



Photographs by Ted Kirk & Steve Boerner

Top left: Billy Waddy (38) makes what seemed to be a typical Colorado play Saturday, as the Buffalos fumbled seven times during the Huskers' 63-21 win.

Top right: To add to the Buffs' problems, Steve Lindquist (68), Kent Smith (23) and Ted Harvey (31) converge on a muffed kick off on the CU one-yard-line in the second quarter.

Center right: Trailing 63-7 with 9:43 left in the third quarter, dejected CU players could do little more than wait for the game's end.

Bottom right: Senior I-back John O'Leary (14) rushed for 51 yards on seven carries Saturday and scored two touchdowns, one on a 10-yard run for the Huskers' second score and the other after Smith recovered the muffed kick off in the second quarter.

Bottom left: Monte Anthony (49), who as a freshman rushed for 157 yards against Colorado last year in Boulder, also scored twice Saturday and rushed for 69 yards on 15 carries.

Colorado suffers avalanche, NU style

Analysis by Larry Stunkel

Nobody, not even UNL head football coach Tom Osborne, dared to dream the Huskers would ever beat the Colorado Buffalos by 63-21.

After it happened Saturday, many wondered if they were dreaming.

"I thought after the first half it had to be a dream," said Husker tight end Brad Jenkins. "When the game started to drag on, I wished it was a dream."

Among others wishing it was a dream was CU head coach Bill Mallory. For him, the whole experience was a nightmare.

According to Mallory, Osborne told him after the game "he couldn't believe what happened and I said I couldn't either. We got outcoached and outplayed. I just can't figure out what the hell happened."

Streak of turnovers

What happened was that the Buffalos, 10th ranked nationally and the Big 8's leading offensive team, had a horrendous streak of turnovers during the second and third quarters.

By the time it was over, CU had lost six of seven fumbles, had two passes intercepted and even committed a "muff" (the official term given the bungled handling of a second-quarter kick-off recovered by Husker Kent Smith on the CU one-yard line).

The opportunistic Husker offense converted six of these errors (all inside the CU 40) into touchdowns.

"I've never seen a game like that before in all the years I've coached," Mallory said. "You name it, we did it. Everything in the world happened. The bottom just fell out."

First mistake

Maybe Colorado's first mistake was scoring on the game's third play on a 74-yard run by quarterback Dave Williams.

"After they went down and scored early we all really got up," said I-back Monte Anthony. "They made us mad."

The Huskers came right back and marched 69 yards in five plays for its first touchdown. The big play was a 42-yard

touchdown pass from quarterback Vince Ferragamo (who completed eight of ten passes for the day) to split end Bobby Thomas.

Osborne said the touchdown showed the Huskers' character, that they were able to come back, and that the touchdown was a key in keeping the game's momentum for going to Colorado early in the game.

Third Husker

One fact possibly overlooked because of the score by the 76,509 spectators in attendance, was I-back Dave Gillespie's 106 yards rushing, making him the third Husker I-back to rush for more than 100 yards in a game.

The point output was largest in the history of the UNL-CU rivalry and was the widest victory margin ever between the two teams. The Huskers' 42-point output in the first half may be among UNL's best efforts.

Despite the lopsided score, Colorado still managed 454 yards total offense com-

pared with the Huskers' 515 yards. Buff quarterback Williams had 144 total yards rushing in eight carries.

Husker defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin wasn't as upset about the CU offensive output as one might expect.

Blackshirts played well

"They didn't have that many yards against the first team defense," Kiffin said. "The blackshirts played really well. But the second team defense has got to have more pride."

Osborne said after the game he still doesn't think the Huskers are that much better than Colorado, as the team got more turnovers than he's ever remembered.

"I just think the way things went during the first nine minutes dictated the outcome," Osborne said. "Vince (Ferragamo) had a great day and the offensive line has been getting stronger."

This Saturday the Huskers travel to Missouri to meet the Tigers on national television. Missouri beat Kansas State 35-7 Saturday in Columbia.