

# sports

## Huskers headed for Miami after Cyclone defeat

By Cindy Gardner

Nebraska is in an unfamiliar territory. Saturday's 31-7 football victory against Iowa State left the Huskers in sole possession of the Big Eight title for the first time since 1971.

The Huskers were also awarded the title in 1972 when Oklahoma was forced to forfeit four games because of recruiting violations. The win in Memorial Stadium Saturday, coupled with Missouri's 19-14 stifling of Oklahoma, gave Nebraska an Orange Bowl bid, its first in four years.

After a scoreless first period, Iowa State scored first on a Dwayne Crutchfield 2-yard run with 9:41 left in the half. Crutchfield capped a Cyclone drive of 74 yards in 14 plays.

A 9-yard punt return by Allen Lyday put the Huskers at the Iowa State 35 and, after seven plays, I-back Mike Rozier found the endzone. The teams went to their half time pep talks in a 7-7 dead heat.

"We didn't play well in the first half," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said after the game. "We didn't control the line of scrimmage on either side of the ball."

The Nebraska offense, which has proven to be a third-quarter team this season, failed to put any points on the scoreboard during the period. The Blackshirt defense, however, rose to the occasion.

### Fired up defense

On the first play from scrimmage in the second half, Cyclone linebacker Doug Fischer recovered a Rozier fumble at the Nebraska 25-yard line. But two penalties and a fired-up Husker defense turned away Iowa State empty-handed.

"One of the keys to the game was our defense," Osborne said. "They stopped the

arm tackling and started to control the line of scrimmage in the second half."

With 1:54 remaining in the third quarter the Husker offense reeled off three consecutive first downs to set up an early-fourth period field goal by Eddie Neil. Neil's 49-yard kick cleared the cross bar by inches and put the Huskers ahead 10-7.

"It was my toughest show and my longest ever in college," Neil said. "Actually, I kicked it very poorly. It was about 10-feet off the ground. If someone would have stuck their arm up, they could've blocked it."

Neil's field goal opened a floodgate of Nebraska offense. In 7:14 Nebraska covered 143 yards. The Huskers scored 24 points in 5:20.

### Kicking game important

After the Husker defense stopped Iowa State, sophomore Irving Fryar took a Cyclone punt 63 yards for a touchdown and Nebraska led 17-7 with 13:12 remaining in the game.

"I knew before the ball was kicked that I needed a good return. I needed to at least get near the goal line. The game was still too close," Fryar said.

"The kicking game was a big factor," Osborne said. In addition to the 13 points it scored, punter Grant Campbell averaged 47 yards per boot.

It was the Blackshirts who continued to tire an injury-riddled Iowa State offense and set up Nebraska's next two scores.

Senior Henry Waechter intercepted an Iowa State pass tipped by Toby Williams. It was Waechter's first ever interception and it gave the Huskers the ball at the ISU 21. Five plays later, Nebraska scored on a three-yard pass from Turner Gill to Anthony Steels. The catch by Steels, who

## Injury could sideline Gill

A calf injury suffered in Saturday's Iowa State game has left sophomore quarterback Turner Gill doubtful for this week's game against Oklahoma.

"There is a very good chance he won't be able to play," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said Sunday afternoon. "We won't know for sure until Tuesday or Wednesday."

Gill underwent surgery at 1 a.m. Sunday to relieve pressure in his swollen calf. Osborne said the surgery was necessary to prevent possible permanent damage.

Team physician Pat Clare said the injury occurred when Gill received a blow to the outside of the leg. Clare said that

by 11 p.m. Saturday the swelling was progressing to the point that Gill couldn't raise his foot. Clare said he "wouldn't be optimistic" that Gill will play against Oklahoma.

"Everybody would like to have Gill available," Osborne said. "But if he's not, they're going to play as hard as they can."

Osborne said Mark Mauer will be the likely starter against Oklahoma.

"Mark has a lot of experience but Turner deserves to start if he's able," Osborne said.

Osborne said Gill is expected to be released from the hospital today. He asked that fans not call or visit Gill.

also sang the National Anthem, topped off what he called a dream day.

"I did everything I've ever wanted to do today. I sang in front of all those people and played a good football game, too," Steels said.

It was another senior in his last home performance who set up the final points of the afternoon. Middle guard Curt Hineline recovered a fumble at the Iowa State 11 and one play later, full back Phil Bates ran it in. Mark Hagerman added the extra point to make it 31-7.

After going into half time tied or behind for the sixth time this season, Osborne said the win was a tribute to the Huskers' ability to come back. He attributed part of the comeback to the fatigue factor.

"Our defense took a lot out of Iowa State," he said. "We wore them down."

While the defense improved in the second half, Osborne said he was not pleased with the Huskers offensive performance. He said the Huskers would need to play better up front against Oklahoma next Saturday.

"We've got to play our game," Osborne said. "This is a week-to-week operation. We've got to play well enough to win at Oklahoma."

Even though the Big Eight championship has already been decided, Osborne said the Huskers will still feel pressure in the Oklahoma game.

"I don't think we'll feel like we've accomplished all we set out to accomplish if we don't play well at Oklahoma," he said. "It's a one-game season as far as people up here are concerned."

## Ankle injury slowed Crutchfield

# Injuries took the wind from the Cyclones—Duncan

By Larry Sparks

If there was any doubt about how important Dawyne Crutchfield is to the Iowa State offense, it was removed in the second half of Saturday's 31-7 Nebraska win against the Cyclones in Memorial Stadium, ISU football Coach Donnie Duncan said.

The Iowa State running back rushed for 98 yards in the first half and helped the Cyclones force a 7-7 halftime deadlock on the Huskers. Bothered by a nagging ankle injury, Crutchfield was held to minus one yard in the second half and the Cyclones fell to a 31-7 defeat.

"I hate to keep coming back to this, but in the first half, Crutchfield was

completely healthy and in the second half, you saw us substituting Tommy Davis for him quite frequently," Duncan said.

"As long as we've got the power and the strength inside to run him (Crutchfield), we've got the ability to move the ball on people," he said.

### Injuries not whole story

Duncan was quick to add that while the injury was a serious setback to ISU, it wasn't the turning point in the game.

"We still moved the ball with some consistency in the second half," Duncan said. "Failure to capitalize (on Husker errors) were factors, but a lot of teams have failed to capitalize against good teams like Nebraska."

"In my mind, the change of momentum, the rash of points they scored ended any hope of winning the football game," Duncan said of a 5:20 period in the fourth quarter where the Huskers scored 24 points.

Duncan said he wasn't surprised by Iowa State's 166-88 advantage in total yardage the first half and gave credit to the offensive line.

"The offensive line played very well," Duncan said. "We played them better than most people have been playing them. When we are healthy, we're good and we can move the football."

Crutchfield also gave credit for his first half performance to the blockers.

"Our line did a good job. They opened up the holes and I just ran through them. I kind of felt the bumps from a lot of gang tackles," Crutchfield said.

### Score misleading

Duncan said he was pleased with the effort of his team and indicated the final score may be misleading.

"The 31 points is not indicative at all of the way our defense played," he said. "Anyone who saw the ballgame recognized that."

"We just had so many injuries hit our offensive line we had inexperienced people playing against Nebraska and that is

tough," quarterback John Quinn said.

Duncan said he was impressed with the Cornhuskers but said he didn't see anything he wasn't expecting.

"They played hard. They are explosive, they are solid and they are very strong," Duncan said. "Having two healthy backs going into the fourth quarter has to be a big help."

How do the Cyclones view this week's showdown between Nebraska and Oklahoma?

"There is no comparison between the two teams," Quinn said. "Nebraska is physical and Oklahoma is finesse. Oklahoma doesn't have the defense they have had in the past but Nebraska doesn't have the offense they have had in the past."

Duncan said it has been too long since ISU played the Sooners for him to make a fair comparison, but Crutchfield predicted a Sooner win, saying Nebraska has more pride but Oklahoma has better athletes.

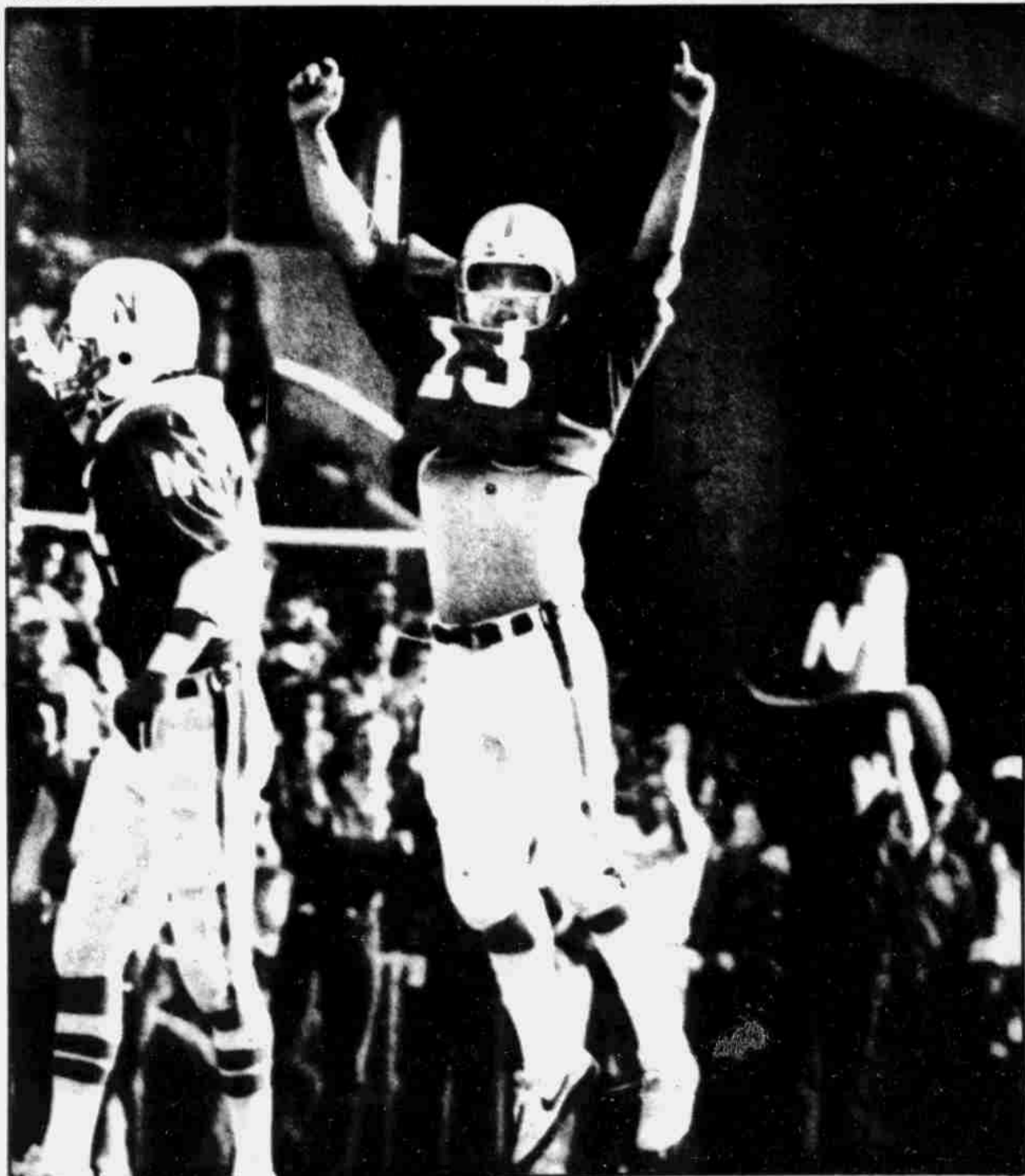


Photo by Dave Bentz

Husker kicker Eddie Neil (13) reacts to his fourth quarter field goal which gave Nebraska a 10-7 lead against Iowa State. The Huskers went on to a 31-7 win and claimed the Big Eight title.

## big eight

### Conference Football Standings

Nebraska	6-0-0
Oklahoma	3-1-1
Oklahoma State	3-2-0
Kansas	3-3-0
Missouri	3-3-0
Iowa State	2-3-1
Colorado	1-5-0
Kansas State	1-5-0

### Saturday Results

Kansas 27, Colorado 0
Missouri 19, Oklahoma 14
Nebraska 31, Iowa State 7
Oklahoma State 31, Kansas State 10

### Games Nov. 21

Kansas State	at Colorado
Missouri	at Kansas
Nebraska	at Oklahoma
Oklahoma State	at Iowa State

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