

sports

Nearly flawless NU rolls over Cowboys



Two Nebraskan players who figured big in Saturday's 36-0 whipping of the Oklahoma State Cowboys were quarterback Tim Hager (above) and wingback Kenny Brown (right). Hager completed 10 of 17 passes for 163 yards and one touchdown, and Brown gained 111 yards rushing on eight carries.

Photos by
Mark Billingsley

By Rick Huls

Oklahoma State coach Jimmy Johnson was quoted as saying last week, "Nebraska looks like they have a shot at the national championship. Or for anything else they want."

Johnson didn't change his mind Saturday.

After the game Saturday Johnson said, "I hoped and prayed that they weren't as good as they looked on film, but they were."

Amassing 596 yards on offense and giving up only 116 yards on defense, third-ranked Nebraska overpowered OSU 36-0 in Stillwater before a record Lewis Field crowd of 51,000 fans.

For the third straight game, the Huskers played nearly flawlessly. And, for the third straight game the NU defense posted a shutout.

Nebraska has out-scored its opponents 177-3 since Penn State's 14-0 first quarter lead in Lincoln. The Husker defense hasn't been scored on in the last 13 quarters.

Nebraska also has a solid claim to the number one spot in the top-twenty polls after this weekend.

Second-ranked Texas will drop after losing a 17-14 thriller to No. 10 Arkansas. Top-ranked Alabama may lose some ground after coming behind from a 17-0 deficit to win 27-17 over Tennessee.

Nebraska, now 6-0 on the season, moved the ball at will on the Cowboys but used one offensive weapon over and over.

The wingback reverse, a play which Nebraska fans remember from the Johnny Rodgers years, made Kenny Brown a busy man Saturday.

Brown carried the ball eight times for 111 yards on the play, and had time to catch three passes for 33 yards. He returned two punts for five yards and one kickoff for 19 yards.

Of course, Brown was happy about the extra work. "Getting six points is nice," Brown said. "But any way I can get my hands on it (the ball), I'm happy."

Brown said the offense didn't get frustrated despite only scoring three points the first two drives down the field.

"We had some bad mistakes and just missed some assignments," Brown said. "We don't get frustrated. We just knew we could move the ball on them again."

After a 23-yard field goal by Dean Sukup, Nebraska scored on the big play twice in the second quarter. Jarvis Redwine, who again went over 100 yards rushing (102 in 15 carries) scored on 29 yards out and Tim Smith scored on a 42-yard pass from quarterback Tim Hager.

Nebraska's three second-half touchdowns were scored on five-yard runs by Redwine, Jim Kotera and Anthony

Steels.

Head Coach Tom Osborne was pleased with the offensive performance and said the wingback reverse worked because of Oklahoma State's defensive alignment.

"Their linebackers don't key on the guards, so we pulled our guards a lot," Osborne explained. "We just stuck with what was working."

"It was a tough day to throw consistently (winds were out of the south-southwest at 20-25 mph). One pass would be good, then the wind would take the next one," Osborne added.

Osborne said the team was ready to play Oklahoma State.

"Our team was very quiet, very concerned about the game," Osborne said.

He said the coaches were concerned at halftime (Nebraska led 15-0) and told the team not to let up.

"We told them we were in the same position as Missouri was in last week," (MU led OSU 13-0 before losing 14-13) Osborne said. "I'm glad we didn't stop playing well, or let the game get away from us."

Nebraska's defense didn't give Oklahoma State a chance to get back into the game.

The Blackshirts held OSU to 37 yards rushing and 79 yards passing. The Cowboys threw 28 passes and completed only seven, and had as many first downs rushing (three) as by penalty. The NU defense also intercepted two passes and broke up four.

Of course the defense takes pride in the string of shutouts. In the final five minutes, defensive tackle Rod Horn was just one of the starters hollering for the defense "not to give".

"It's a great feeling," Horn said of the shutout. "We're starting to jell. But we're not perfect yet. We have to keep setting goals and improving."

One play may have fired up the Huskers even more, Horn said.

NU cornerback Andy Means intercepted quarterback Harold Bailey's pass midway through the second quarter, but was hit hard by Bailey after running out of bounds. Nebraska was called for clipping on the play and Oklahoma State was tagged for a personal foul.

"Andy was definitely out of bounds when he got hit," Horn said. "A hit like that doesn't show any class."

After an erroneous report that Means had partially swallowed his mouthpiece, it was learned that he lost his breath and suffered bruised ribs.

Only three other Huskers suffered injuries in Saturday's game. Offensive guard Randy Schleusener and Brown had bruised shoulders and middle guard Oudious Lee suffered a bruised thigh.

Next up for the Huskers is Colorado, which lost 13-7 to Missouri in Boulder.

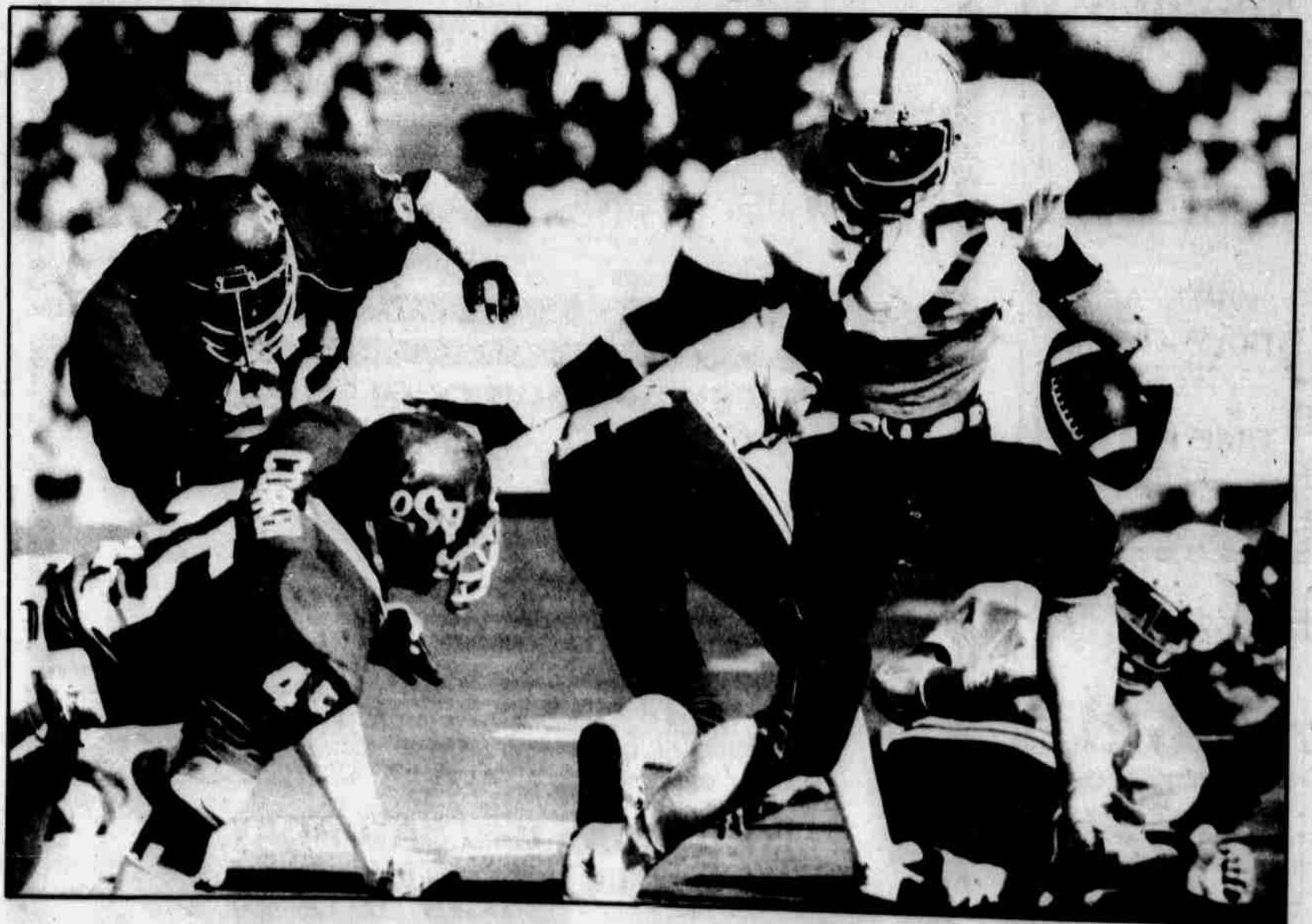
Hipp breaks record; Smith passes 1,000

I.M. Hipp and Tim Smith passed a couple of milestones in Nebraska football history during Saturday's 36-0 whipping of Oklahoma State.

Hipp rambled 23 yards on the first play of the fourth quarter to pass Rick Berns on Nebraska's all-time career rushing charts. Hipp, who collected 54 yards against the Cowboys, now has 2,719 yards in his career. Berns, now with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, held the record with 2,704 yards.

Smith became the sixth Husker to break the 1,000-yard barrier in pass receiving. His four catches for 83 yards put him fifth on the all-time charts behind Johnny Rodgers (2,779), Guy Ingles (1,234), Chuck Malito (1,164) and Bobby Thomas (1,127). Smith has 1,082 yards in receiving and needs only 152 to move into second place.

Also, the Nebraska offense piled up 35 first downs, tying another school record set in 1911 against Kansas State and 1978 against Kansas.



sports shorts

After 16 innings, the UNL women's softball team won the opening game of a doubleheader against the University of Kansas 2-0.

Winning pitcher, freshman Linda Mizener, pitched a nine-hitter. The Huskers stranded 21 runners on base before defeating the Jayhawks.

In the second game, the Huskers stranded 10 runners and lost 1-0 despite pitcher Connie Gonyea's three-hitter. UNL concluded its season with a doubleheader Sunday against the Alumni.

The men's cross-country team defeated South Dakota State, 27-30 in a dual meet Saturday.

Junior Brian Dunnigan placed first with a time of 25:02 on the five-mile Wilderness Park trail. Other UNL scorers included Dan Chirchir, second (25:59), Phil Shirley, third, (26:02), Todd Hornung, 10th, (27:59) and Tom Bowmaster, 11th, (28:10).

The team will conclude its season Oct. 27 at the Big Eight championship meet in Stillwater.