

'Dead-even' match ends 7-3, Huskers' favor

Game analysis by Steve Taylor.

There were three minutes left in the Nebraska-Oklahoma State game Saturday and the stage was set for yet another act of the long-running tragedy: Husker Heartbreak.

With the Cowboys only four yards away from the goal line, Nebraska was being threatened with their second straight home loss and ruination of any major bowl hopes.

On second down, Cowboy quarterback Charlie Weatherbie darted for the endzone and was only a goal line stretch away from scoring when the ball popped loose and Ardell Johnson recovered.

A few minutes later, Johnson batted away a last-ditch pass to preserve a scary 7-3 Nebraska

victory.

It's over

A vocally exhausted fan echoed the sentiments of the 76,476 in attendance when she sighed, "My God, is it really over?"

Luckily for Nebraska it was, because as Head Coach Tom Osborne had earlier said, the two teams were dead even.

The Huskers lone touchdown Saturday came on a four-yard run by Tony Davis, who heralded the score by raising the ball over his head as he trotted in.

Except for that third-quarter TD, Nebraska's high-flying offense was held in check and their 41-point-a-game average will suffer considerable damage.

However, it wasn't a lack of execution that caused the low

point total, but an unreasonable Cowboy defense.

'The Longest Yard'

The Oklahoma State team Friday went to see "The Longest Yard" (a movie about an underdog team overcoming insurmountable odds to win) and this perhaps inspired their defense to hold the Huskers to one touchdown.

While the Cowboys were limiting Nebraska to one touchdown, the Blackshirts were limiting the orange-clad visitors to none.

Monte Kiffin's crew is proving themselves to have one of the stingiest defenses in the country.

In the second half they played knowing one mistake could cost them the game and, to the gratitude of Husker fans, they

didn't crack.

5-2 record

The victory improved Nebraska's record to 5-2.

The next two games (Colorado and Iowa State) will undoubtedly decide the Huskers' postseason destiny. A loss would probably mean a trip to somewhere like Memphis or El Paso for Nebraskans.

Losses in both games would mean Husker fans wouldn't have to worry about doing any packing during the holiday season.

Jim Burrow Saturday summed up the feeling that the close game jinx was finally over.

"This was just great," the junior from Mississippi said. "We finally got a break."



The Oklahoma St. defense caused much misery for Nebraska's running backs Saturday during the Huskers' narrow 7-3 win.



John O'Leary returned to ball-carrying duty Saturday and gained 57 yards on 12 tries.

Teen-ager gets \$3 million from Utah Stars

High school cagers: new talent for the pros?

It seems Moses Malone may make it in professional basketball after all.

Malone, a 6 ft. 11 in. high school All-American from Virginia, caused some furor last August when he balked at a basketball scholarship to Maryland University to sign a \$3 million contract with the Utah Stars of the American Basketball Assoc. (ABA).

Many people, including his high school coach, said it was a mistake.

George F. Will, Washington Post editorialist, said Malone was being exploited by ABA officials, who were trying to scare their rival National Basketball Association. (NBA), into initiating steps for a merger, (including lobbying for federal anti-trust legislation in Congress, which blocks such a move).

But Sports Illustrated reported in this week's issue that Malone is "showing signs

of earning his contract. He is poised, graceful and strong off the boards. Malone has also hit on 50 per cent of his shots in preseason."

Larry Stunkel on record

Nobody can blame Malone for being one of the first athletes in modern times to make the jump directly from high school into pro competition.

Malone was a poor boy who lived with his mother in a nonimpressive part of his community. But \$3 million is a lot of money,

and he was assured he'd get the money whether he made the team or not. The stars also agreed to pay for his college education in the off-season.

Maryland coach Lefty Driesell offered Malone a few fringe benefits, but nothing to compare with the lucrative pro contract.

So what if Malone is being exploited and is wasting his ability, as some people have said? The guy is set for life if he does the right thing with his money.

But the real question is whether pro teams will try dipping into the high school ranks again. If this is an isolated incident, fine—nobody really got hurt (except maybe Driesell).

One does hope this sort of thing doesn't happen too often, for the sake of the sport and for the sake of the next kid who might not be as lucky or as good as Malone.

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