

Huskers take on high-powered Buffs

By Bob Barney

Back in the friendly surroundings of Memorial Stadium and having the luxury of a 60 man squad, UNL will battle a high-powered Colorado Buffalo team in a Big 8 showdown this afternoon.

Spending last Saturday in less than friendly Stillwater, Okla., with the 48 man travel squad imposed on them, the fourth ranked Huskers used a last minute goal line stand to hold off the stubborn Oklahoma State Cowboys, 28-20.

Nebraska felt the effects of the limited travel squad for the first time, as defensive ends Bob Martin and Dave Redding, wingbacks Curtis Craig and Tom Heiser, along with quarterback Terry Luck all suffered injuries. Only Redding will not be available for today's ballgame.

Poor defense

Not all the blame can be attributed to the 48 man limit imposed by the NCAA, though. Except for the final stand, the blackshirts turned in their poorest performance of the season.

"The defense played well in the first half and on the goal line stand at the end. In between, we did have some shabby football," head coach Tom Osborne said Monday.

Osborne said some credit had to be given to the Cowboy offensive line. "I saw Mike Fultz and John Lee knocked flat on their backs a few times. And that was a first time this year," he said.

Fultz and Lee along with the rest of the Husker front line could have their hands full with the Colorado offensive wall if size has anything to do with it.

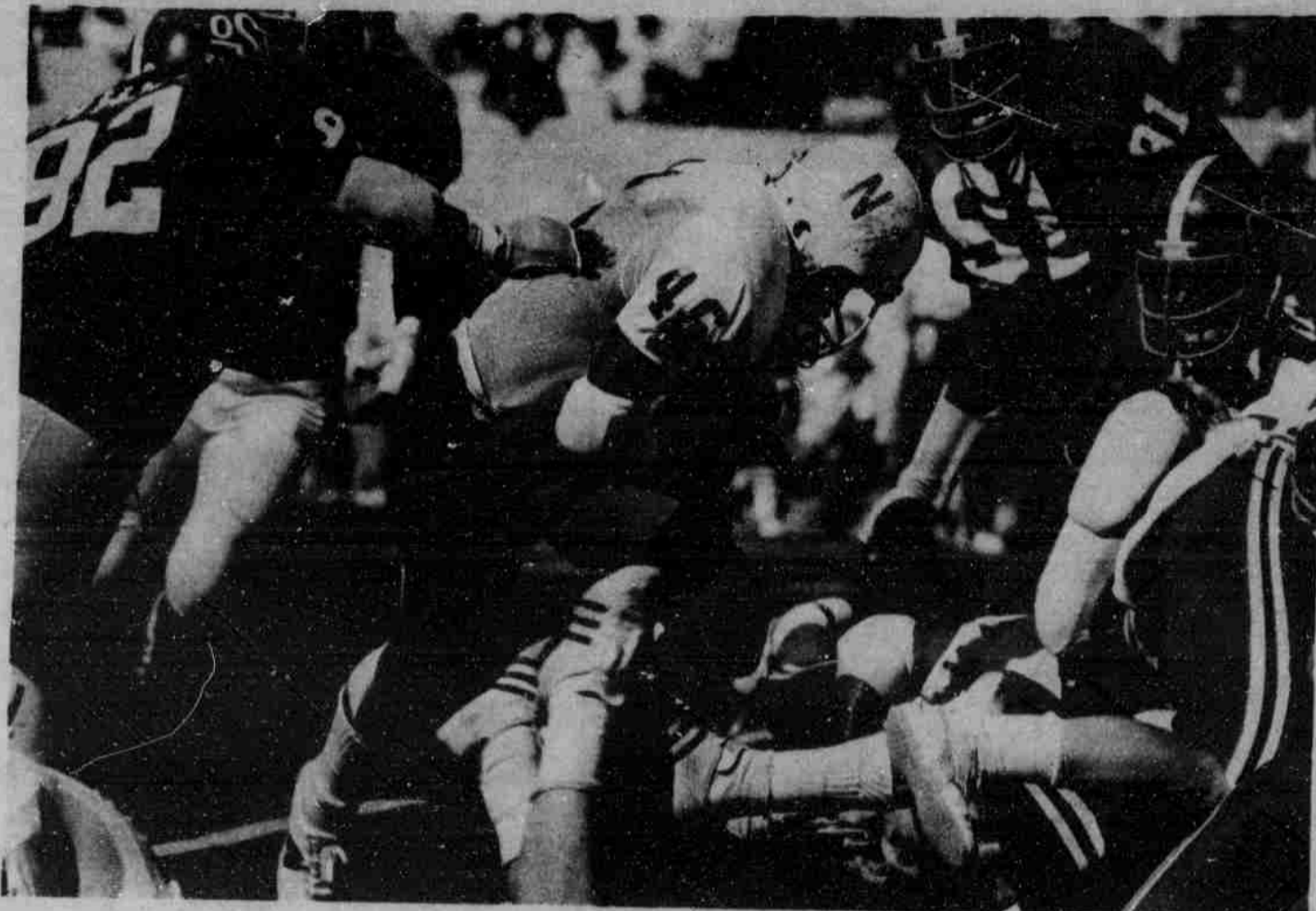
Big front line

The Buff front line averages more than 6 ft. 5 in. tall and weighs in at 265 lbs. They overpowered the Missouri defense for four second half touchdowns as the 11 rated Buffaloes came from behind to beat the then 10th rated Tigers, 31-20.

Lee and Fultz along with defensive ends Ray Phillips and Bob Martin will lead the Huskers' defensive charge against Colorado.

Strongside linebacker Cletus Pillen led the team with 12 tackles last Saturday. Today Pillen will team up with Percy Eichelberger, who replaces sophomore Jim Wightman on the weakside.

The Nebraska secondary, headed by all-American Wonder Monds, will face a potent Colorado passing attack,



Husker fullback Gery Higgs (46) bulls for yardage against Oklahoma State during the Huskers 28-20 win Saturday.

Photo by Kevin Higley

which ranks as one of the tops in the conference.

Monds along with cornerbacks Chuck Jones and Dave Butterfield, and safety Jimmy Burrow turned in some impressive plays last Saturday on the decisive goal line stand. Burrows and Butterfield also had pass interceptions for the Huskers. It was Butterfield's second, tying him with

reserve back Kurt Stacy for the team lead with two.

Vince Ferragamo, coming off the bench, on the eighteenth play of the game for the injured Terry Luck, turned in an impressive performance in leading the Husker offense. The junior ran for two touchdowns and passed for two more.

Ferragamo's performance earned him a spot on UPI's backfield of the week. He completed 10 of 16 passes for 140 yards, while throwing touchdown passes to John O'Leary and Brad Jenkins.

Monte Anthony paced the Husker ground game. The Omaha sophomore rushed 19 times for 117 yards. The team piled up 394 yards total offense.

Offense played well

"The offense played well throughout the game and we were in great shape to put the game out of reach in the first half," said Osborne. "It should have been 28-7 at the half. We had 21 legitimate points and one touchdown taken away from us."

Anthony's output put him atop the team's rushing leaders. He has rushed for 374 yards for the year on 77 attempts. Fellow I-back John O'Leary is second picking up 259 yards on 73 carries.

Anthony will replace O'Leary today as the starting I-back. Another change will be at wingback, where Tom Heiser will start in place of the hobbled Curtis Craig.

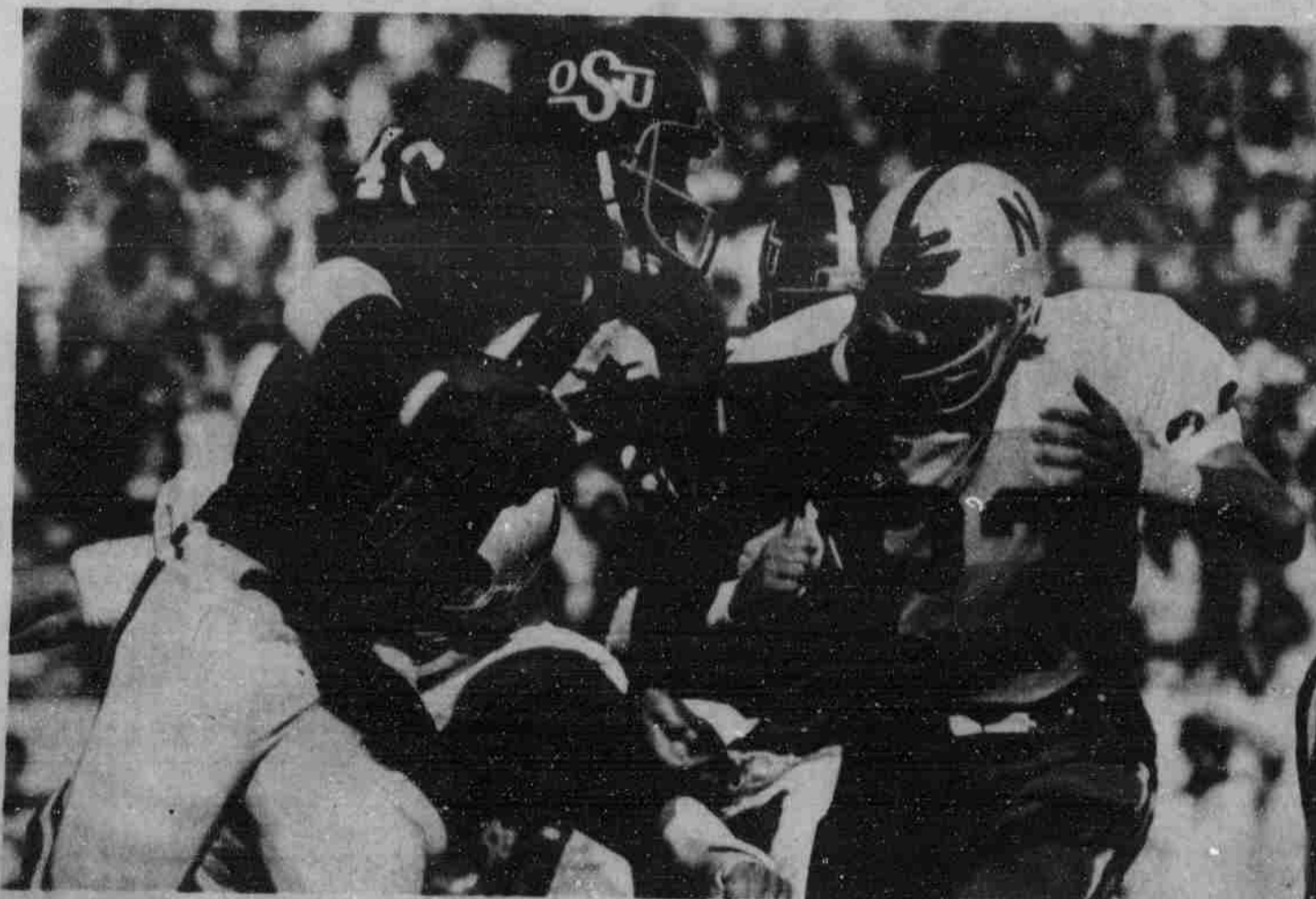
Bobby Thomas, with two receptions against OSU, continues to lead the Big Red in pass receiving with 17. One catch went for 42 yards on a long bomb from Ferragamo.

Opened up offense

Nebraska opened up its offense last Saturday, and fans should see some of the same today. Besides the bomb to Thomas, the Huskers lined up Craig in the I-back slot, who was impressive until he was hurt.

Bonness will head the offensive line against a Buffalo defense that has been bent but never broken this year. They shut out an explosive Missouri offense in the second half of their game last week.

Bonness will team with tackles Bob Lingenfelter, and Steve Hoins, and guards Greg Jorgenson and Dan Schmidt to open up holes for the Husker backfield. The line has been instrumental in Nebraska's 400-yard average in total offense per game this year.



Oklahoma State's Kenny Walker (46) stiff arms Husker defensive back Kent Smith (23), as linebacker Clete Pillen reaches for the stop.

Photo by Kevin Higley