

Sports

Despite fumbles, Huskers beat KSU

By Tad Stryker

Led by I-back Mike Rozier and a dominating offensive line, the Nebraska Huskers overcame several mistakes, churned out 384 rushing yards, and won their Homecoming game against the Kansas State Wildcats, 42-13.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne found no occasion to use punter Grant Campbell, because of the 12 drives started by the Huskers, six ended in touchdowns, four in lost fumbles and two on failed fourth-down conversions attempts.

The last time Nebraska played a game without punting was the third game of the 1972 season, when the Huskers beat Army 77-7.

Osborne was pleased with the way the Huskers ran the ball against the highly touted K-State defense but was disappointed about the turnovers.

"We could have had 14 more points in the first half," he said. Nebraska led 21-3 at the half, but K-State stayed within 15 points until the fourth quarter.

Nebraska moved the ball seemingly at will in the first half, but fumbles in Wildcat territory by Ricky Simmons, Jamie Williams and Turner Gill kept K-State in the game.

When it was not fumbling, Nebraska's top-ranked offense chewed up the Kansas State defense.

"I was surprised at the way we ran on them," Osborne said.

Rozier gained 205 yards on 21 carries and scored on runs of 27 and 46 yards. That, coupled with his

212 yards against Colorado last week, made him the second Husker to rush for more than 200 yards in consecutive games. I.M. Hipp did it against Indiana and K-State in 1977.

"Mike's probably the best back in the country," said Husker center Dave Rimington. "He knocks people down, runs around them, catches the ball and he can even throw it. He always makes us offensive linemen look good, and we appreciate that."

Rozier, who left the game with a slight hip pointer early in the fourth quarter, said he had thought the K-State defense would provide more of a challenge.

Husker guard Mike Mandelko said the offensive line was inspired by K-State defensive tackle Reggie Singletary's boasting earlier this season.

Singletary had said that no one could stop him man-on-man.

"What he said helped get me prepared," Mandelko said. "It was on all our minds this week. We remembered it." Singletary, an all-conference performer last year, was credited with nine unassisted tackles but was not a disruptive force.

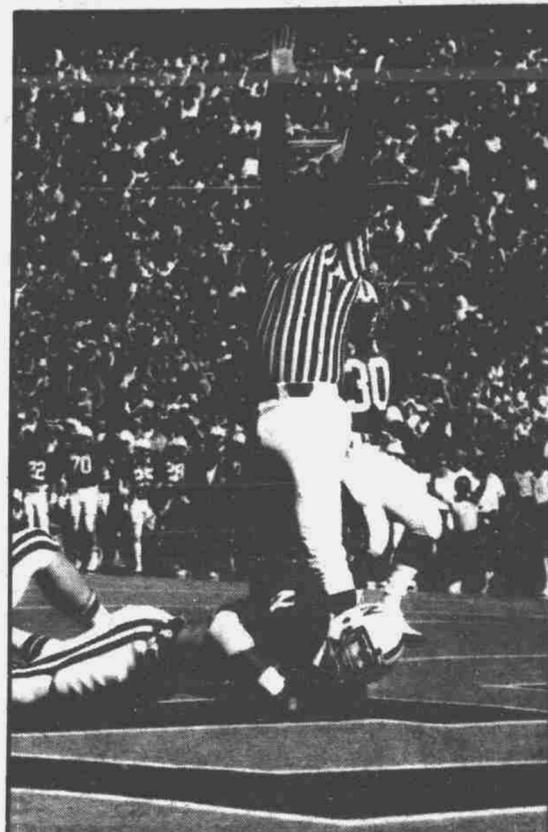
The Huskers' ground power was complemented by Gill's passing. Gill completed 11 of 12 to set a Nebraska one-game percentage record of 91.7 percent. The previous record was held by Dave Humm, who completed 23 or 27 passes against Kansas in 1974.

While Nebraska's offense was storming, its defense was fighting a battle of containment.

"We have a great offense," cornerback Allen Lyday said, "so on defense, our main goal is to keep them out of the end zone. I think we've done that the last three weeks."

Lyday said while the Husker offense is first in statistics, the defense is "probably last, but we're coming along pretty good each week."

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Staff Photo by Craig Andresen

The official gives the signal for Nebraska's second touchdown after fullback Doug Wilkening goes over from the 3-yard line in Saturday's 42-13 win against the Kansas State Wildcats in Memorial Stadium.

Open basketball tryouts today

The Nebraska men's basketball team will have open tryouts today at 7 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Interested UNL students are encouraged to come. The Huskers began practice Friday and will open the season Nov. 20.

KSU coach praises efficient Cornhusker offense

By Larry Sparks

Jim Dickey left no doubt about which part of Nebraska's football team he thought looked best in Saturday's 42-13 Husker win against his Kansas State team in Memorial Stadium.

"I've been up here many different times with many different ball clubs - Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, KU (Kansas) and this one. I believe this is the best offensive football team I've ever seen Nebraska have," the Kansas State football coach said after the game. "They can do everything. They can throw and they can run and do all the things a good offense does."

The Husker Blackshirt defense isn't as strong, though, he said.

"They've got a ways to go to have the kind of ball club to go all the way through the league," he said. "They played pretty basic. I do think they're a good defensive team, but I think that since I've been coming up here, this is not one of their better defenses."

Dickey praised Nebraska's running backs and said I-back Mike Rozier may be as good a back as the Big Eight has ever seen, but he gave most of the credit for

the Huskers' offensive firepower to the line.

"Their offensive line is something. It's one of the finest I've ever seen. I could run the ball in some of those holes they (UNL backs) have to run in," he said.

Dickey's son Darrell, K-State's quarterback, also had praise for the Cornhuskers, calling them the best team in the Big Eight. He said it is important for the Wildcats not to let the loss have a negative effect on the rest of the season.

"The important part of our season is in front of us," he said. "Whether this season is successful or not will be determined in the next five weeks."

Last year's decision to redshirt 16 KSU starters still can be proven successful, but it was unreasonable to believe that one year of the redshirt program could lead to a win against the Huskers, he said.

"You have to understand that what we did last year by redshirting is what they've (the Huskers) done the last 10 years," he said.

K-State defensive end Victor Koenning said part of Nebraska's big margin of victory can be attributed to poor officiating. He said the officials cost Kansas State at least 14 points Saturday.

"I might look at the film and be totally wrong but I just feel that anytime there was a questionable call on their sideline, it went to them, and on our side, there was no call made at all," Koenning said.

"It didn't cost us the game," he said. "But a lot of this stuff today was uncalled for. It's been like this everytime we come up here."

Coach Dickey, however, blamed the runaway score on K-State's poor performance in the early part of the game. The Huskers' first-half fumbles could have turned the game around if the Wildcats had capitalized on them, he said.

One of those early fumbles stopped a Nebraska scoring threat after what Dickey said "wasn't the smartest call I've ever made."

The fumble by UNL split end Ricky Simmons at the K-State 34-yard line came just two plays after Dickey had chosen to go for a first down on a fourth-and-one situation at the ISU 29. Nebraska safety Bret Clark stopped KSU tail back Osefatu Faraimo for no gain on that play and the Huskers took over on downs.

"In our particular situation, when you play a team and feel you're a 28-point underdog, you will do a few things that you ordinarily wouldn't do," Dickey said when explaining the fourth-down gamble.

Dickey said he had expected a much closer game but he said Nebraska's depth at nearly every position finally wore the Wildcats down.

"I just hope I live long enough to see them (Nebraska) run out of material," he said.



Staff Photo by Craig Andresen

Nebraska I-Back Mike Rozier (30) tries to escape several Kansas State defenders in Saturday's 42-13 Homecoming win against the Wildcats Saturday in Memorial Stadium. Rozier picked up 204 yards Saturday and became only the second Husker to pick up more than 200 yards in two consecutive weeks.

Husker-Wildcat Statistics

Kansas State	0	3	10	0-13
Nebraska	7	14	7	14-42
NU - Rozier 27 run (Seibel kick) KS - FG Willis 44 NU - Wilkening 3 run (Seibel kick) NU - Rozier 46 run (Seibel kick) NU - Williams 2 pass from Gill (Seibel kick) KS - Dickey 1 run (Willis kick) KS - FG Willis 45 NU - Smith 19 run (Seibel kick) NU - Mathison 5 run (Seibel kick) Attendance - 76,268				

	KSU	NU
First downs	15	27
Rushes-yards	45-124	58-384
Passing yards	131	112
Return yards	41	0
Passes	12-27-0	12-13-0
Punts	4-39	0-0
Fumbles-lost	0-0	6-4
Penalties-yards	7-67	5-26
Time of Possession	31:57	28:03

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING - Kansas State, Faraimo 13-53, Crawford 6-18, Ricketts 9-14. Nebraska, Rozier 21-204, Gill 9-57, Smith 5-51.

PASSING - Kansas State, Dickey 8-17-98-0, Bogue 3-4-20-0, Campbell 1-6-13-0. Nebraska, Gill 11-12-101-0, Mathison 1-1-11-0.

RECEIVING - Kansas State, Bailey 2-47, Wallace 4-40, Allen 1-16. Nebraska, Simmons 2-36, Krenk 2-27, Williams 3-24.