

# Athletes get short vacations, contests keep teams busy

By Ron Powell

While UNL students have been on vacation for the past three weeks, some UNL athletes didn't get a vacation from their sports.

The most notable sporting event was the Cotton Bowl, in which the Huskers lost to Houston by the familiar score of 17-14 on New Year's Day.

It appeared the Huskers would dominate the game in the first quarter. Houston's John Newhouse fumbled on the first play of the game and L.C. Cole recovered for Nebraska at the Houston 25-yard line. But the drive stalled and Dean Sukup missed a 23-yard field goal try.

The Huskers' second drive, however, was more productive. UNL drove 85 yards in 14 plays with I-back Jarvis Redwine covering the final nine yards for the score. Sukup's extra point made it 7-0 with 5:15 left in the first quarter.

## Cougars slowed offense

After the touchdown, the Houston defense clamped down on the Nebraska offense, holding the Huskers to just 228 total yards. Cougar backup quarterback Terry Elston came in and led Houston to its first score in the second quarter, an 8-yard run by Elston that capped a 71-yard drive.

The score remained 7-7 until the fourth quarter when Houston kicker Kenny Hatfield kicked a 41-yard field goal to give the Cougars a 10-7 lead with 8:25 left in the contest.

But the Huskers came right back. Bill Barnett recovered a Newhouse fumble on the Houston 31 and it took Nebraska six plays to score. The Huskers appeared to score a touchdown on a trick "swinging gate" play in which quarterback Jeff Quinn snapped the ball to Redwine who ran in for the score. The play was nullified by a penalty on both teams.

## Huskers hold on

On the next play, however, Quinn found back-up tight end Jeff Finn all alone in the end zone for a 6-yard touchdown pass. With Sukup's extra point, victory seemed to be in the Husker's grasp with a 14-10 lead with 2:10 left in the game.

The Cougars came right back on the strength of Elston's arm and receiving of Eric Herring. The clinching touchdown came on a 6-yard pass from Elston to Herring on fourth down with just 12 seconds left. Husker cornerback Rick Lindquist appeared to have broken the pass up, but the ball was tipped right to Herring.

The Huskers ended the season 10-2 and ranked seventh nationally in the Associated Press poll and ninth in the United Press International poll.

Semester break started well for the UNL men's basketball team. First, the Huskers defeated Alabama-Birmingham 92-84 in a four-overtime thriller at home.

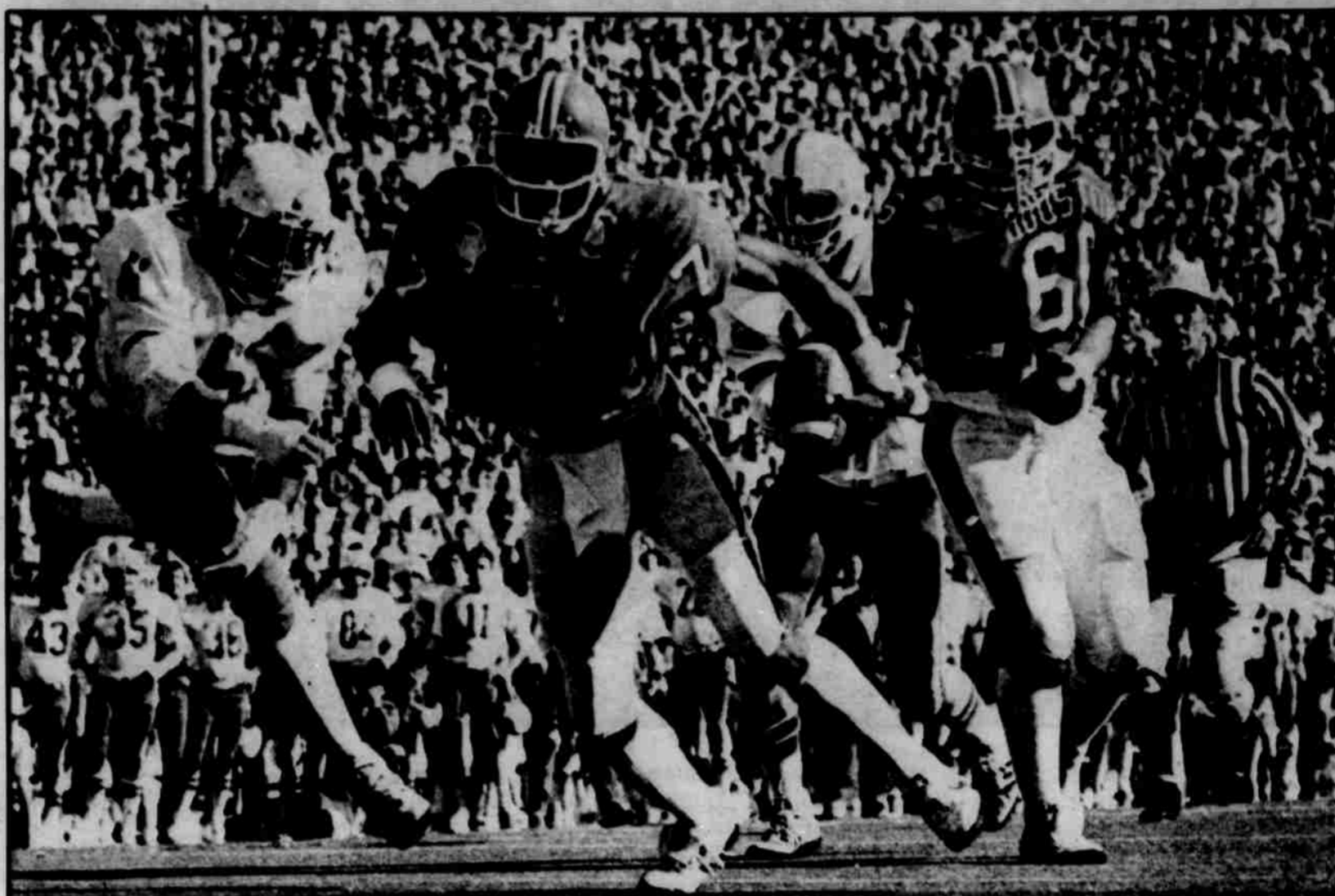


Photo by Mike Sweeney

Houston quarterback Terry Elston eludes the grasp of Husker linebacker Brent Williams en route to scoring the Cougars' first touchdown in their 17-14 Cotton Bowl victory over Nebraska.

Then, the Huskers went to Hawaii to play in the Rainbow Classic. They won their first round game 83-82 in overtime against Wisconsin. Forward Jerry Shoecraft connected on both ends of a one-and-one with two seconds left in overtime for the win.

In the semi-final game against Hawaii, disaster struck for the Huskers. Forward Tim West, who had been averaging 13 points a game, severely sprained an ankle early in the first half of that game and has still not returned to action.

## Men return home

The Huskers lost to Hawaii 67-55 and then lost the third place game 65-58 to nationally ranked Louisville. Before returning home, the Huskers stopped to play Idaho Jan. 2, and lost 64-55.

Nebraska picked up a pair of easy wins against Wisconsin-Oshkosh Jan. 4 and Angelo State Jan. 5. The

team opened the Big Eight season Jan. 9 with a 58-50 win at Iowa State, and lost to Missouri Saturday, 84-63.

The women's basketball team, now 13-9, opened vacation with a pair of home victories against Iowa and the University of Manitoba before leaving for a six-game road swing.

The Huskers lost their first game 64-63 to Queens College Jan. 2, but came back to beat St. John's University 73-68 Jan. 3 and Fairleigh Dickinson 65-56 Jan. 4.

On Jan. 7, Nebraska lost to the nation's fifth ranked team, Tennessee, 82-42, but the next night the Huskers avenged an earlier loss to Tennessee Tech with a 73-60 win.

On Friday night, the Huskers traveled to Ruston, La. to play the nation's top ranked team, Louisiana Tech. The Huskers trailed by only four points, 62-58 with eight minutes remaining, but Tech finished strong for an 88-64 win.

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Monday, 8:00-10:00pm

(Mixed League, 2 guys,  
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Thursday, 5:30-7:30pm

Thursday, 7:30-9:30pm

(mixed league, 2 guys,  
2 gals, two teams needed)

### LEAGUE STARTS

January 21

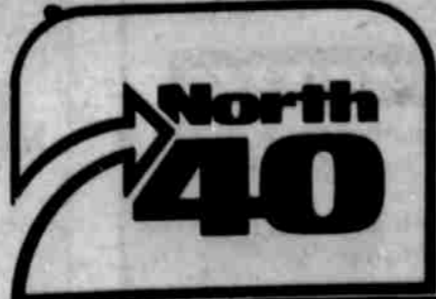
January 23

January 24

January 17

Each league consists of six teams, four persons per team. Teams and individuals must pre-register and pick up a copy of league rules at the North 40 desk. Students, Faculty, Staff, and Friends are Eligible.

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