

# Sports

## Husker players defeat 17th-ranked Auburn, 41-7

Nebraska converted 16 of 20 third down situations into first downs and rolled for 504 yards of total offense against the highly touted Auburn defense as the Huskers claimed a 41-7 victory against the 17th-ranked Tigers Saturday at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn, Ala.

The Huskers helped quiet the emotional crowd of 73,900 when they took the opening kickoff at their own 27-yard line and moved the ball 73 yards in 13 plays for the first score.

Nebraska had three third down conversions, and quarterback Turner Gill completed passes of 7 and 16 yards to tight end Jamie Williams in the drive. Fullback Doug Wilkening took it up the middle the final 15 yards for the touchdown.

Auburn ran the kickoff back to the 29. On the Tigers' first play from scrimmage, halfback Lionel James went 71 yards down the side into the end zone. The play was

called back to the Husker 40, however, as the officials ruled James had stepped out of bounds at that point.

The Tigers fumbled later in the series at the Husker 21, and Nebraska recovered and moved the ball down field before Gill was intercepted by Mark Dominey at the AU 28.

Bo Jackson dove over from the 4-yard line to complete a 72-yard, 10-play series for Auburn that tied the game at 7-7.

### Tigers lose momentum

Auburn began to lose momentum in the second quarter when Al Del Greco missed a 46-yard field goal attempt.

Nebraska took control again at its own 29 after the missed field goal. But after four running plays and an offensive pass interference call against Todd Brown, the Tigers had the Huskers in a third-and-23 situation at the Nebraska 42. Gill then connected with Brown on a 58-yard pass play for a touchdown that put Nebraska ahead for good.

The Huskers had another chance to score with four seconds remaining in the first half when Auburn fumbled a punt return at its own 30 and Nebraska recovered. A Kevin Seibel field-goal attempt went wide to the right, though, and the half ended 14-7.

The Nebraska Blackshirt defense stopped Auburn in three plays after the second half kickoff then took the Tiger punt at the Husker 43.

Using nearly half of the third period, the Cornhuskers marched 57 yards in 13 plays with I-back Mike Rozier

taking it over from the 2 for the score with 7:03 left in the quarter. Seibel's kick made it 21-7. The drive was aided by a successful fourth-and-1 conversion at the Tiger 18-yard line.

### Punt fumbled

After the kickoff, Nebraska again held the Tiger wishbone offense in three downs, but Dave Burke fumbled the ensuing punt on the 13 to put Auburn in field position. Defensive end Bill Weber ended the Tiger threat when he recovered an AU fumble at the 14 on the next play.

Nebraska fumbled again later in the drive but held the Tigers on downs after quarterback Randy Campbell made a bad pitch on a fourth-and-1 situation.

After that, the Husker offense went to work, making touchdown drives of 57, 74 and 42 yards.

Gill pitched to Rozier for a 12-yard touchdown on the first of the series of three scores. Fullback Mark Schellen broke loose for 41 yards to end the 74-yard drive and make it 35-7. I-back Tim Brungardt went 13-yards for the final touchdown with 1:24 left in the game.

Nebraska had to play the game without its starting fullback, Roger Craig, but his three substitutes — Wilkening, Schellen and Mark Moravec — combined for 124 yards and two touchdowns to fill the void. Craig, who reinjured a deep thigh bruise against Penn State, did not make the trip to Auburn.

The win raised Nebraska's record to 3-1 entering Big Eight play. The Huskers play at Colorado Saturday. Auburn, also 3-1, is at home Saturday against Kentucky.

### Husker-Tiger Statistics

|          |   |   |   |         |
|----------|---|---|---|---------|
| Nebraska | 7 | 7 | 7 | 20 - 41 |
| Auburn   | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 - 7   |

NU — Wilkening 15 run (Seibel kick)  
 AU — Jackson 4 run (Del Greco kick)  
 NU — Brown 58 pass from Gill (Seibel kick)  
 NU — Rozier 2 run (Seibel kick)  
 NU — Rozier 12 run (Seibel kick)  
 NU — Schellen 41 run (Seibel kick)  
 NU — Brungardt 13 run (kick failed)  
 Attendance — 73,900

|                    | NU      | AU     |
|--------------------|---------|--------|
| First downs        | 31      | 13     |
| Rushes-yards       | 68-342  | 43-171 |
| Passing yards      | 162     | 116    |
| Return yards       | 13      | 18     |
| Passes             | 10-19-1 | 7-11-1 |
| Punts              | 2-50.5  | 4-43   |
| Fumbles-lost       | 4-2     | 3-3    |
| Penalties-yards    | 3-45    | 3-15   |
| Time of Possession | 36:44   | 23:16  |

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING**—Nebraska, Rozier 24-88, Wilkening 9-60, Schellen 5-54, Auburn, James 8-69, O'Neal 8-40, Jackson 5-18, Jessie 5-18.  
**PASSING**—NEBRASKA, Gill 10-19-162-1. Auburn, Campbell 6-10-91-1, Mann 1-1-25-0.  
**RECEIVING**—NEBRASKA, Brown 2-78, Williams 2-24, Hill 1-19. Auburn, Woods, 3-59, West 2-25, Carroll 1-25.



### Standings

#### Big Eight Football Standings

|                | Conf. | All Games |
|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Oklahoma       | 1-0-0 | 2-2-0     |
| Kansas State   | 0-0-0 | 3-1-0     |
| Missouri       | 0-0-0 | 3-1-0     |
| Nebraska       | 0-0-0 | 3-1-0     |
| Kansas         | 0-0-0 | 1-2-1     |
| Oklahoma State | 0-0-0 | 1-2-0     |
| Colorado       | 0-0-0 | 1-3-0     |
| Iowa State     | 0-1-0 | 2-2-0     |

#### Saturday's Results

Arizona State 30, Kansas State 7  
 Missouri 28, East Carolina 9  
 Nebraska 41, Auburn 7  
 Oklahoma 13, Iowa State 3  
 Tulsa 20, Kansas 15  
 UCLA 34, Colorado 6  
 Oklahoma State idle

#### Games Next Saturday

Kansas..... at Oklahoma State  
 Kent State..... at Iowa State  
 Missouri..... at Kansas State  
 Nebraska..... at Colorado  
 Oklahoma..... vs. Texas (at Dallas)

## New rules lead to Big Eight's decline

The party's over.

For more than a decade, Big Eight football fans have boasted of having the strongest conference in the country. That claim has been suspect for the past several years, but this season should have removed all doubt.

Don't get me wrong, the Big Eight still has some powerful ball clubs, but it's a far cry from what it was in 1971 when Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado finished 1-2-3 in the final Associated Press poll.

With four non-conference games to go this season, Big Eight schools have chalked up a combined 15-13-1 record — not too impressive considering the schedules have been laced with opponents like New Mexico State, Kentucky and South Dakota State.

No Big Eight team could manage to win all its non-conference games this year, and Oklahoma, usually one of the league leaders, is 1-2 in non-Big Eight play and

been able to recruit them lately.

A 7-4-1 record last year and a 1-2 start this season made it evident that OU no longer has the talent it used to have. It shouldn't be much of a surprise that the Sooners ran most of their plays from the I-formation Saturday at Iowa State.

Although Nebraska fans will no doubt hope that Switzer doesn't have his problems worked out by Nov. 26 when the Sooners come to Lincoln, it is hoped that Switzer and the other conference coaches are able to overcome the NCAA regulations with superior coaching and bring the Big Eight back into the national limelight.

**Random Thoughts:** At last, Kansas State has been brought back down to earth. The Wildcats, off to a 3-0 start, were beaten by Arizona State 30-7 Saturday night. The Cats may have learned something, though — they should schedule all their games against teams like South Dakota.

Nebraska's 41-7 whipping of Auburn should prove that the Huskers still are a strong contender for national honors this year. With some help from a few other teams, a national championship still is possible.



### Larry Sparks

still looking down the barrel at a game against undefeated Texas this week in Dallas.

Recent national polls show only one Big Eight team — Nebraska — ranked in the top 20. It hasn't been all that long ago that five teams made the lists.

More than anything, new NCAA regulations have led to the decline in Big Eight prestige. The 30-scholarship rule and other stiff recruiting regulations were made with the intention of making college football more equal.

That means either making the bad guys better or making the good guys worse. Unfortunately, it seems to have done the latter.

The first-class football programs no longer are able to get the quality and quantity of players they once got. Consequently, the programs have suffered.

Nowhere is that more evident than in Norman, Okla. OU Coach Barry Switzer's wishbone formation, once one of the most explosive offenses in the country, needs a lot of highly skilled players, and the Sooners haven't

## Sports Shorts

The Nebraska volleyball team, ranked ninth in the latest NCAA poll, won the Southwest Missouri State Invitational Saturday at Springfield, Mo.

The Cornhuskers defeated the host team in the championship game 2-15, 15-7, 15-12, 8-15, 16-14. Nebraska finished pool play with a 3-1 record.

The Husker women's tennis team dropped a pair of dual matches to Oklahoma State and Houston during the weekend.

Oklahoma State defeated Nebraska 9-0 Friday and Houston won 7-2 Saturday in Oklahoma City.

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