

# Powers 'drained' after WSU victory

By Mike McCarthy  
Sports Editor

"I'm numb, I'm just numb." That was the reaction by Washington State University (WSU) Coach Warren Powers following Saturday's season opener.

That statement quite possibly reflected the feelings of Big Red Fans.

Fans watched the Cougars upset the Huskers before a packed house of 75,922 at Memorial Stadium. Powers said the 19-10 upset left him emotionally drained.

Powers' visit to Lincoln marked a victory over and a reunion with Nebraska. Powers was the Huskers' defensive back coach until January when he left to head WSU's program.

Speaking in the Cougars' locker room after the game, Powers sipped a soft drink and inhaled long draws from his cigarette. Nebraska friends slapped the WSU coach on the back and shook his hand.

"Our kids never gave up," Powers said. "This is a big shot in the arm for us. But we have to keep getting better. Although we won, we did a lot of bad things today."

Powers said the win could start football fever back at WSU in Pullman, Wash.

"Pullman fans are a lot like the avid fans in Lincoln," Powers said. "The fans in Pullman are hungry for something, they want something to hang onto."

One Cougar, flanker Brian Kelly, had something to

hang onto during the game—two touchdown passes from quarterback Jack Thompson. The first, a 19-yarder, came in the first quarter. He ran the same route, a post pattern, past Husker defender Ted Harvey in the third quarter for a 20-yard score.

Although the Huskers praised Kelly, he returned the favor.

"Nebraska has more class than any team I've ever played against," Kelly said. "They have a lot of character and I consider it a pleasure just to play against them."

Rich Glover, an All-American at UNL five years ago and now a Cougar assistant coach, said he still has a soft spot for the Huskers.

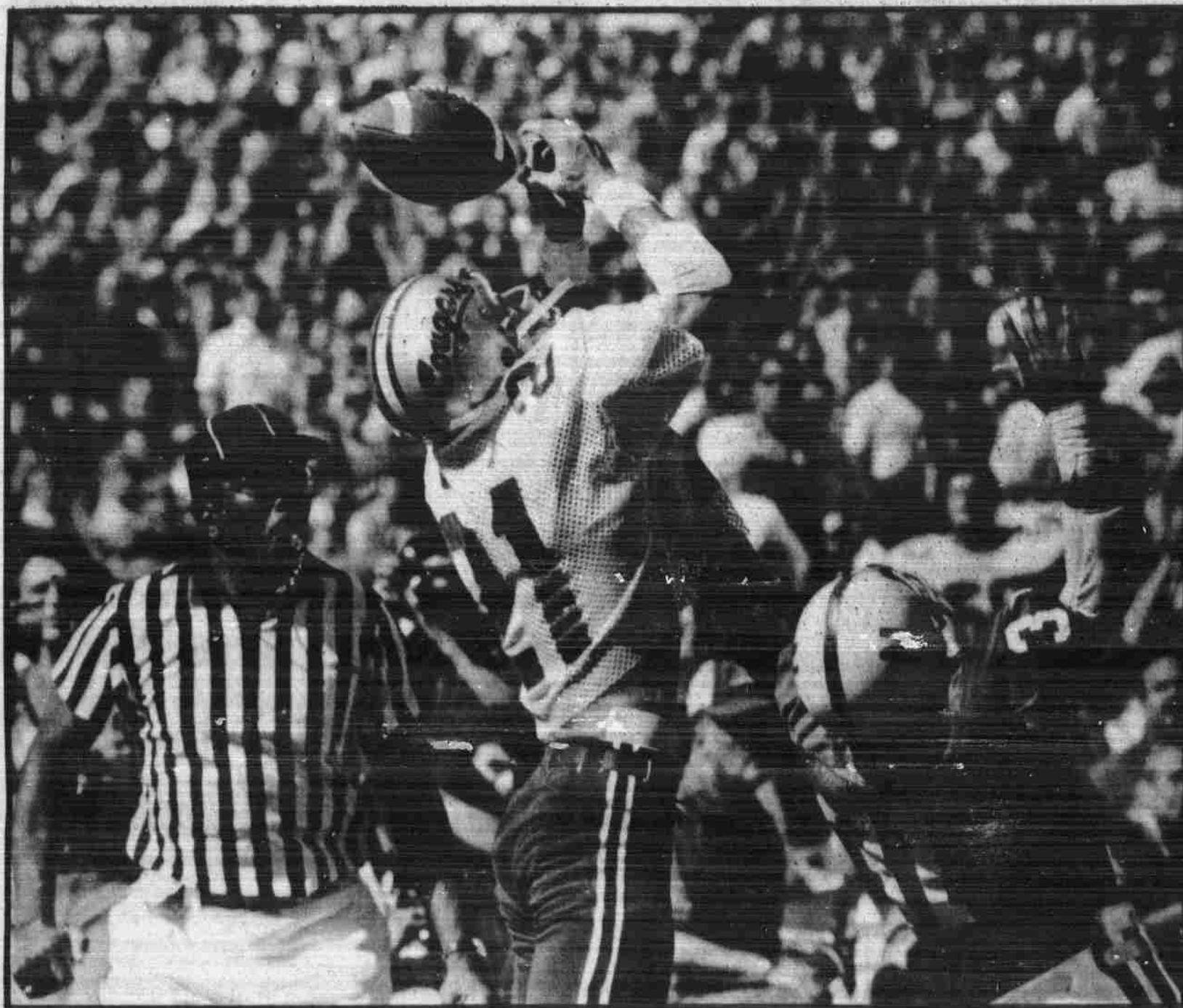
"I'll always be cheering for Big Red," he said. "But it's nice beating your old school."

"Coach Powers said we can enjoy the win until Monday," Glover added. "Then we'll have to start getting ready for Michigan State (University), our next game."

Powers said the Cougar's win did not make Husker Coach Tom Osborne's job any easier.

"He has a tough job at Nebraska," Powers said. "Fans expect a lot out of him."

"Nebraska has a good football team," he added. "And I'm interested in how they do. But I'm at Washington State now."



## sports

Photos by Ted Kirk & Bob Pearson

## Osborne hopes fans stay faithful

By Kevin Schnepf

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said he figures he didn't make any friends this week since the Huskers lost to the Washington State Cougars. But he added that he hopes Big Red fans aren't giving up on the team.

"I guess this makes you find out what coaching is all about," Osborne said Saturday in a noiseless Husker locker room. "I just hope the fans react by expecting to see a better team next week."

Osborne praised the debut coaching job of his former assistant, Warren Powers.

"Both coaches and players deserve credit," Osborne said. "They have skilled players on their team who hung in there and won the game."

One of WSU's "skilled players" was quarterback Jack Thompson, a pre-season All-American choice who threw two touchdown passes and completed 18 of 30 tosses for 174 yards. Cougar receiver Brian Kelly caught both touchdown passes, catching eight for 102 yards.

While WSU made no turnovers, the Huskers lost four fumbles—I-B-A-K: M. Hipp fumbled on the WSU 5 yard line, split end Frank Lockett fumbled on WSU's 25 and quarterback Randy Garcia fumbled on the Cougar's 2 yard line, preventing a second Husker score.

"They (WSU) played error-free football and we dropped the ball in three key situations," Osborne said. "Thompson was great and their receivers were good."

Husker safety Larry Valasek, who had to keep an eye on Cougar receivers said WSU's passing game was well executed.

"The thing that threw me off was Thompson looked me off," Valasek said. "He'd look one way and throw the other with his quick release. He kept on picking at us and didn't fold."

"Ever since I've been here at Nebraska, the first games have always been a jinx," Valasek said referring to last year's 6-6 tie to LSU.

The Huskers did win the statistics game, with 470 total yards compared to WSU's 294. UNL ran the ball for 247 yards with 153 yards coming from Rich Berns.

Quarterbacks Randy Garcia and Tom Sorley passed for 223 yards.

Garcia and Sorley, who are both "bumped up" moved the ball and called some good audibles, Osborne said.

Osborne said Garcia was shaken up and Sorley injured his right shoulder. Fullback Dodie Donnell sustained a strained neck injury on the opening kick-off and did not play the rest of the game.

Osborne said the Huskers must bounce back for Saturday's game with the University of Alabama at Memorial Stadium.

"Alabama will be a great football team," Osborne said. "But we have a better idea of how these inexperienced players look in a game. I saw some good things out there today such as moving the ball well."

"I think we can be a better team because of what we learned today," Osborne said.

WSU plays Michigan St. Saturday at East Lansing, Mich.

