

## Huskers drown Ducks in lopsided washout

Opinion by Steve Taylor

Following the 61-7 devastation of his Oregon Ducks, shellshocked coach Don Read pulled out all stops in praising his conquerors.

"In all my years of college coaching, I've never seen a balance like Nebraska has," he exclaimed. "They are every bit as good as the Oklahoma team that beat us 68-3 two years ago."

The Nebraska victory was the most decisive opening game win in 50 years and spawned visions of football supremacy in the minds of Husker partisans. The crimson-attired throng of over 76,000 had occasion to cheer seemingly every five minutes, even when Nebraska's third and fourth units were battling head-on with the Duck's first team.



Husker fullback Gary Higgs [46] powers through the Oregon line for his first college touchdown.

Oregon's effort to stay in the game Saturday was hampered by a confused defense and a punter who must have had arthritis.

John Nehl lent considerable credence to the Oregon nickname "Webfoots" by averaging only 29 yards on his first three punts. Each one of those shanks put the Huskers in great field position and all three times they scored swiftly.

The first Nebraska touchdown came with less than four minutes gone when rejuvenated flanker Don Westbrook took the ball on an inside reverse and sprinted 22 yards for the score.

Five minutes later, on a third and nine situation, Westbrook caught a short pass from David Humm and outmaneuvered the Oregon secondary to complete a 34-yard touchdown play. The Cheyenne, Wyo. speedster later said he was amazed at how open he was after catching the pass.

Though most fans were out of balloons, Nebraska's point onslaught was far from finished.

Still in the first quarter, Humm faked a handoff and hit Larry Mushinskie with a 36-yard touchdown pass. Mushinskie was so wide open he could have somersaulted into the endzone (like John O'Leary did last year).

A safety, a Humm quarterback sneak and a field goal made it 33-0 at halftime.

The second half was a contest between Nebraska reserves and Oregon's fatigued first unit. Nebraska kept pouring it on and the final score was an astounding 61-7.

Perfectionist defensive coach Monte Kiffin was generally pleased with the defensive effort. Though most opposition touchdowns usually stir him into something which

resembles a war dance, Kiffin was not too disappointed by Oregon's late score.

"Sure we would have liked to have a shutout," he commented. "But the most important thing is to get a kid in the game."

That goal was accomplished as 70 Husker players saw action. Freshmen Monte Anthony and Darrel Walton both got in and both were impressive.

Next week the Huskers travel to Wisconsin where the Badgers will seek to avenge last year's heartbreaking defeat. The game will be regionally televised and millions of people (including AP voters) will get a chance to see just how good Nebraska is.

How good are they? Anyone who saw the game wouldn't hesitate to testify they are a superior team to the 1973 Huskers. There are more runners, more speed and apparently more confidence.

So Nebraska is off and winging in the 1974 season. The Huskers proved Saturday they will be a thorn in the side of any team that dares to lock horns with them.

Better keep stocked up on balloons.



Nebraska blackshirts held Oregon to 191 yards in Saturday's game.

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