

Nebraska awaits OU, Texas; conference title hopes remain

By Bill Bennett

Manhattan, Kan.—As a result of Saturday's 50-21 victory over the Kansas State Wildcats, Nebraska will be playing in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day against Texas, the Southwestern Conference champion.

But playing in the Cotton Bowl against Texas is an honor the Cornhuskers will forget about for at least a week. On Friday, Nebraska must make an all-important stop in Norman, Okla., to play big-time Oklahoma.

After Nebraska had defeated Kansas State before a sellout crowd of 42,000, 15,000 from Nebraska, the Cornhuskers were given the unofficial invitation to the Cotton Bowl by bowl representatives Wilbur Evans and Field Scovell.

"How do you like Dallas?" the representatives asked the Nebraska players, who answered with a resounding "yes!"

"Well, we want you folks in Dallas and we'd be tickled to death to have you say yes," the representatives said. "Just be sure it's at 6 o'clock."

The National Collegiate Athletic Association prohibited the offering of bowl bids before 6 p.m. on Saturday. Nebraska received the official invitation at 6 through a tape-recorded message played on the team bus as they returned to Lincoln from Manhattan.

But before Nebraska could think about Oklahoma or the Cotton Bowl, they had to defeat Kansas State, which they did in a sometimes awesome, sometimes erratic manner.

"We were ready to play Kansas State," Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne said. "The players were worried about this game. They weren't looking past it."

"Our offense controlled the line of scrimmage all day long," he said. "But we had them down and then let them off the hook with our mistakes. That was very discouraging."

Concerning the Oklahoma game, he said Nebraska can't make mistakes and beat Oklahoma. "Vince Gibson (Kansas State Head Coach) said he thought Oklahoma was the best college team he'd ever seen. But I think we can beat Oklahoma."

"Before the season started we had two goals: to win the Big 8 and to play in a major bowl," he said. "We got the major bowl, but the conference championship is different. We have a lot of faith in Oklahoma State (Oklahoma's opponent after Nebraska). We think Oklahoma has two good teams left to play."

Offensively, the Cornhuskers had 30 first downs Saturday and 612 total offensive yards. Their 50 points is the most they have scored in one game all year.

However, Nebraska was slowed by three fumbles, all of which they lost, one pass interception and 72 yards in penalties.

"Our offensive line did a great job," said Husker quarterback Dave Humm, who completed four of 12 passes for 76 yards. "The running game really got together, too. They

were getting four or five yards a carry which made getting first downs a lot easier."

Nebraska's rushing yardage totaled 434 yards. I-back Tony Davis was the leading rusher with 111 yards in 21 carries followed by John (O'Leary) with 100 yards in 17 carries.

One of Nebraska's most exciting offensive plays came early in the second quarter when wingback Ritch Bahe hit tight end Brent Longwell with a 51-yard pass that carried the Huskers to the Wildcat one-yard line.

"We've been running the counter sweep all year and the cornerback has to come up to support the run," Bahe said. "So by faking the run and passing the ball the receiver should be open. I'm supposed to throw it on the run, but since it was against the wind I thought I'd better stop. I'm surprised it spiraled and got to him."

Defensively, the Blackshirts limited Kansas State to ten first downs and 262 total offensive yards, but the 21 points scored by the Wildcats is the most any team has scored on Nebraska this year.

However, the first two Kansas State scores were set up by Nebraska fumbles inside the Nebraska 35-yard line. The third touchdown occurred when Kansas State center Fred Rothwell picked up a Wildcat fumble and ran 52 yards for an early fourth quarter score.

"We had a couple of breakdowns," said defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin. "We played good defense in the first, second and fourth quarter. Let's just leave the third quarter out. However, I think we played better defensively this week than last week."

Kiffin said he was glad to get the game over with. "Now we can think 100 per cent about Oklahoma," he said. "This Oklahoma game reminds me of the Oklahoma game two years ago. We aren't undefeated, but it's still just as big."

He said the defense is ready for anything Oklahoma does. "We peaked our first game and have stayed that way all year. We've had a great effort all year long from the defensive players and we'll get one down there (Norman). There's pride on this defense. We're not scared of Oklahoma or their wishbone."

Defensive right tackle and co-captain John Dutton said, "Oklahoma has never seen a defense like ours that can stop the wishbone, like we stopped UCLA and Oklahoma State. It will be a tough game."

Nebraska's defensive secondary held Kansas State to just 28 yards in the air. Wildcat quarterback Steve Grogan completed only two of eight passes and he had two intercepted.

"We couldn't even force them to throw on us," said defensive right cornerback Randy Borg. "We jumped into a Husker defense, which is rushing eight men and leaving three deep, and they still wouldn't pass on us."

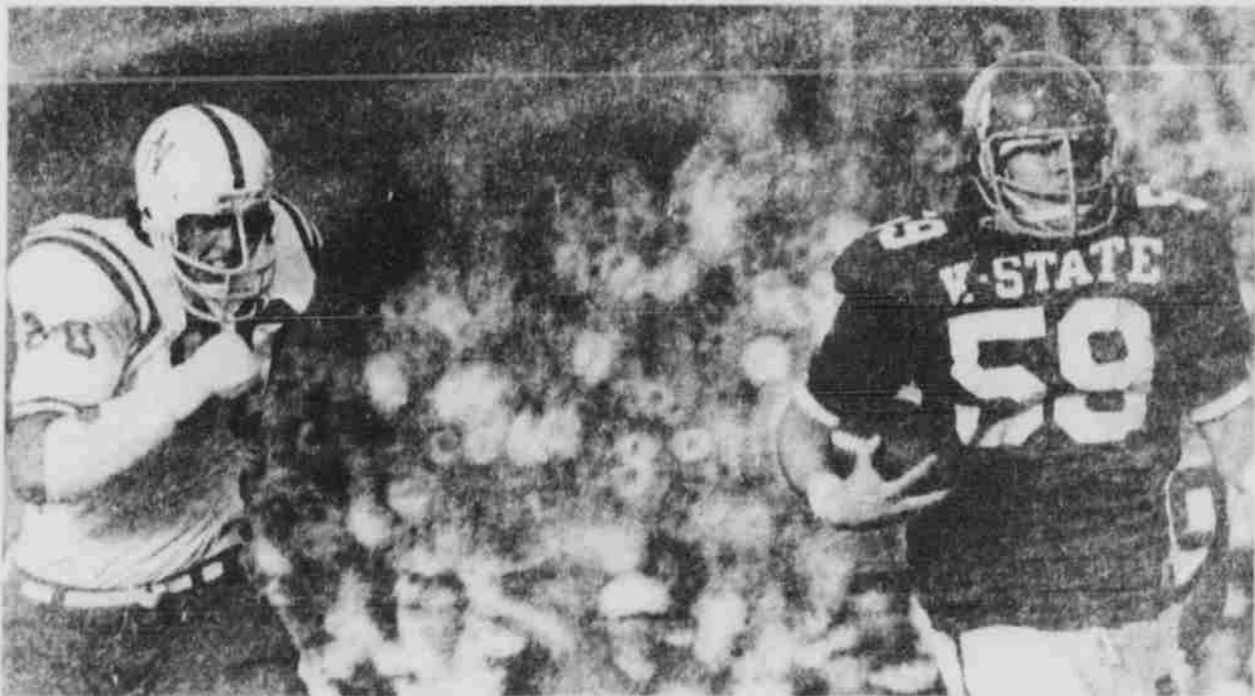
Borg said Nebraska will be ready for Oklahoma. "Everything in the world that can be said about this game will be said this week," he said. "But all the talking isn't going to win the game. Whoever plays good, solid football with no mistakes will win the game."



Tight end Brent Longwell (86) is tackled on the Kansas State one yard line after receiving Ritch Bahe's 51-yard pass.

How they scored...

NU-KSU	First Quarter	Time Left
3:0	Rich Sanger 30-yard field goal. Drive stalled by two penalties after 16-yard Dave Humm pass to Frosty Anderson and 20-yard run by Ralph Powell.	4:50
10:0	Tony Davis six-yard run. One play following recovery of K-State fumble of Nebraska punt. Sanger point-after-touchdown (PAT).	3:35
17:0	Humm one-yard run. Drive: 91 yards in six plays. TD set up by 51-yard pass from Ritch Bahe to Brent Longwell. Sanger PAT.	12:09
23:0	Davis four-yard run. Drive: 58 yards in eight plays. Sanger's PAT blocked.	2:48
23:7	Isaac Jackson 29-yard run. Drive: 36 yards in three plays following KSU recovery of Steve Runty fumble. Keith Brumley PAT.	12:14
23:14	Jackson one-yard run. Drive: 31 yards in nine plays following KSU recovery of John O'Leary fumble. Brumley PAT.	8:09
30:14	O'Leary five-yard run. Drive: 54 yards in five plays following Bob Thornton pass interception. Sanger PAT.	1:18
30:21	Fred Rothwell 52-yard run. Drive: 65 yards in seven plays. Center Rothwell picked up a Don Calhoun fumble and ran for score. Brumley PAT.	13:05
37:21	Davis four-yard run. Drive: 74 yards in 12 plays. Sanger PAT.	7:42
44:21	Dave Shamblyn 31-yard pass from Runty. Drive: 30 yards in four plays. Sanger PAT.	4:00
50:21	Earl Everett 36-yard run. Drive: 43 yards in three plays following Jim Burrow pass interception. Sanger PAT blocked.	1:55



John Dutton (90) lost this foot race with Kansas State center Fred Rothwell (59) after Rothwell picked up a Wildcat fumble and returned it 52 yards for a touchdown.

sports shorts

Nebraska students will have an opportunity to place Cotton Bowl ticket orders at a special student sale Nov. 27-29, according to ticket manager Jim Pittenger.

As in the past, a priority system will be used to fill orders for Cotton Bowl tickets allocated to the University, he said.

In order of priority, consideration is being extended to University of Nebraska students and faculty, Major athletic contributing organizations, season ticket holders of record, former N men and travel agencies, public and private, which normally have provided tour service for fans to Cornhusker games.

Checks should be made payable to the University of Nebraska, and the price is \$8 per ticket.

Entries for the basketball marathon are due today at 4:30 p.m. in the Recreation Dept.