

sports

Gill proves ability in calling plays at Buffaloes' slaughter

By Bob Asmussen

After Nebraska's 59-0 romp of the Colorado Buffaloes Saturday in Memorial Stadium, the Cornhusker quarterback question seems to have been answered. Sophomore Turner Gill stepped to the helm and connected on four touchdown passes, tying a school record held by Dave Humm and Vince Ferragamo.

"I wanted to do well and I did," Gill said. "I'm very happy with my performance."

"The first drive really helped," Gill said. "It made things go easier for me."

The drive Gill referred to was the Huskers' opening drive which covered 37 yards and ended with a Mike Rozier touchdown. The drive was set up by Jeff Krejci's interception of CU quarterback Randy Essington's first pass.

"I just more or less played centerfield," Krejci said of the interception. "It was a low throw but I was able to come up with it."

Colorado's next drive stalled after a first down and the Buffs were forced to punt. It took the Huskers eight plays to cover 71 yards. Anthony Steels caught a Gill pass for a 15-yard touchdown.

"The pass to Slick (Steels) was a delay pattern and I just got the ball to him," Gill said.

Mike Rozier added a 5-yard touchdown on the first play of the second quarter. Coach Tom Osborne said he was surprised by the final score.

"I thought we'd win but I didn't think we'd win it like this," Osborne said. "We needed a game like this to get some people some playing time."

After Rozier's touchdown it took the Huskers until the two-minute mark to score again. That touchdown came on Gill's second touchdown pass, a 9-yarder to fullback Phil Bates.

With 1:13 left in the half Krejci got his second interception of the day.

"They had run the same pattern earlier in the game and I was aware of it," Krejci said. "It was supposed to go to the tight end. When I saw it developing I knew the ball was going to come my way."

Nebraska got on the board quickly with

a 45-yard pass from Gill to Todd Brown. Then with :18 left, Nebraska got the ball on the Colorado 27-yard line. The Huskers lined up for a Kevin Seibel field goal with :03 left. The 37-yarder was good and the Huskers went to the locker room with a 38-0 lead.

The Huskers took the opening kickoff of the second half and drove to the Colorado 38-yard line. Gill then connected with Todd Brown for his fourth touchdown pass of the game.

The pass was the final play of the day for Gill. For the day, he went 9-14 on passes for 178 yards. He also ran the ball six times for 46 yards.

"Gill had a great game," Osborne said. "Turner played well in practice Wednesday and Thursday. He's the starter and he's earned it."

Mark Mauer took the team on its next touchdown drive which ended when Bates ran in from the 9-yard line. The extra point made it 52-0 and it started a parade of players from the Nebraska bench. In all, 13 Huskers carried the ball and most of the players suited up saw action. The Huskers even used three different kickers.

The Huskers added one more touchdown in the third quarter on a 7-yard run by Mark Mauer. Mark Hagerman kicked Nebraska's final point of the game.

Early in the 4th quarter, the Buffs made their only serious march on the Huskers. They got down to the 4-yard line but lost the ball on downs. Bruce Mathison took over the Nebraska controls and directed the team for the rest of the game.

Toward the end of the game the Huskers found they had something to shoot for: the NCAA record for first downs. Paul Smith ran 11 yards to break the old mark of 40. Nebraska finished with 42 first downs.

The Huskers had 719 yards total offense compared to 146 yards for Colorado. Roger Craig was the leading rusher with 96 yards on 11 carries. Mike Rozier gained 95 yards on 11 carries.

For Colorado, Rich Johnson had 64 yards and Derek Singleton added 41 yards. Essington was 4-15 passing for 39 yards with two interceptions.

Continued on Page 9

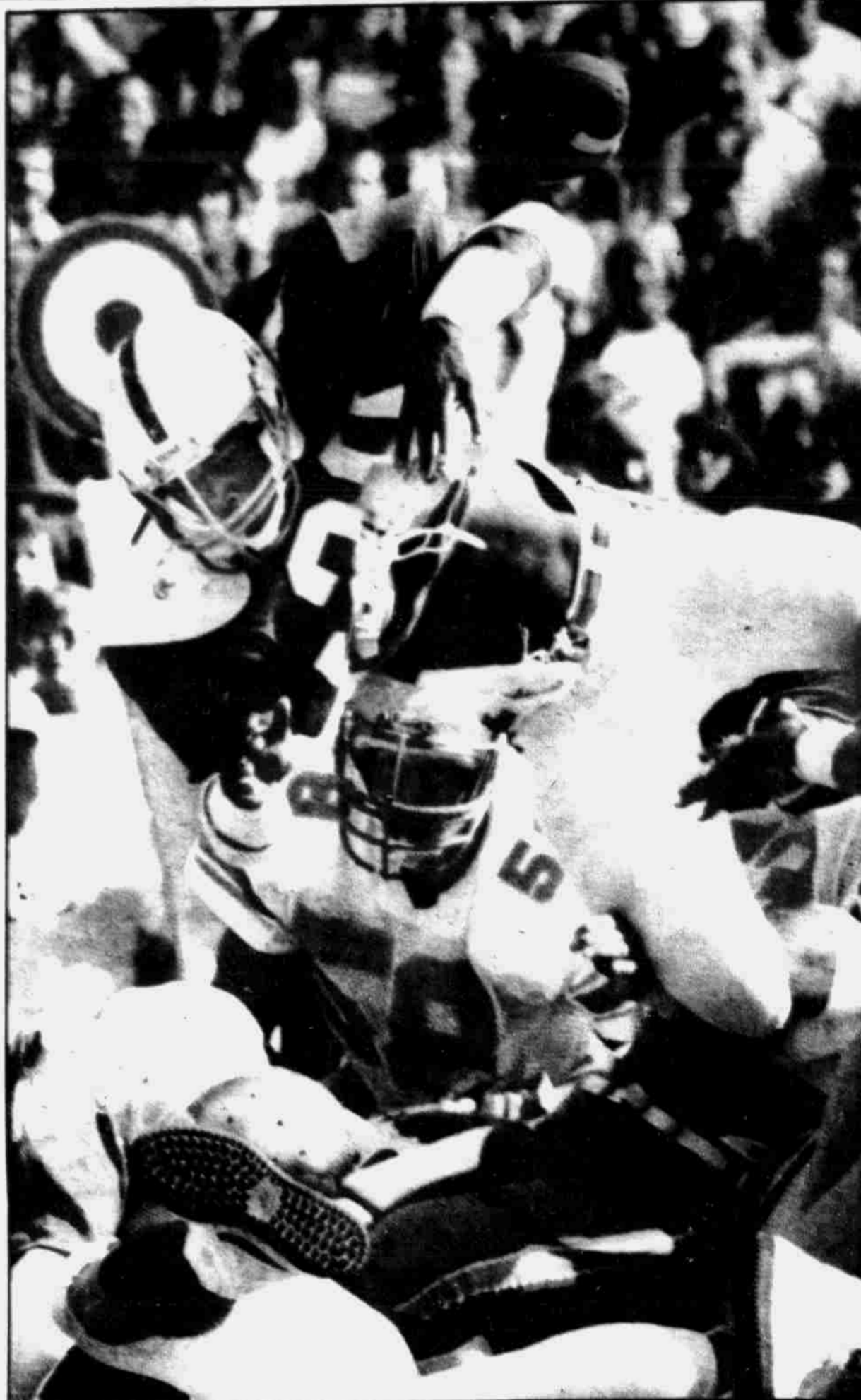


Photo by Mark Billingsley

I-back Mike Rozier (30) leaps over a pile of Colorado defenders but loses his grip on the football. Rozier recovered his own fumble in the end zone to give Nebraska its first touchdown of the day. The Huskers went on to a 59-0 win.

Colorado coach disappointed; applauds Huskers

By Larry Sparks

It didn't take Chuck Fairbanks long to learn he still has some work to do on his rebuilding program. Earlier in the week, the Colorado football coach said this looked like the year the Buffaloes might be able to break Nebraska's dominance of the series. After watching the Cornhuskers run up a 59-0 win Saturday in Memorial Stadium, things looked a little different.

"Nebraska dominated the game in every area of play," Fairbanks said. "They're a fine team."

"We had more football team than we could handle by any stretch of the imagination today. I'll compliment them (the Huskers) on everything they did out there," he said.

Fairbanks had praise of Nebraska's offensive backfield, but said he was disappointed in his own team's defensive showing.

"We did not tackle very well in the game. They (Nebraska I-backs) broke a lot of tackles. Some of it to their credit, some against us," he said.

Shoulder injury

Fairbanks said sophomore quarterback Randy Essington has been bothered by a shoulder injury and that may have contributed to his passing performance of 4-15 for only 39 yards.

"Part of it may have been from a lack of practice preparation," Fairbanks said. "He certainly wasn't in 100 percent physical health, but I don't believe that to be the major source of our problems. We were just physically outmanned."

Fairbanks said some of the off-target passes early in the game were deliberately thrown away because of Nebraska's coverage. He was cautious in praising the Husker's secondary however.

"They have a good secondary with good experience but they had no test today," he said.

Fairbanks said he wasn't surprised by the performance

of the Husker offense, which many had considered to be a disappointment in the first four games.

"Nebraska played four, very good defensive teams in their first four ball games," Fairbanks said. "I understand, around here, people got concerned about whether they could move the football."

"Sooner or later, people have got to realize, that you're not going to dominate everybody you play every day."

Quarterback Gill

Fairbanks and several players in the Colorado locker room were impressed with Husker quarterback Turner Gill's performance in his first start for UNL.

"He played very well. He made some very fine athletic plays today," Fairbanks said. "He looks like a bright, promising player for Tom's team."

"If they have a quarterback that's better than him that started before, I don't think anyone could beat them. He's definitely a good quarterback," nose tackle Sandy Armstrong said.

Armstrong described the Husker offense as "much better than UCLA" and said it was difficult to play against Nebraska center Dave Rimington.

Buffalo defensive end Pete Perry said CU's defense wore down because of the large amount of time it was on the field.

"The only break we got was their drive in the fourth quarter. Otherwise, we were always trying to keep ourselves out of a hole. That's tough," Perry said.

Perry also questioned Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne's decision to go for a field goal which gave the Huskers a 38-0 lead as time ran out in the first half.

Fairbanks said Saturday's defeat dealt a big set back to his rebuilding program but added there are always things to be learned from a loss.

"I'm extremely disappointed for our players. It's an embarrassing defeat for them," Fairbanks said. "I wish there was some way I could help them more than I can right now."

"It's not any fun for these people to have to go through this but if this is the worst thing that happens to them in their lifetime, they'll be all right."

big eight

Conference Standings			Saturday Results	
	Conf.	All Games		
Missouri	.1-0-0	5-0-0	Missouri 58, Kansas State 13	
Oklahoma State	.1-0-0	3-1-0	Nebraska 59, Colorado 0	
Nebraska	.1-0-0	3-2-0	Oklahoma State 20, Kansas 7	
Oklahoma	.0-0-1	1-2-1	San Diego State 52, Iowa State 13	
Iowa State	.0-0-1	3-1-1	Texas 34, Oklahoma 14	
Kansas	.0-1-0	4-1-0		Games Oct. 17
Colorado	.0-1-0	1-4-0	Kansas	at Oklahoma
Kansas State	.0-1-0	1-4-0	Missouri	at Iowa State
			Nebraska	at Kansas State
			Oklahoma State	at Colorado