ball dropped onto the field of play. The contact with the wall was fierce as the Blues tried to stop a sideline pass by the Reds, but the pass set up a quick push shot that tied the score.

The Reds went to a deliberate game plan. Methodically, the offense set up one cutback shot after another. The pressure on the Blue goalie was beginning to tell, and the score ran to 3-1 for the Reds. But another rocket from the defensive end by the Blues brought them back to within one, and then suddenly, the Blues' front man spanked a shot by the Red goalie to tie the score again.

The teams traded goals on pull shots, and the tension in the crowd matched the tension on the field as the last ball dropped into play.

A quick pass by the Reds set up their front line, and once again the stadium shook from a vicious pull shot. The brave Blue goalie moved with the shot and caught a piece of the ball as it whisked toward the open slot.

But the ball trickled over the edge and plunked into the hole, and the fifth and deciding point was chalked up for the Reds as the crowd began to disperse.

"At least they could have won it on a clinker," the second fan muttered.

"That was a pretty cheap win."

"Well, they just have better players, I guess," the first said. "Going to class?"

Huskers to attend Chicago gym meet

Nebraska will be going to the Midwest Open gymnastics meet Nov. 23 and 24 following what Head Coach Francis Allen termed an ''encouraging and enlightening'' showing at the Big 8 Invitational Saturday.

The Midwest Open, held in Chicago, attracted more than 53 universities last year and this year is expected to be even larger.

Nebraska has had two individual winners in the past at this meet, Allen himself in 1965 and Foster "Hoppy" Batten last year.

"We have an excellent shot at capturing this title," Allen said. "I'm taking the entire squad, and several individuals must be considered definite contenders for their respective events." Although last Saturday saw defending NCAA champion lowa State continue its seven-year domination of the Big 8 Invitational, the Cyclones may be hearing footsteps. ISU edged host Nebraska 322.05-314.10 for the title. Last March the Cyclones defeated the Huskers by 16.9 points for the Big 8 title. Saturday they won by 7.95 as Nebraska scored a school record 161.20 in the optionals.

"Iowa State isn't the super team they were in the past. Even though we didn't beat them, we sure found out we can," junior Gene Mackie said.

Mackie led the Huskers by tieing Iowa State's Mark Graham for the horizontal bar title and finishing third in the all-around competition.

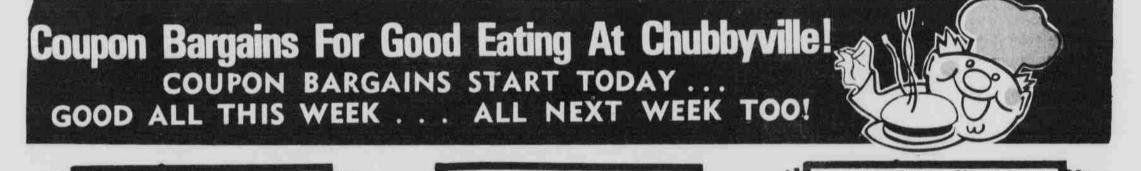
Other Husker point men included

Steve Dickey and Hal Traver, who were second and third in pommel horse competition; Pete Studenski, who scored a Husker record 9.25 on the still rings to finish third; and Barry Cross, who was third on the parallel bars.

"The meet was close; however, it could have been much closer for us," Allen said. He said he was pleased with the team's overall performance.

"I was particularly proud of Mackie. The two individuals who beat him in the all-around were both among the top six in the nation last year," the six-year head coach said.

The Big 8 Invitational is not an official Big 8 meet and has no effect on the Big 8 championships scheduled for Norman, Okla in March.





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