

sports

Osborne—Penn State's loss may prompt toughness

By Shelley Smith

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne told the Extra Point Club Monday Penn State's upset loss to Texas A&M last Saturday won't enhance the Husker's chance of beating them this weekend.

The Nittany Lions just may play tougher, he said.

But then again, Osborne said, although Nebraska won 24-21, Saturday, the Huskers really didn't beat the Iowa Hawkeyes.

"We did, but we didn't," he said.

Nebraska was behind 21-7 late in the third quarter, but scored two touchdowns and one field goal on three consecutive drives to beat the Hawkeyes in Iowa City.

"The players were not satisfied with how they played," Osborne said.

"We did some good things and we did some bad things."

Bad things, he said, were five lost fumbles, symbolic of Saturday's troubled offense.

"The offense had more problems than I'd like to admit," Osborne said.

However, he praised the offense for staying composed and coming from behind to win the game.

Second team quarterback Tim Hager,

who came off the bench to replace injured Jeff Quinn led the Huskers in their late scoring drive.

"Hager played very well in a tough situation," Osborne said.

QUINN played the first half with a thigh injury, and then sprained an ankle. Osborne said he wouldn't know until Tuesday who will start at quarterback against Penn State.

Osborne said Quinn's injuries didn't allow him to work very well against the Hawkeye defense and hampered his passing.

Quinn passed 12 times, completing five for a total of 29 yards. Hager completed his only throw for 11 yards. Osborne said he hopes to improve the Husker's passing game this week, regardless of who will start.

Osborne said he also was upset about a pass interference play called on Andy Means during the third quarter which led to an Iowa score.

"There's Big Eight officials and there's Big Ten officials and it's hard to tell if sometimes they're just concerned about their own people," he said.

However, the officials made another wrong call—this time in Nebraska's favor,

Osborne said.

Hager threw a pass which was intercepted. After the interception, Osborne said, wingback Anthony Steels tackled the Iowa player by the face mask. However, Iowa was penalized for pass interference and was also blamed for the face mask penalty.

"I HEARD the officials conversing right in front of me, I didn't tell them," he said.

Although allowing 21 points, the defense played better than they did against Utah State one week ago, Osborne said.

"The defense knew what they were doing, they lined up better and knew who was supposed to be in when," he said.

The turnovers left the defense in difficult field position, he said, which was hard to defend.

"The Hawkeye's 87-yard drive to score was discouraging," he said.

Osborne praised monster back Mark LeRoy, who was named Big Eight defensive player of the week. LeRoy had six tackles, broke up a pass play, forced a fumble and intercepted a pass late in the fourth quarter.

Likewise, Osborne praised the Iowa team for "scrambling and playing hard in

an emotionally filled game."

Osborne said because the Hawkeye's probably won't go to a post season bowl game, the Nebraska game, "was their bowl game."

"I doubt if they can play as emotionally against Iowa State as they did against us," he said. The Hawkeyes, now 0-3, face Iowa State this Saturday.

OSBORNE SAID the Huskers are going to have to be physical against Penn State in order to win.

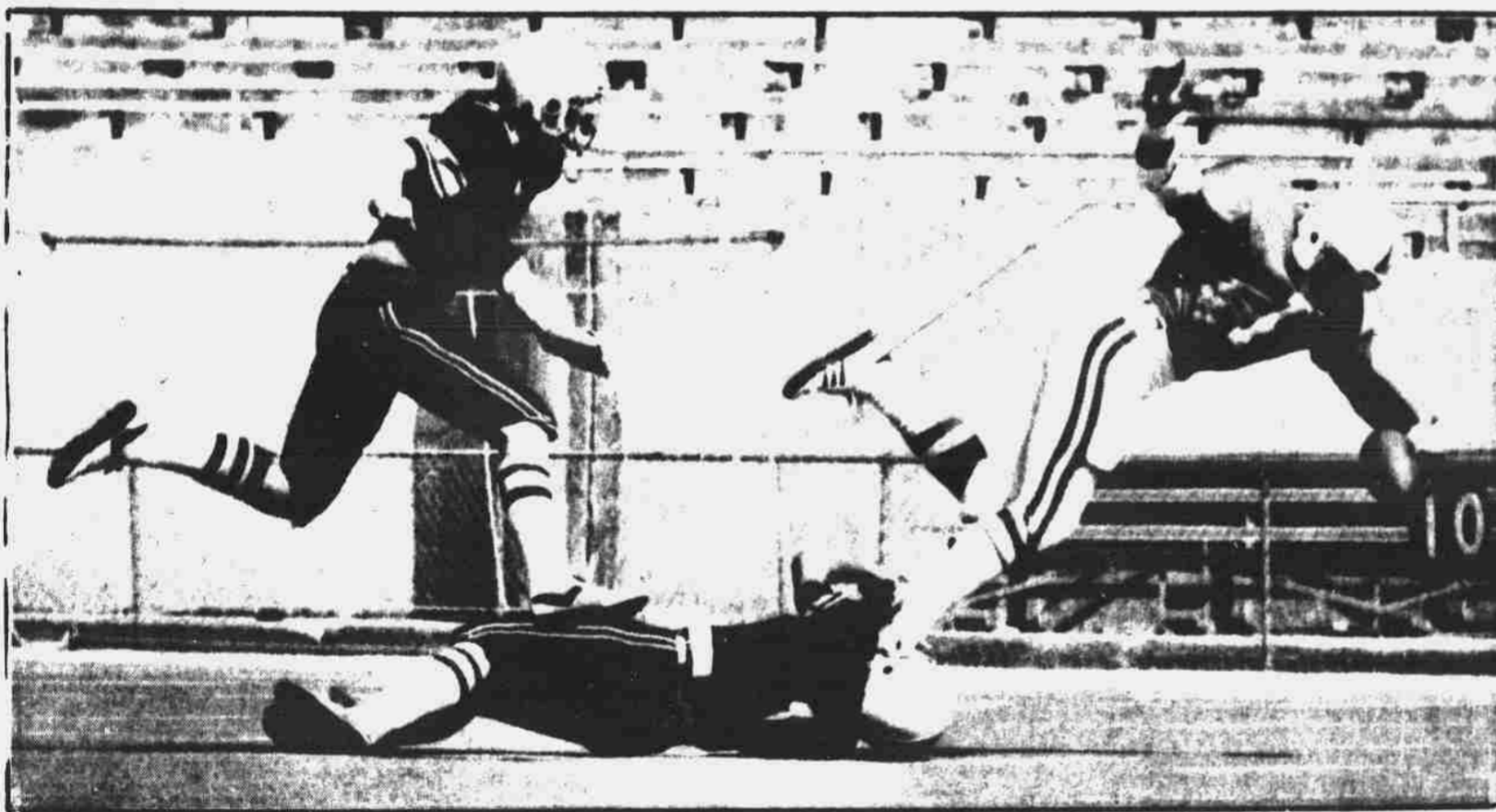
"We're going to try and finesse them a little bit, but we can't run around them all day long," he said.

He said he didn't know if Hipp, who missed practice Monday because of a pulled groin and possible hip pointer suffered in Saturday's game, would be healthy to play this weekend.

If not, Osborne said Jarvis Redwin, who had a game-high 89 yards on 12 carries will replace Hipp.

Penn State is a strong defensive team, according to Osborne.

"We had a workout against a good defense this week, next week we'll have a workout against a great defense," he said.



Feel like stepping on somebody? It looks like Nebraska freshman Jimmy Austin (1) and a Bethany college player are crushing another Bethany College defender. The NU freshmen did crush their opponents 63-0 Monday at Memorial Stadium.

Photo by Tom Geesner

Freshmen trounce Bethany, 63-0

By Ron Powell

About the only things that went wrong for UNL freshman football coach Frank Solich Monday against Bethany College were his attempts to keep the score down.

Solich cleared the bench by the end of the first half, but that didn't prevent a 63-0 wipeout of Bethany.

The score tied a freshman record for the most points in a game. The Husker freshmen also scored 63 points against Kansas State in 1970 and against Marshalltown, Iowa, Junior College in 1975. The big win also tied the record for the largest Husker victory margin set in the '75 Marshalltown game (63-0).

"WE HAVE SOME SUPER football players," Solich said. "With the screening program we had recruiting this team, we don't have any mediocre players."

"We certainly did not try to run it up," Solich added. We used all the players we had by halftime and we alternated the backs every other series. We just didn't have anyone left to put in."

It didn't take long for Huskers to get started toward their second victory, as the freshmen scored 28 points in the opening period.

After holding Bethany in its first series, UNL took advantage of a poor punt, the Huskers drove 44 yards in four plays. Fullback Craig Holman going the last 13 yards for the score. Mark Hagerman added the PAT, the first of nine he would kick on the day, and the Huskers led 7-0 with 11:48 left in the first quarter.

Less than two minutes later, I-back Dennis Rogan scored from one yard out to end a 47 yard, three play drive and the rout was on.

"I WASN'T WORRIED after the first drive," Solich said. "We were moving with ease and it was obvious that we would continue to move."

The Huskers' other two touchdowns in the first period came on I-back Roger Craig's 21 yard run and quarterback's David Haase's 16 yard run.

The freshmen increased that lead to 42-0 by intermission and 56-0 at the end of three quarters.

The running backs, pounded out 470 yards on the ground with 12 backs gaining yards. The Huskers had 569 total yards.

Leading the rushing parade was Rogan with 135 yards and two touchdowns in nine carries. Rogan scored the Huskers' final touchdown on a 65-yard run. Craig added 81 yards in seven attempts and also scored twice.

This was Rogan's first extensive work as a Husker. He was sidelined with a sprained ankle before the first game against Wyoming.

"IT WAS A GOOD game for him to show what he can do," Solich said.

Solich said all the backs played well. "They have a lot of capability," Solich said. "They still have room to fill out and become bigger and still have good speed."

The defense, which held Bethany to 39 yards on the ground and 111 total yards, drew praise from Solich.

"We weren't tested today," Solich said. "We feel physically we've got a good defense. They didn't do anything against us offensively."

Solich said that although the game was a mismatch, it helped his team.

"It was a matter of playing a game," Solich said. "We were ready for a game. We were getting stale executing against each other."

"The way we played today, we would have executed well against somebody in our own league."

The freshmen's next game is Oct. 12 at home against Kansas.

Top Molini effort dulled by defeat

While Nebraska fans were celebrating the thrill of a victory over Iowa Saturday, one native Nebraskan was suffering the agony of defeat.

rick huls

Jim Molini had just finished playing one of the best games of his life.

Molini, a senior from Norfolk, had five solo tackles, four assists, and one quarterback sack for nine-yard loss. He also forced a fumble and recovered two others.

But it was little consolation.

"I thought we were going to win it," Molini said.

"We just had some mental lapses."

Iowa, leading seventh-ranked Nebraska 21-7 with 20 minutes left, looked like it was on the verge of pulling the season's biggest major college upset so far. But the tide changed on the Husker's next possession.

"The momentum shifted," Molini recalled. "We had the momentum going right after we scored."

The momentum shifted to Nebraska, the game because Nebraska's and Iowa dropped to 0-3 on the season.

For the third consecutive game the Hawkeyes faltered in the fourth quarter. Indiana slipped past the Hawks 30-26 after trailing 25-3 at the half. Third-rank Oklahoma led only 7-6 entering the final period but padded that for a 21-6 win. And Nebraska scored the last 17 points to escape 24-21.

"We never give up. We want to win awful bad," Molini said. "We feel bad about it. We've just got to put a full 60 minute together."

Molini came as close to giving 60 minutes as anyone in Saturday's game. Fellow Nebraskan, junior Bryan Skradis from Omaha, was equally impressive. Skradis had six solo tackles, four assists and also had a quarterback sack for nine yards. He, too, forced a fumble and recovered one.

Undoubtedly, Molini and Skradis were ready to play.

After the game Molini talked to some of his buddies—Kerry Weinmaster, Tim Wurth, Tim McCrady and Dan Pensick—that he played against in high school.

"They said we had a good team and would win some."

"But I don't want to take anything away from Nebraska. They're a good team," he said.

Molini, Skradis and Iowa now have to recover to face intrastate rival Iowa State this weekend.

"We just want the pigskin," Molini said. "We want to win."

UNL wins at Colby

The UNL Women's Junior Varsity Volleyball team, now 7-1, will meet Wayne State and Nebraska Wesleyan University Tuesday night, 6:30 p.m. at the Coliseum.

The Huskers defeated five teams this weekend to win their second consecutive Colby Invitational championship in Colby, Kan.