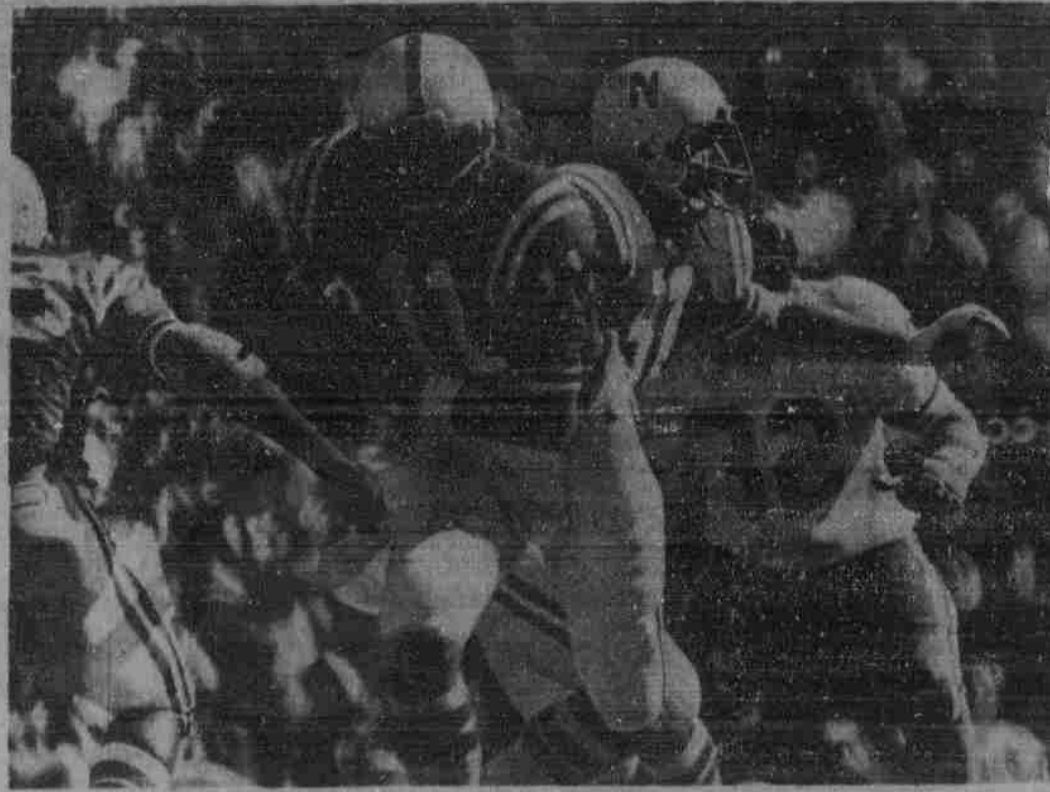




Freshman Monte Anthony drags a Northwestern defender into the endzone in the Huskers 49-7 breeze Saturday.



Terry Luck saw extensive action at quarterback Saturday for the first time in his Husker career.

## Huskers still in running to be national champs

Trying to pick the national champion in college football this season is like predicting the winner of a demolition derby.

Teams that have been fortunate enough to win half of their games in the past have been knocking off the powerhouses while flitting in and out of the top twenty. Texas A&M actually received a vote for number one in the latest AP poll.

For Nebraska, the result of this chaos has been a return engagement in the top five. A national championship—a sarcastic reference only 10 days ago—is still a possibility.

Of course there's still the little matter of winning nine straight, including the Oklahoma game. This week's picks:

**Nebraska 44, Minnesota 0**

It's risky to forecast a shutout when Husker reserves begin filtering in during the second quarter, but the Gophers will be starting a freshman quarterback. Minnesota scored only nine points against Texas Christian University without Tony Danga so Gopher fans shouldn't count on an offensive onslaught.

**Kansas 24, Texas A&M 14**

The Aggie fairytale will come to an unhappy ending Saturday. Texas A&M isn't really the fifth best team in the country.

**Wisconsin 14, Missouri 10**

The fact that the game is in Madison is the only real advantage the Badgers have as both teams are similar in style and talent. Both have good defenses. Both have dull offenses.

**Oklahoma 56, Wake Forest 7**

The only issue in doubt is how long Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer chooses to pour it on. If he keeps his first unit in throughout the season, his team would average more points per game than the Sooner basketball team.

**Alabama 27, Mississippi 16**

Common sense demands picking the Crimson Tide, but this could be another upset. The game is in Mississippi, the Rebels are ranked in the top twenty and Alabama wasn't very emphatic in their win over Vanderbilt last week.

**Notre Dame 28, Michigan State 10**

The Sports Illustrated jinx struck again last week as the Fighting Irish were clipped after being featured on the magazine cover. The Spartans lost by 42 points last week or I'd be tempted to pick an upset.

**Thomas absent**

### Injuries plague Huskers

As the UNL football team prepares for its meeting this Saturday with Minnesota, one big question mark in the Husker camp is the absence of split end Bobby Thomas.

Thomas, a 151 lb. sophomore from Bridgeport, Pa., failed to return to practice Monday and Tuesday.

"I haven't talked to him," said Husker Coach Tom Osborne. "I've tried to, but at this point all I can do is speculate if he isn't showing up for practice he isn't serious about playing."

"I won't know about making a decision until I talk to him," he added.

I-Back John O'Leary is still a question mark this week even though he resumed workouts with the team Monday.

**Texas Tech 31, Oklahoma State 14**

The Cowboys are difficult to figure out, getting trounced by Baylor after an impressive season's start. Texas Tech is as consistent as the Lincoln Police. The Red Raiders should remain undefeated.

"We'd like to play him, but we have to wait for a decision from the doctors," Osborne said.

Osborne also expressed concern with injuries to two of his other I-backs, Jeff Moran and Monte Anthony. Moran did not practice Monday and Tuesday because of a sore foot, while Anthony is slowed by a bruised shoulder.

Wingback Don Westbrook has also been sidelined this week with a bruised thigh, but Osborne said he expects Westbrook to practice today.

After last weekend's 40-7 win over Northwestern, plus some upsets to other top teams, the Huskers climbed to fifth and sixth places respectively in the weekly UPI and AP football polls.

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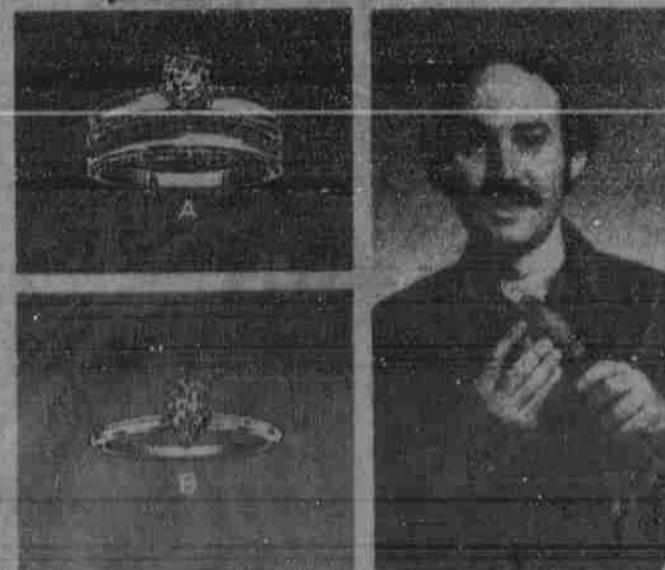
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