

Woods teaches NU the ABC's



Clouds accounted for lack of sunshine in Lincoln during Saturday's football game. But the University of Missouri (MU) Tigers 34-24 victory accounted for the gloom in the Husker locker room afterwards.

MU's win and Oklahoma State's 31-24 upset of Oklahoma logjammed the Big 8 Conference race. Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Colorado now are all tied for first place in the conference with 2-1 records.

As he did against Ohio State three weeks ago, Tiger junior Pete Woods engineered a fourth quarter MU comeback with help from senior slotback Joe Stewart.

Wood's three completions to Stewart accounted for 145 of the Tigers' 398 total yards, but perhaps the time-liest completion came with MU trailing 24-23 early in the fourth quarter.

With third and 14 on Missouri's two-yard line, Woods hit Stewart for a 98-yard touchdown pass.

"I saw Husker cornerback Dave Butterfield for a couple of steps and then lost him," Woods said. "I knew Stewart would be one-on-one with the cornerback and nobody can cover Joe Stewart one-on-one."

There was no one within 10 yards of Stewart when he caught the pass.

"I had to speedup to catch it," Stewart said. "Once I caught it I knew no one could catch me."

"I think it was definitely the changing point in the ball game. Nebraska wasn't as confident after the touchdown."

Butterfield played him as well as anyone this year, Stewart said.

"He played me as tight as anyone," he said. "He's a real good back. The touchdown pass was just a straight call. I just faked inside and went outside."

"I had all the time in the world after he (Butterfield) slipped when he tried to bump me."

Husker coach Tom Osborne said there was a breakdown in communication on the play.

"We didn't have a blitz on or anything like that," Osborne said. "There was just a mix-up in the coverage. After that we thought we could comeback."

MU's two-point conversion after the touchdown on a pass from Woods to Stewart really hurt the Huskers, Osborne said.

"It meant we had to convert a two-point conversion once we made a touchdown."

The Stewart to Woods attack first struck in the first quarter on a 44-yard pass that put MU on UNL's one-yard line. Woods, ABC's offensive player of the game, ran the final yard.

UNL's scoring came when Lurry Valasak blocked a Tiger punt, and Kent Smith jumped on the ball in MU's end zone for a touchdown. Short runs by junior Monte

Anthony and Vince Ferragamo, and two field goals by Al Eveland completed Husker scoring.

Husker junior fullback Dodie Donnell, who rushed for 90 yards, said turnovers were the key to Missouri's win.

"We had a lack of concentration," he said. "The offensive line played the best they've ever played."

Husker senior defensive tackle Mike Fultz, ABC's defensive player of the game, said the recognition was "all right, but it doesn't mean anything without the win."

ABC sports commentator Keith Jackson, who did the play-by-play for the nationally televised game, also said turnovers were important in the game.

"It was a good game to broadcast," Jackson said. "We (Jackson and fellow broadcaster Ara Parseghian) were surprised by the outcome, but Nebraska's six turnovers told the story."

Stewart, Donnell and Fultz all said the Big 8 Championship still is up for grabs.

"Our loss last week to Iowa State didn't even count," Stewart said. "It's just like a brand new start."

Fultz said, "It's going to go to the wire. It's the team that is most consistent that will win it. We'll be there."

"We just have to start a new season," Donnell said. "We're going to come back."

