



photo by Steve Boerner

Monte Kiffin, right, Husker defensive coordinator, gives the defense crucial instructions in the fourth quarter against LSU Saturday.

Tight ends expect NU line improved

By Scott Jones

Fans disappointed with Nebraska's offense after last Saturday's 10-7 win over Louisiana State University should perk up. The worst may be over.

"We'll just naturally get better and better, there's no question about that," said Brad Jenkins, who alternates at tight end with Larry Mushinskie. "I think as the season goes along we'll see that we can open some good holes because we won't face anybody better than LSU."

Although inexperience caused mistakes in the line against LSU, both Jenkins and Mushinskie are optimistic about future games, beginning with Indiana today. "We know what our potential is," Mushinskie said. "I think we could be the No. 1 team in the country if we just start working together and quit making mistakes—because we made a lot of mistakes the other day."

Handle good defense

"As a unit we learned we could handle a good defensive line," Jenkins said, "because we had some good holes."

Mushinskie, a senior from Temple City, Calif., said having one week to prepare for Indiana as opposed to three for LSU isn't a great handicap.

"It'll be a lot better than with three weeks," he said. "I think you only need about one week."

Making preparation easier, Mushinskie said, will be film of Indiana's 20-14 win over Minnesota last Saturday. For LSU the

Huskers reviewed last year's films and hoped for no major surprises.

The offense was surprised to see the Tigers in a 5-2 defense, Mushinskie said, instead of their customary 4-3 setup.

Jenkins said he played about 40 per cent of the game Saturday and approved alternating with Mushinskie.

"Coach Osborne wants to get a fresh guy in there because it's a demanding position, the Fort Collins, Colo., senior said. "You block one play then you've got to run half way down the field on a pass pattern."

"It's good for Larry and me, too," he continued. "If you were the only one in there you might try to save a little but with both of us you know you can give everything all the time."

One pass reception

Mushinskie, who is an avid scuba diver and has been "going to the beach since I was one or two years old," caught one pass Saturday, exactly his 1974 regular season average.

He averaged 15.7 yards on each of his 11 receptions last year and scored twice, against Oregon and Kansas. Jenkins caught five passes last year for 100 yards and a score against Kansas State.

"Every receiver wants to catch a lot of passes," Mushinskie said. "I released on about four patterns when I was the primary receiver Saturday. I was open quite a bit but Terry Luck was rushed some of the time."

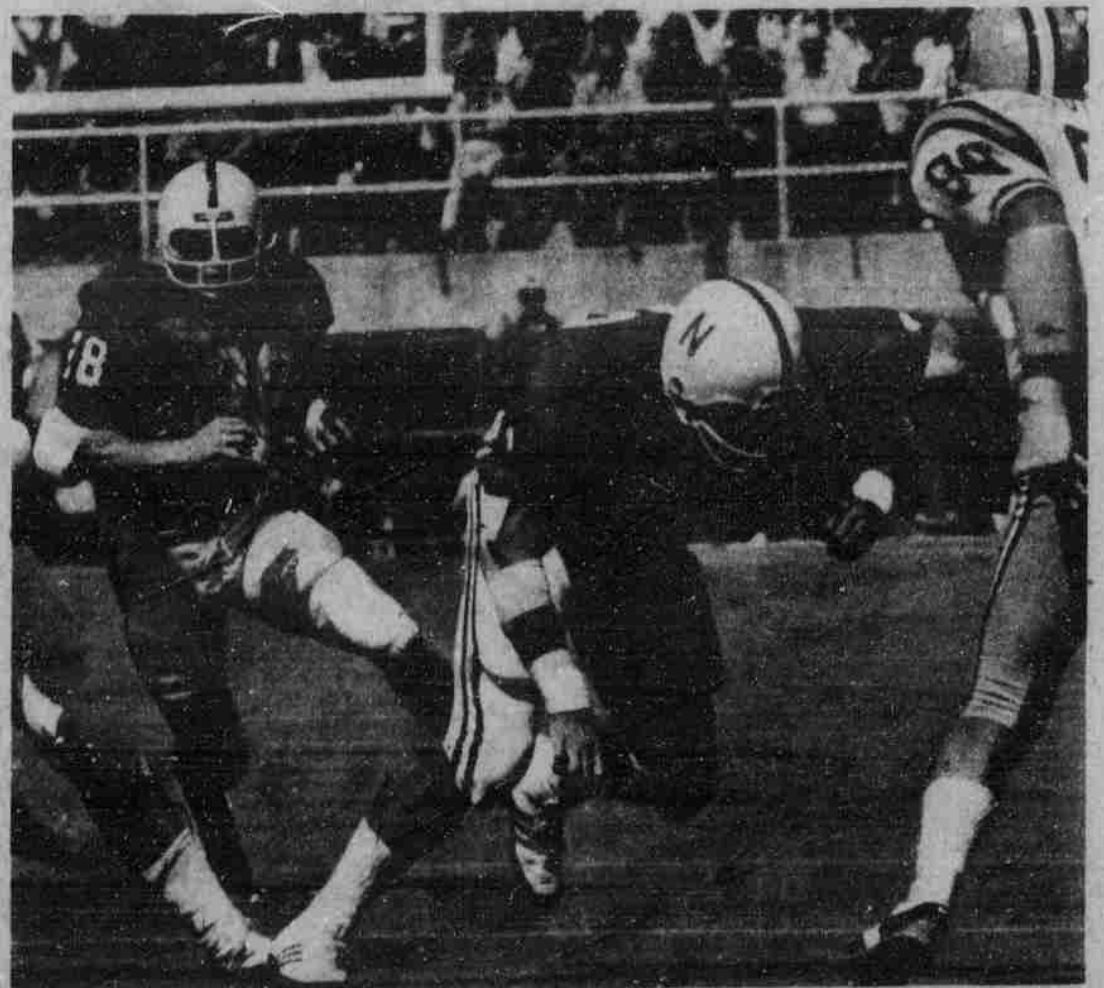


photo by Kevin Higley

Larry Mushinskie, (88) blocks for Dave Gillespie (28) on an end sweep against LSU.