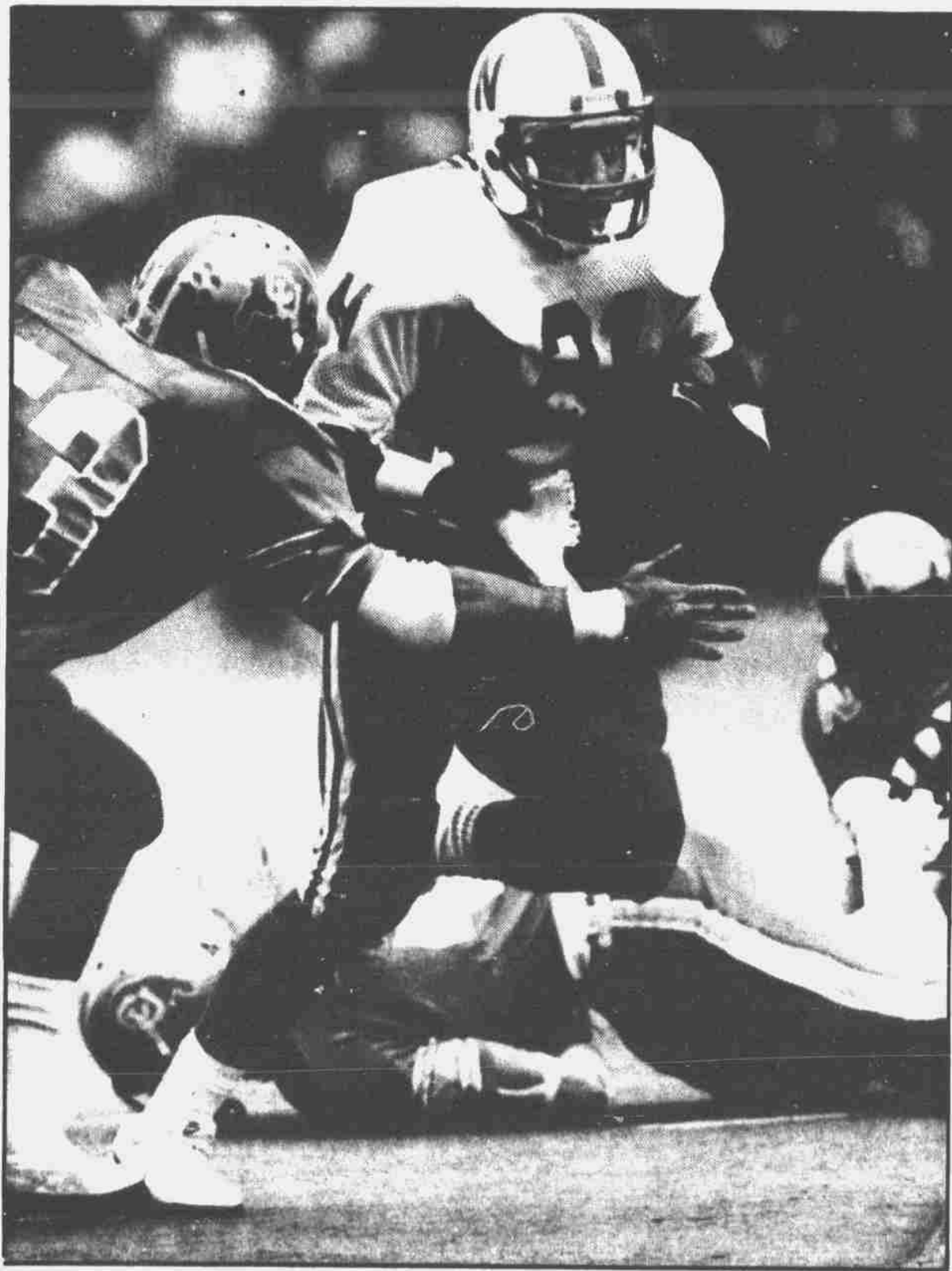


# Sports



## Huskers halt Buffs' charge, win Big Eight opener 40-14

BOULDER, Colo. — All season, Colorado football Coach Bill McCartney had primed his team for an upset of Nebraska. And for a while Saturday afternoon, it appeared he might succeed. But Nebraska survived a shaky third quarter and went back to what they do best — running the football — to fight off the Buffaloes and earn a 40-14 victory at Folsom Field.

hit Rozier with a 6-yard scoring pass to make it 26-14, the Huskers went for the two-point conversion. Gill was sacked while trying to pass, and the attempt failed.

Whatever hopes the Buffs had of coming back were killed on the next series when Colorado quarterback Randy Essington was intercepted on the first play from scrimmage.

Essington's pass was tipped by Husker linebacker Mike Knox into the hands of Steve Damkroger. Damkroger returned the ball 25 yards to the Colorado 11-yard line. When Rozier scored on the next play, it was all over for the Buffs.

"The interception was a significant play," McCartney said. "When we gave it (the ball) back to them then, it sealed our doom."

Nebraska tacked on another touchdown a few minutes later when linebacker Damkroger intercepted another pass and returned it to the Colorado 48.

From there, Nate Mason directed the Huskers to another score, which came when Jeff Smith plunged over the goal line from the 1.

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Clockwise, starting at top left: Husker running back Roger Craig (21) tries to work his way around a Colorado defender in Saturday's 40-14 Nebraska win at Folsom Field in Boulder, Colo.; Nebraska's Toby Williams (97) attempts to stop a Randy Essington (16) pass. Essington passed for a CU school record 361 yards against the Cornhuskers; Nebraska linebacker Steve Damkroger (35) heads down the sideline after picking off the first of two interceptions he got in the fourth quarter. Damkroger returned the ball to the CU 11, setting up the touchdown that put the Huskers ahead 33-14; I-back Mike Rozier (30) gets stopped by a Buffalo defender. Rozier rushed for 212 yards Saturday, the fourth best one-game performance in Nebraska history. The Nebraska fans offer vocal support for the Cornhuskers after CU game back to within six points in the third period. Nebraska fans were estimated to number more than 20,000 in the sell-out crowd of 53,022.



After trailing 20-0 at the half, the Buffs came out and scored two touchdowns in the third quarter to narrow the gap to 20-14.

Nebraska appeared to be in a deep hole after I-back Mike Rozier bobbled the ensuing kickoff and fell on the ball at the Husker 9-yard line.

But the Huskers went back to their ground game led by Rozier, and moved 91 yards down the field in a drive that lasted almost seven minutes.

"We kind of relaxed," Husker running back Roger Craig said. "We had to regroup. With a winning program, you're used to regrouping. We have the poise to do it. We've been there before so we know what it takes to come back."

After Husker quarterback Turner Gill

### Husker-Buffalo Statistics

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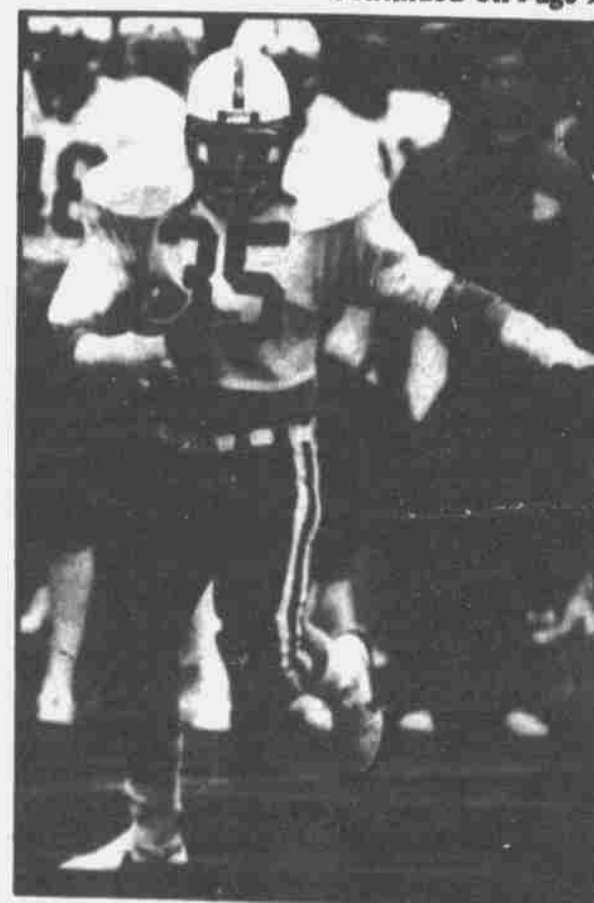
Nebraska	7	13	0	20 - 40
Colorado	0	0	14	0 - 14

- NU — Wilkening 3 run (Seibel kick)
- NU — Craig 1 run (Seibel kick)
- NU — FG Seibel 26
- NU — FG Seibel 31
- CU — Johnson 37 pass from Essington (Field kick)
- CU — Johnson 24 run (Field kick)
- NU — Rozier 6 pass from Gill (run failed)
- NU — Rozier 11 run (Seibel kick)
- NU — Smith 1 run (Seibel kick)
- Attendance — 53,022

	NU	CU
First downs	31	21
Rushes-yards	73-446	23-81
Passing yards	68	361
Return yards	39	19
Passes	6-15-1	24-51-2
Punts	4-41	5-43
Fumbles-lost	4-0	3-1
Penalties-yards	4-30	4-45
Time of Possession	36:34	23:26

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Nebraska, Rozier 32-212, Gill 13-69, Craig 13-67. Colorado, Rouson 8-41, Johnson 2-31, Egging 2-11.  
**PASSING** — Nebraska, Gill 6-15-68-1. Colorado, Essington 24-51-361-2.  
**RECEIVING** — Nebraska, Brown 1-20, Krenk 1-12, Simmons 1-12. Colorado, Holmes 7-107, Hestera 6-105, Johnson 3-76.



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