



Sophomore Craig Johnson flies for one of his three touchdowns against Kansas. He was the leading yard gainer with 192 yards rushing and a 78-yard pass play from quarterback Tim Hager.

Photo by Mark Billingsley

Cornhuskers' romp over Kansas brings memories of the old days

By Brad Horky

Lawrence, Kan.—It was just like old times in Saturday's 63-21 romp by Nebraska over the Kansas Jayhawks. UNL fans might have left KU's Memorial Stadium reminiscing back to the national championship years of '70 and '71 with the show the Huskers put on in burying Kansas.

The Nebraska side of the scoreboard was lighting up like a pinball machine as the NU offense was piling up 799 yards in total offense (A new school record, and the NCAA high for 1978).

The big play, which is usually the tab put on the Oklahoma Sooners, belonged to Nebraska Saturday.

The Huskers, in their first eight scoring drives, averaged only a little over four plays per drive while racking up 531 yards in those drives.

Johnson's day

The individual glory for the day belonged to I-back Craig Johnson, a sophomore from Omaha Westside. Johnson, who was playing in place of injured Rick Berns, rushed for 192 yards in 10 carries and scored 3 touchdowns.

Johnson's scores came on runs of 60 and 64 yards, and a 78-yard screen pass from quarterback Tim Hager. Johnson said he thought he had accomplished something since he had seen only limited action this fall. "It shows I can play," Johnson said. "I accomplished something for my own pride today."

"I don't feel I needed to earn anything because I know who is playing ahead of me. They just needed me today." Johnson said he started to feel the effects of extended play at I-back late in the game.

"I started to get a little dry out there," he said. "And I started to have a few cramps. I got hit in the calf."

Other schools, including Kansas, were on Johnson's mind after high school.

Wanted Nebraska

"I thought it would only be fair to myself to check out other schools," Johnson said. "But down deep, I probably always knew I'd come to Nebraska."

"Other colleges told me it would probably be a while

before I'd get a chance to play. I can't ask for any more than I've gotten. I'm glad I'm here at Nebraska.

"I'm still young and I can learn from the guys ahead of me."

Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne said Nebraska wasn't trying to run up the score.

"You hate to show your opponent that you're pulling off," Osborne said.

"We wanted to run the number one offense and number one defense one series each to start the second half. Unfortunately, that's when (Tom) Sorley got hurt (knee strain). But I think he'll be okay by next week."

"People might have thought we were trying to run up the score by using as many wingback running plays as we did, but we were trying to save Johnson."

Bad rule

Osborne used the opportunity to attack the Big Eight rule on the visiting team travel squad limit of 48 players.

"I wish they'd throw the lid off the traveling squad," Osborne said. "At the Big Eight meeting we proposed this but they voted it down. I can't understand why we can't take maybe four or five extra players."

"Most of the trips in the conference are bus trips. The ruling might be saving dimes, but losing thousands in players (injuries). Towards the end we were getting tired and hurt."

Tight end Junior Miller also got into the scoring picture by hauling down two 44-yard touchdown passes from Sorley.

Next week...

"I was 3-for-3 on that iso play," Miller said, "so I knew it would work. On the one touchdown the defensive back was playing too close to the line, so I knew I could beat him."

The other Husker scores came on a 2-yard run by Berns, a 1-yard sneak by Sorley, and a 17-yard pass from Sorley to split end Tim Smith.

Following Johnson in rushing was quarterback Jeff Quinn with 64 yards, fullback Jim Kotera had 58, and I.M. Hipp and wingback Tim McCrady with 46 yards.

Sorley ended up the day by completing 7 of 8 passes for 170 yards. Hager was 2-for-2 and Quinn was 1-for-1.

Next week the Huskers host the Oklahoma Sooners in a nationally televised game to determine the Big 8 champ and a trip to the Orange Bowl in Miami, Fla. The winner of that game goes to Miami no matter what they do in their final season game.

sports shorts

The UNL men's gymnastics team won the Big Eight Invitational championship in Lawrence, Kan. Saturday behind the performances of freshman Jim Hartung and senior Larry Gerard.

Nebraska won handily over rivals Iowa State and Oklahoma. UNL scored 436.35 points in the two-day meet, Iowa State scored 427.60 and Oklahoma finished third with 421.60 points.

Hartung won the all-around title with a score of 109.65, just beating out Gerard who finished with 109.35. Stacy Maloney of Iowa State was third with 106.90.

The Huskers also had three event leaders qualifying for Sunday's individual honors. Gerard was the leader in still rings, Hartung led in floor exercise and Steve Elliott was leading the vaulting event.

UNL's volleyball team evened its season record to 20-20 after weekend play in the National Invitational Volleyball Tournament at UCLA.

On Saturday, the Huskers split with the University of California at Santa Barbara, 17-15, 6-15. UNL also split with Michigan State 15-13, 6-15.

The University of Pacific defeated the Huskers in both games, 15-5, 15-6.

In first day competition, Nebraska lost to Utah State, 15-11, 15-8, and to San Diego State, 15-6, 15-6.

Both Utah State and San Diego State advance from pool play to compete in the semi-finals of the tournament.

Column correction

In Friday's Consumer Byline column, the prices for hamburger at the B&R IGA and Jack and Jill stores were inadvertently left out. The price for hamburger at Jack and Jill is \$.99/lb. and at B&R IGA, it is \$1.29/lb. In addition, the price for hamburger at Hinky Dinky should have read \$1.29/lb., not \$.99.

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