

nebraskan sports

Hurricanes' wind fades; Huskers come back strong in second half

Analysis by Larry Stunkel

People are probably wondering what UNL football coach Tom Osborne said to his charges during halftime of the Huskers' 31-16 win over the University of Miami (UM) Saturday.

Whatever he said, it motivated the Huskers into 24 second-half points after being down 7-9 at the half.

"We came off the ball better," Osborne said. "The team played more inspirational."

However, to the 76,231 fans, the 13th largest turn out in Nebraska history, what Osborne said made the difference was that junior Vince Ferragamo would be quarterback.

The 6 ft. 3 in. 208 lb. transfer from Carson, Calif., came off the bench for starter Terry Luck and completed eight of nine passes for 127 yards. Ferragamo took the team 71 yards in 10 plays in the first offensive series of the second half for a 14-9 lead.

On the Huskers' next possession, Ferragamo marched the team 80 yards to the Miami four-yard line before a delay of game forced a 24-yard Mike Coyle field goal. The Huskers had a 17-9 lead when the third quarter ended.

The Huskers' key drive came at the beginning of the fourth quarter. Taking possession of the ball at the UNL 20, Ferragamo engineered another sustained drive, this one taking 19 plays and seven minutes before senior I-back John O'Leary took it in from the six-yard line. Coyle's extra point made it 24-9.

The Huskers scored six more points in the fourth quarter when Ferragamo hit split end Bobby Thomas down the sideline for a 40-yard touchdown play.

"I'm not taking anything away from Ferragamo—he's a good quarterback," said Miami defensive coordinator Jim Walden.

"You've got to remember there were a couple of super

catches also. That number 8 (Thomas) and 33 (Curtis Craig) made some great catches," he added. "Thomas seemed like he was eight feet in the air on a couple catches."

Another story was O'Leary, who rushed for over 100 yards (the first Husker back to do so this season), rolling up 106 yards on 21 carries.

Just as in three previous weeks, the Husker defense made a notable performance, limiting the Hurricanes to 90 yards rushing and 111 yards passing.

Sophomore linebacker Jim Wightman had 12 tackles to lead the blackshirts. Senior co-captain Rob Martin made eight tackles from his defensive end position.

The defense's top effort of the day came in the first quarter after a Luck fumble was recovered by Miami's Steadman Scavella at the Husker six.

Instead of scoring the touchdown that would have made the score 10-0, the blackshirts held the Hurricanes on a third down play made by blitzing monster-back Wonder Monds. Chris Dennis kicked his second of three field goals for Miami from 24 yards out, giving Miami a 6-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

"I'd say Nebraska's defense was about the same as Oklahoma's," said Miami I-back Tim Morgan. "Nebraska was pretty quick. It seemed they had a better pass rush than OU."

The Huskers failed to move the ball past the 41 yard line in the first quarter and seemed to have difficulty moving the ball into the 15 m.p.h. south wind.

Walden said the Huskers failed to show them anything new, except the Hurricanes were hurt during the Husker's first series of the third quarter by a delay pass to Tony Davis.

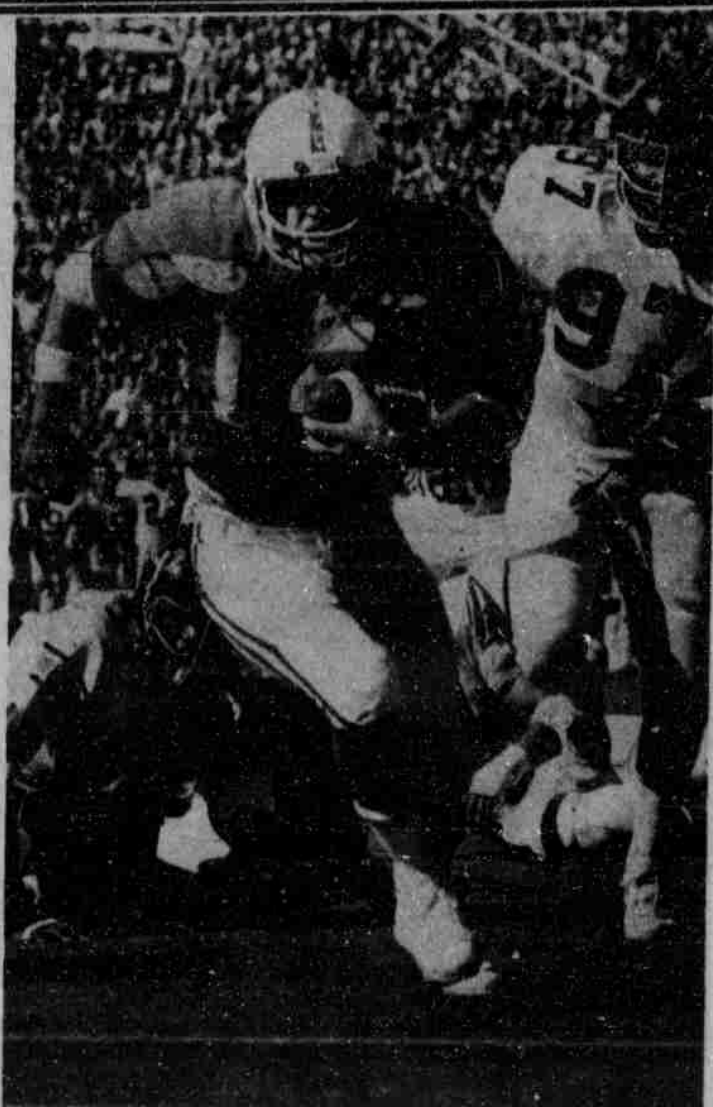


Photo by Steve Boerner

Senior I-back John O'Leary keyed the Husker offense during Saturday's 31-16 win over Miami, rolling up 106 yards on 21 carries and scoring three touchdowns.

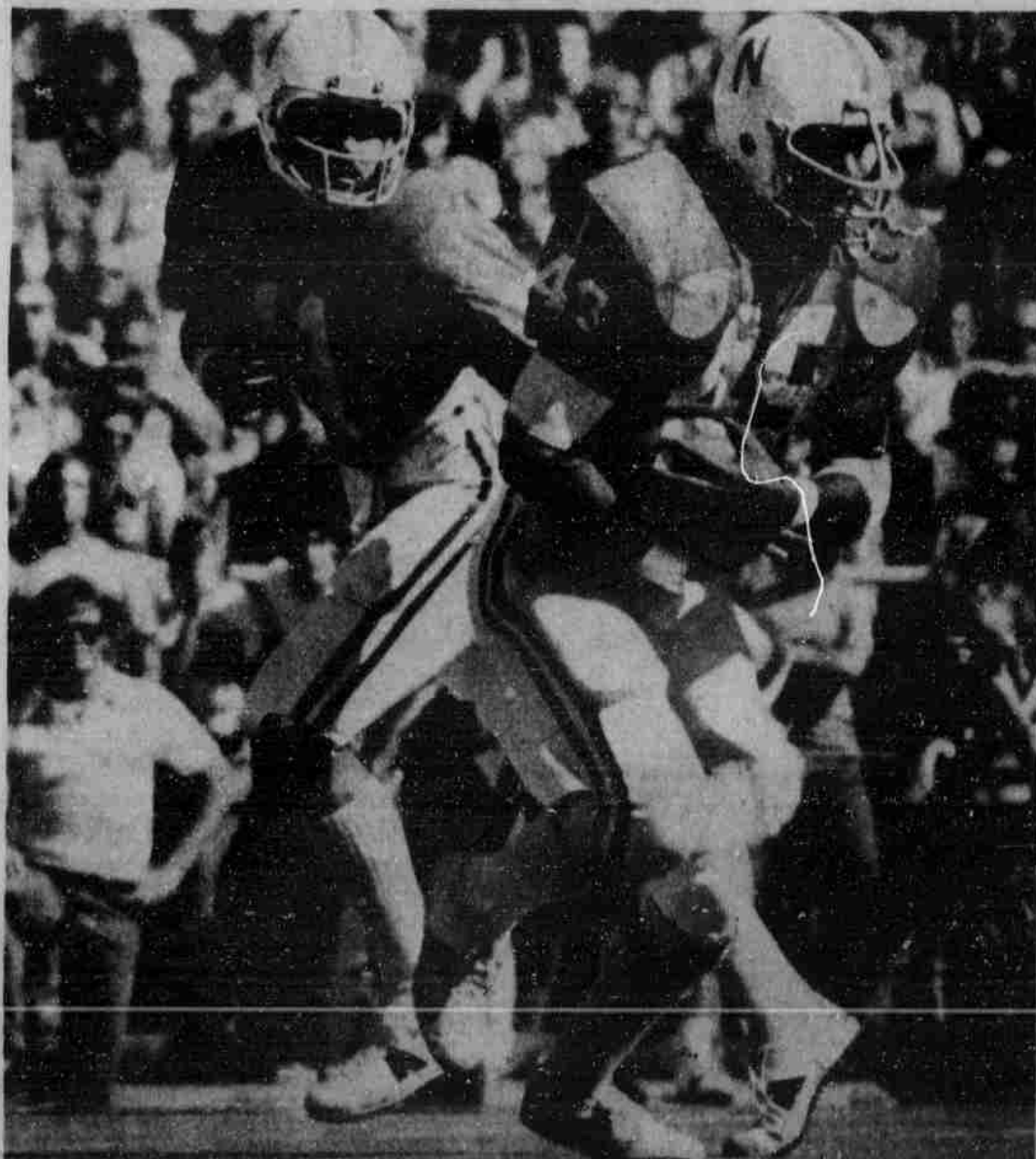


Photo by Steve Boerner

Senior quarterback Terry Luck gives the ball to sophomore I-back Monte Anthony during the first half of the Huskers' win over Miami.

Luck, Ferragamo revive Tagge, Brownson rivalry

Comparing the talents of his two top quarterbacks, Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne said rivalry between Terry Luck and Vince Ferragamo is similar to the 1970-72 rivalry between quarterbacks Jerry Tagge and Van Brownson.

"Terry and Vince might be even more equal in ability than Jerry and Van," Osborne said after the Nebraska-Miami game Saturday.

"Right now Terry might have a little advantage because he has been here longer and knows our offense better than almost anyone, but Vince is learning fast," Osborne said.

Scored once

Luck played the first half Saturday and led the Huskers to one touchdown, while Miami scored three field goals to lead 9 to 7 at halftime. Luck hit 6 of 10 passes for 61 yards. The offense gained 125 yards and 7 first downs in the first half.

Ferragamo, a junior transfer from the University of California, played all but the last few minutes of the second half. Sophomore Randy Garcia, Nebraska's No. 3 quarterback, came in with 2:16 left.

With Ferragamo in command, Nebraska compiled 263 yards, 15 first downs, three touchdowns, and a field goal. Ferragamo completed 8 of 9 passes for 127 yards, including a 40-yard scoring toss to split end Bobby Thomas, the longest Nebraska touchdown pass this year.

Ferragamo was surprised to learn he would start the second half, he said. "It was good to have a chance to play,"

he said. "I didn't think they would put me in with the score so close."

Ferragamo refused to take credit for the improved Nebraska offense second half, praising a hard-hitting offensive line and Osborne's halftime talk.

"At the half we were down and the coach (Osborne) did a good job getting the team fired up," he said.

"Sometimes putting in a different quarterback helps get the team going," Ferragamo said. "That probably was a big part in deciding to put me in."

"I thought Terry did a good job," he said. "We just couldn't get going. We were different second half."

When Luck had problems moving the team in the first half, Osborne said he did not substitute Ferragamo because he doesn't like to switch quarterbacks often.

Not to blame

Osborne said the quarterbacks were not to blame for many mistakes of the offense.

"We had errors on the line and were slow getting plays out to the huddle," he said. "I think the players might have been too keyed up before the game and that can hurt."

"Generally when a player plays like Vince did and looks good he'll start," Osborne said, "but we'll have to look at the films and evaluate them (Luck and Ferragamo) before I can say who will start."

"I'll take all the heat and make the final decision," Osborne said, adding, "They're both good quarterbacks. I wouldn't hesitate starting either one."

Investigation eyes quality of U.S. Olympic teams

By Larry Stunkel

A member of a committee established by President Gerald Ford to investigate why the United States isn't fielding better Olympic teams gave an impromptu talk Saturday in Lincoln.

Barbara Forker, of the 22-person committee commissioned for one year, spoke to women attending the autumn conference of the Central Association for Physical Education of College Women at the Villager Motel.

Forker said the committee's purpose is two-fold: to investigate international sport

organizations and national sport federations that control a particular sport.

"The Amateur Athletic Association (AAU) and the NCAA have deterred us from fielding the best team we can," said Forker, who is head of the Iowa State University Physical Education Dept.

"We will be looking at the structure of the U.S. Olympic Committee," she said. "One of the problems has been that many officials have been protecting political interests."

The committee has had one half-hour meeting with the President.

"The significant thing he told us is that if this commission does not come up with recommendations that can be implemented, there will be federal intervention," Forker said.

One of the fears of sports organizations has been government regulation, she said.

In the first session (in early September) the group interviewed a man from Canada, which reorganized its Olympic committee, she said. "There is government responsibility, but in Canada the power is in organizations less than in the government."

Forker said the committee will hold six

public sessions (but the public will not be able to participate in discussion), at the next meeting Nov. 10-11 in New York City.

The committee includes eight Congressmen, newsman Howard K. Smith, sportscaster Bud Wilkinson and past Olympians Bill Toomey, Rafer Johnson and Danna Devarona.

In addition to the committee, which has a \$560,000 budget, 16 full-time staff members have been hired.