

sports

UNL players more than prepared against New Mexico

By Ron Powell

Although Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne admitted his team wasn't "overly enthusiastic" about playing the New Mexico State Aggies Saturday, the 57-0 final score and some of the individual performance indicate someone was ready to play.

Take the case of back-up tight end Jeff Finn. Finn sees as much time as a starter in the double tight end formation opposite Junior Miller, but is used primarily as a blocker. In the Husker's first three games this season, Finn hadn't made a reception.

On Saturday, though, Finn did more than block. He was the Husker's leading receiver with three catches for 51 yards.

"I hope the coaches have gained more confidence in my pass catching," Finn said. "I am just thankful they gave me a chance. It feels pretty good to see the ball coming your way a little bit."

Finn said he was secondary receiver on his first reception, a 21-yard gain the second quarter.

"IT WAS AN audible call, so I didn't have much time to think about it," Finn said. "The split end was the primary receiver, but they (New Mexico State) came in a monster blitz so they threw it to me."

Despite the three receptions, Finn said his main responsibility is still blocking.

"I just come into each game ready to get the ball," Finn said. "Today, I got it early. Sometimes, I'll have to wait longer."

There were many other individual performances that stood out Saturday.

I-back Jarvis Redwine, in his first start as a Husker, gained 120 yards in 16 carries and scored once in the first half before taking the rest of the afternoon off. It was Redwine's second straight game over 100 yards. (He gained 124 yards against Penn State.)

Kenny Brown got his first punt return touchdown of the season and the second of his Husker career in the second quarter with his 80-yard return. Brown's return was the third longest in Husker history.

I-BACK CRAIG Johnson showed his running power with 59 yards on 12 carries, but more importantly scored three touchdowns. Meanwhile, linebacker Kim Baker showed his defensive power with 19 tackles, 14 unassisted and five assisted.

Overall, however, the victory was a total team effort as more than 80 Huskers saw action.

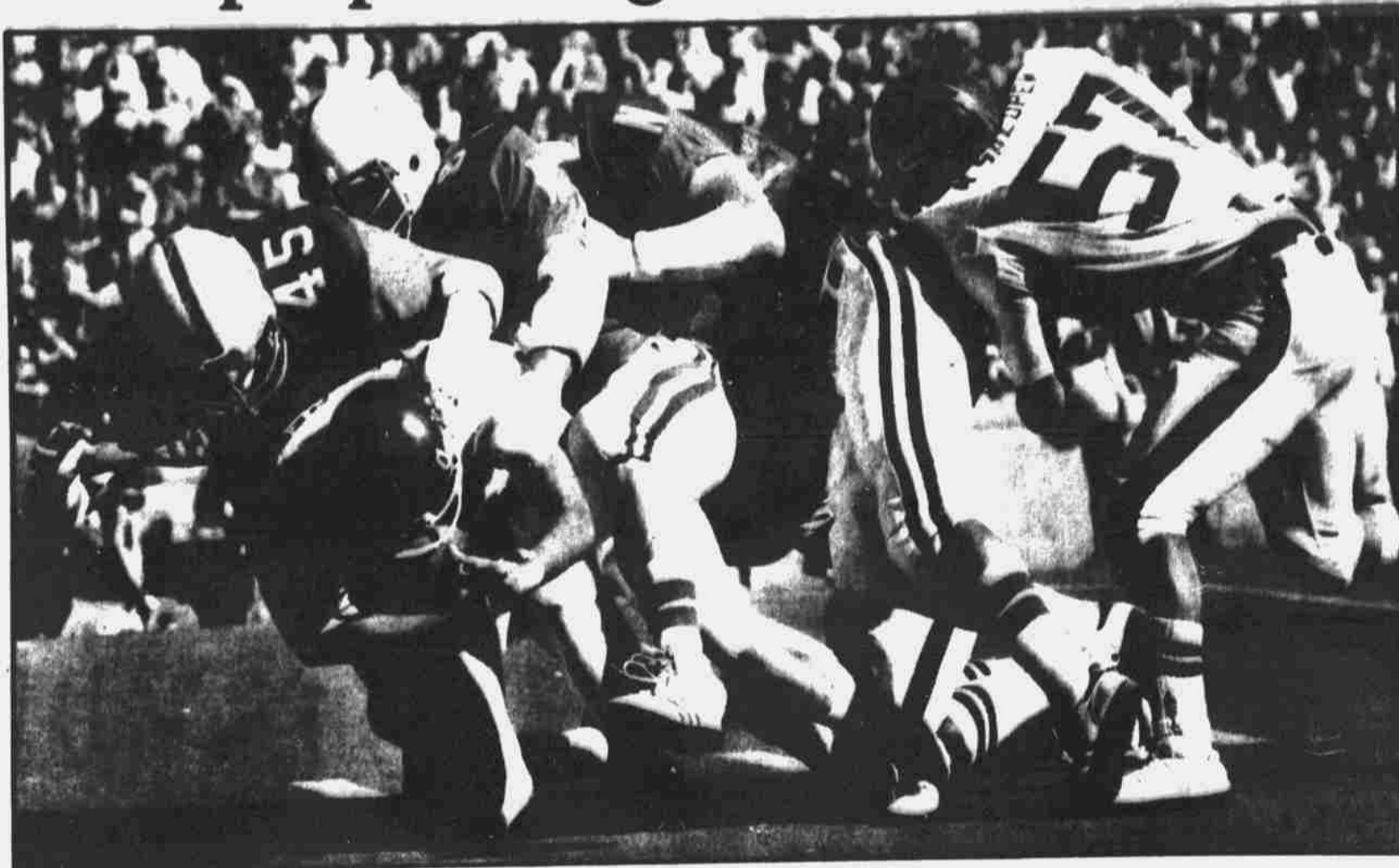


Photo by Tom Gessner

The Nebraska defense posted its first shutout Saturday since last year's 23-0 whitewashing of Iowa State. Here the pursuit is led by Steve McWhirter (45).

"This was a good game for morale," Osborne said. "Our first three games were tough. The second teamers didn't get to play much in those games and the third team didn't get to play at all. This time everybody played."

Osborne said he was glad his team led 31-0 at halftime and didn't experience a first half lapse as has happened in the Husker's first three games.

"We wanted to be way out in front at halftime" Osborne said. "We didn't want it 28-14 or 21-7 at halftime because momentum could change and they would be right back in the game. This makes it uncomfortable to get your second and third teamers in."

The only thing Osborne said he was unhappy with was the four fumbles the Huskers lost.

"We might have had a couple more touchdowns if we hadn't turned the ball over," Osborne said. "I didn't think the team played sloppy football, though. I think we have a pretty darn good football team."

ALTHOUGH THE offense's 569 total yards seemed to be the Husker's most attractive statistic, the Husker defense also had some impressive numbers.

Besides recording their first shutout of the year, the Husker defense gave up only 156 total yards and only allowed the Aggies to cross mid-field twice.

"We wanted a good defense effort and we got it," Osborne said. "They (New Mexico State) didn't have much of a running game against us."

"We didn't want to give up the big play and we didn't. We stayed in front of them pretty good."

Defensive tackle Rod Horn said the shut out should help the defense's confidence.

"We set a goal of a shut out before the game," Horn said. "We got it so it feels good now. We can go into other games now knowing we can get the shut out."

Horn said it was easier to pass rush Aggie quarterback Butch Kelly than previous quarterbacks.

"He (Kelly) didn't scramble or roll out at all, he just dropped straight back and that makes it easier to rush," Horn said. "We also worked some stunts that helped the pass rush."

Next week, the Huskers open their Big Eight schedule at home against Kansas.

Redwine now two games ahead of old high school rival

Jarvis Redwine went up three games to one on high school rival Don Campbell Saturday.

The Nebraska I-back has played against the New Mexico State linebacker four times in his career but Saturday was the first time in college. It was the third time Redwine's team won, but the first time the score wasn't close.

Redwine, from Inglewood, Calif., played high school ball for Inglewood High while Campbell was a defensive tackle for Inglewood's biggest rival, Morningside.

When the two were sophomores, Redwine's team came out on top 7-6. In 1975 Inglewood won again in the final seconds (neither could remember the score). But Campbell and Morningside won the 1976

game and a berth in the state playoffs by knocking off Inglewood 21-14.

Then it was 57-0, Redwine and Nebraska over Campbell and the Aggies.

"JARVIS RUNS just like he did in high school," Campbell said in the locker room after Saturday's game. "He's still pretty overpowering."

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Campbell, who had eight unassisted tackles and one assist Saturday, also had praise for the Nebraska team.

"I've never played anyone like Nebraska. I hope they go to be number one," he said. "It was a great experience to play here."

Redwine, who remembers being "popped pretty good a few times" by Campbell in high school, said he talked to his old rival after the game.

"I told him to hang on in there. I wished him success," said Redwine, who is averaging 107 yards a contest after his first four games as a Husker.

"Hey, I know what it's like to lose," said Redwine, referring to his days at Oregon State.

LIKE REDWINE, Campbell has moved

around during his college career.

After attending Arizona Western his freshman year, Campbell transferred to Long Beach Community College. Then Aggie head coach Gil Krueger and defensive coach Tony DeBiasse talked to Campbell and persuaded him to transfer to Mexico State.

Campbell is a senior and Redwine, who sat out a year after transferring from Oregon State, has another year of eligibility left.

But Campbell is happy with his latest move.

"The coaches have helped me a lot," he said. "And winning the Missouri Valley Conference last year was a thrill."

This year, NMSU has had problems, and those problems were complicated with more injuries Saturday.

"We're kind of rebuilding again. We lost a lot of players last year," Campbell added.

Although Campbell lost for the third time against Redwine, both players remembered the game neither one lost.

"It was the East-West All Star game of the South Bay area," Campbell recalled.

Redwine called it the Lions All-Star game, which matched the City All-Stars and the CIF All-Stars (two different conferences).

Whatever it was called, guess who scored the winning touchdown?

"Jarvis scored the winning touchdown," Campbell said.

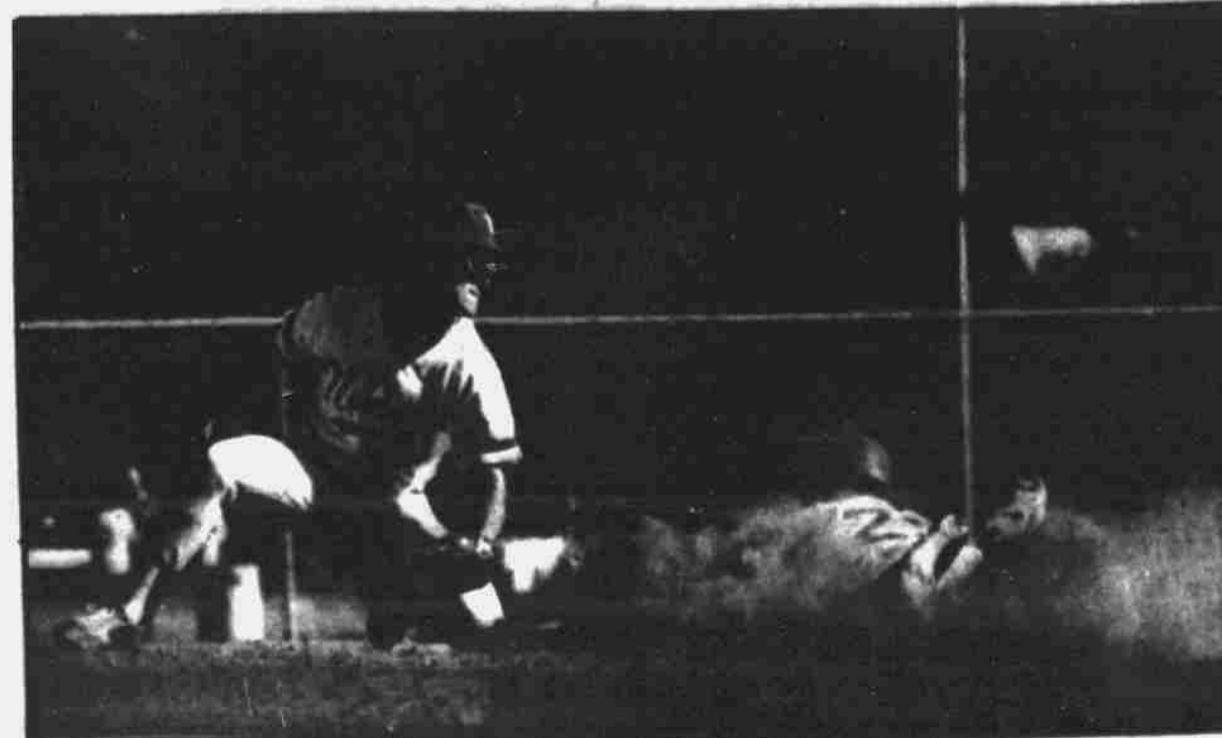


Photo by Mike Sweeney

Mark McManaman (25) slides into second base as infielder Kelly Combs (11) gets ready to make the tag during the Nebraska baseball team's intrasquad game Saturday at Buck Beltzer Field.