

## Huskers up against wall, 21-10

Game analysis by Steve Taylor

Nebraska's football destiny was hanging in the air Saturday when Missouri quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz dropped back and lobbed a ridiculous-looking pass to the left corner of the endzone.

The pass, which wobbled like a wounded duck in mid-air, settled into the arms of Mark Miller and enabled the Tigers to hand Nebraska their first loss at home since 1972.

Missouri added an insurance touchdown a few minutes later to make the final score a convincing 21-10.

The Huskers were throttled repeatedly on this dreary afternoon by a quick Missouri defense that was returning to true form after giving up 59 points the week before.

### Concrete wall

Most of the Husker ball-toting was done by sophomore I-back Dave Gillespie, who ran into a concrete wall every time he reached the line of scrimmage.

While Gillespie was facing a concrete wall, heralded freshman Monte Anthony was sitting on a wooden bench.

Anthony entered the Missouri contest with the third best rushing average in the Big 8. But, due to a swollen knee, it wasn't until the third quarter that he entered it.

Coach Tom Osborne said he wasn't quite sure what caused the defensive lapse in the fourth quarter.

"I don't know whether our defense let up or what happened," he said. "Their

line fired out and their backs ran hard."

### Not convinced

Terry Luck, who took the Husker controls after Dave Humm's injury, was not convinced of Missouri's superiority. "I still think we are a better team," he insisted.

Luck is right. Nebraska has had the better team in each of its first five games but they are somehow saddled with a record of 3-2.

Fans and sportswriters all seem to have explanations for this perplexing decline. Most of them seem to focus on Osborne's coaching philosophy.

One fan, after the game, claimed Osborne is too predictable. Another said he is too smart and outthinks himself.

### Firing squad

...On "O" Street Saturday night a passenger in a car screamed out his window: "Tom Osborne for dog-catcher."

A pedestrian answered "No way. If the dogs had a good defense, they'd beat him."

Despite this sentiment, the blame shouldn't be entirely heaped on Osborne.

A former pro football player, he is nonetheless ineligible to suit up and it's the players who must do the job.

The Huskers really have their backs to the wall now and at least four members of the firing squad (Kansas, Oklahoma St., Colorado and Oklahoma) have bullets in their guns.



## No sure bet in college football

Odds makers and bettors alike have been tearing their hair over the trend of upsets and unexpected close calls the top teams in college football have been experiencing in this year of surprises.

Somebody has got to be making money from it (and Saturday it was probably people from Missouri).

*Larry Stunkel*  
on record

Or picture, if you can, football bowl game officials trying to decide on teams they will ask to play in their respective classics.

If the current trend in collegiate football continues there won't be any undefeated teams, and maybe a few once-beatens.

An Orange Bowl official, shaking his head after the Husker's 21-10 loss to Missouri last Saturday, mumbled something about not knowing where to go, and mentioned Kansas University.

Last weekend's upsets included:  
—Eighth rated Florida, with hopes of their first Southeast Conference title ever, suffered a 24-10 loss to Vanderbilt.  
—Ninth rated Texas Tech fell to Southwest Conference rival and 16th rated Texas A&M 28-7.  
—Oklahoma, an overwhelming favorite over Texas, had to score in the last quarter to survive their scare 16-13.  
—Alabama only beat Florida State 8-7.

"Football is a game of emotions," is a new cliché used by coaches and writers, and it has been striking unmercifully at the ratings and at bookies' point spreads.

In answer to the writer who moaned, "What could happen this season?" another writer simply smiled and said, "We'll probably see Podunk U. in a major bowl."

## The mourning after

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