

# sports

## Husker win evens record against Mizzou coach

By Tad Stryker

Missouri quarterback Phil Bradley lay sprawled on the 50-yard line. He slammed his right hand against the turf in disgust after being knocked down by Husker defensive end Jimmy Williams and seeing his fourth-down pass sail over the head of his intended receiver. Nebraska's black-shirt defense had risen to the occasion and stopped a Missouri comeback attempt again and again and again.

"Our defense did a great job in the second half," Husker Head Coach Tom Osborne said. "We really played with a lot of intensity."

Nebraska fumbled the ball away four times in the second half, and Osborne credited the defense with bailing out the offense on those occasions.

"We did everything we could to give the game away," he said. "With all the turnovers we had, it's amazing that we were able to beat Missouri by the number of points we did."

The Huskers had six turnovers in the game, but they led to only six Missouri points. On the other hand, Nebraska took maximum advantage of two Tiger turnovers, using them to score 14 points.

Nebraska's 38-16 win over Missouri Saturday not only kept the Huskers tied for the conference lead with Oklahoma, it also evened Osborne's record against Missouri Head Coach Warren Powers at 2-2. Co-captain Randy Schleusener referred to this in the locker room when he silenced the players and writers and stood up on a table with the game ball in his hand.

Schleusener said, in so many words, that Powers had been a "pain in the ass" to Husker players, coaches and

fans for the past few years.

"But I'll tell you who won the coaching battle today—that man over there," he said, pointing to Osborne. "So we're going to present the game ball to Coach Osborne."

The Husker offense made its contribution much earlier, giving the Huskers a quick 14-0 lead when Jarvis Redwine scored from 15 and 18 yards out on option plays. The first touchdown came after Husker defensive tackle Toby Williams recovered a Terry Hill fumble at the Missouri 26. The second came when Redwine followed an excellent Husker line surge and a fine block by fullback Andra Franklin into the end zone. Redwine was tripped as he neared the goal, but was able to lunge across for the score.

"I got a good block on their cornerback," Franklin said. "The other guys, especially the linemen, got in some real good blocks on that play, too."

Redwine gained 129 yards and Franklin passed the 100-yard mark for the first time as a Husker, gaining 122 yards.

"Today I felt more like part of the offense," Franklin said. "Sometimes when I'm not gaining many yards, I feel like I'm kind of 'out' of the offense, but it's really not that way."

After Tiger kicker Ron Verrilli kicked 28- and 49-yard field goals, Nebraska used big plays to extend its lead to 28-6.

Anthony Steels returned a kickoff 63 yards, and three

plays later, Jeff Finn caught a short pass, got away from two defenders, and scored.

On Missouri's ensuing possession, the Tigers moved well into Nebraska territory. Phil Bradley dropped back to pass, but was pressured by David Clark and Sammy Sims. Bradley's hurried throw was nothing more than a pop fly, and Husker linebacker Kim Baker gathered it in at the 23-yard line.

Baker was escorted down the west sideline by defensive end Derrie Nelson, whose savage block knocked Terry Hill nearly into the Tiger bench, and Jimmy Williams, whose brush block on Missouri running back James Wilder enabled Baker to score.

Bradley threw a four-yard touchdown pass to flanker Ron Fellows with 1:39 left in the second quarter to make the score 28-13 at halftime, but the Husker defense made its contribution in the second half, holding Bradley to 52 yards passing and the Tigers to a single field goal.

The game also featured one of the hardest hits of the year. When Missouri tight end Andy Gibler slowed and turned to catch a short pass, he didn't see Rodney Lewis bearing down on him at full speed. He felt Lewis a moment later, though. Just as he turned upfield, Lewis hit him just below the facemask with force reminiscent of the John Rued-Kelly Phelps collision in the 1978 Oklahoma game. Both Gibler and Lewis fell to the turf and lay motionless for several seconds, but both then walked off the field.

"Good hit!" Anthony Steels told Lewis in the locker room. "When you came off the field, the crowd went wild!"

"I was trying to be physical," Lewis said.

## Powers: Tigers may have been too ready to play

By Shelley Smith

A dejected Warren Powers made his way through the small crowd of Missouri fans, and headed towards the bus. It was clear to the onlookers that disappointment and frustration gripped the Missouri head coach like a vise.

The words Powers spoke were soft, mundane, and matter-of-fact; he verbalized what everyone already knew of Missouri's 38-16 loss to Nebraska moments earlier.

"Nebraska has a good, strong football team, offensively and defensively, they showed it out there today. You saw the game, you could tell me just what I just told you," Power said.

"I thought both teams were ready to play today. Maybe we were just a little too ready," he added.

Apprehension might have caused Missouri back Tony Hill to fumble on the second play of the game, and when

Nebraska's Jarvis Redwine tiptoed into the endzone six plays later, that apprehension must have dug a little deeper.

It wasn't until Nebraska led 14-0 in the middle of the first quarter that Missouri made its first ten-yard drive, responding with three first downs in a row.

Missouri quarterback Phil Bradley, who later set a new Big Eight career total offense record, marched the Tigers to Nebraska's 12-yard line, but failed to put the ball in the end zone. Missouri had to settle for a field goal.

"That seems typical of the entire game," Missouri tight end Ron Fellows said. "We had some good drives, and were moving the ball well, but we ended up settling for a field goal, or punting the ball away."

Missouri's only touchdown was a Bradley to Fellows connection late in the second quarter, but by that time Nebraska had boosted its lead by two touch-

downs, and led 28-13 at the half.

Many wondered why Powers didn't elect to go for a two-point conversion following the touchdown—if converted, the score would have put the Tigers in a two touchdown tying margin.

The coaches in the press box screamed for a two-point try once they saw Missouri's extra-point team head onto the field. Powers threw his head phones on the ground, tried to signal kicker Ron Verrilli to call time-out to correct the mistake, but Bradley had just called a time-out following the touchdown. Consecutive time-outs are not allowed.

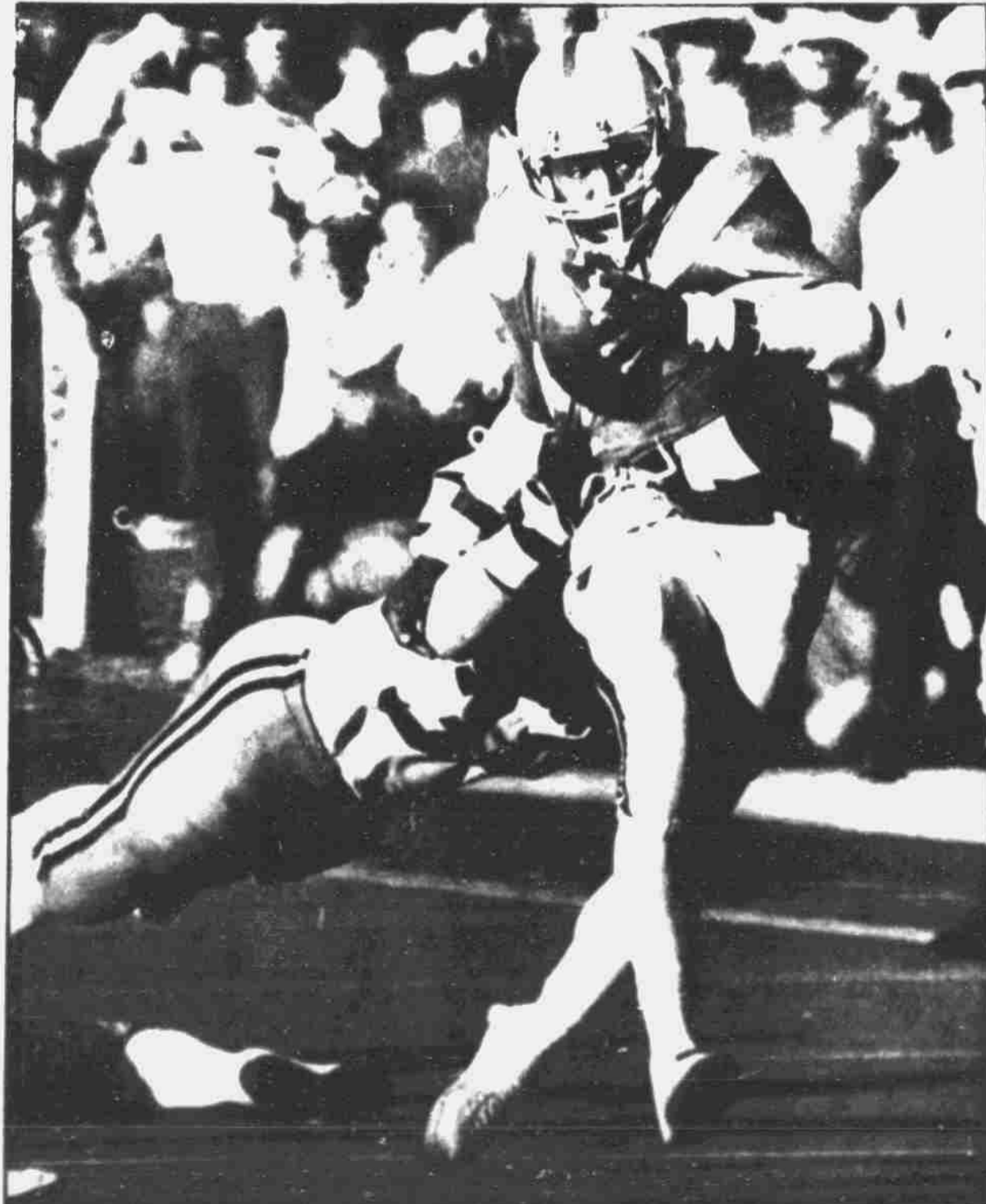
"There was a mix-up between Powers and the specialty team," Missouri punter Jeff Brockhaus said. "He said he took full blame for that. As it turned out, it wasn't a factor, but it could have been," he said.

Two of Nebraska's scores resulted from Missouri turnovers. However, of Nebraska's six turnovers (two interceptions and four fumbles) Missouri could only capitalize on two of them.

"That was an important difference," Brockhaus said. "They capitalized on our turnovers and we couldn't even tough theirs hardly," he said.

Bill Whitaker, Missouri's cornerback, said he couldn't believe Nebraska's depth, and its ability to execute a variety of plays.

"They were successful at their sweeps, options, passes just at everything they tried," Whitaker said. "I tell you, that Jarvis Redwine is something and so is number 21 (Roger Craig) and so is (Andra) Franklin. There's no way we could stop them today," he said.



Above: Husker Rodney Lewis puts the crunch on Missouri's Andy Gibler in Saturday's 38-16 Nebraska win. Left: I-back Jarvis Redwine tries to escape the grip of Missouri's Bill Whitaker.

Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka