

# Sports

## Switzer: 'We couldn't make the big pass play'

By Larry Sparks

Barry Switzer found himself in an unusual situation Friday — having to explain why his team's Memorial Stadium magic failed.

The Oklahoma head coach has seen his teams score come-from-behind victories three times in four previous visits to Lincoln, but Friday, those fourth-quarter heroics ran out and Nebraska claimed a 28-24 win against the Sooners.

And Switzer, the coach who has celebrated several victories in the Memorial Stadium locker rooms, was in a less than joyous mood as he tried to explain why the Sooners fell short.

"We couldn't make the big pass play. Obviously, we weren't as talented as Turner Gill throwing the football," Switzer said. "But we had a chance to win it twice in the fourth quarter and we couldn't convert on the passing game."

Running back Marcus Dupree, who led the Sooners with 149 yards, offered another explanation for OU's upset bid falling short.

### Time ran out

"We were moving the ball up and down the field but time just ran out on us," Dupree said. "We knew we had to play ball in the second half because time was running against us and we were behind."

"This is really tough. We've worked so hard coming from a 1-2 season. We knew this one was going to be tough. It just turned out the way it did, I guess," Dupree said.

Switzer said this is the best Nebraska offense his teams have played against. He praised I-back Mike Rozier but also said Rozier's second-half replacement, Roger Craig, is a good back.

Middle guard John Blake agreed with Switzer's assessment of Rozier and the NU offense.

"There's really not much to compare them to," Blake said. "They're strong at every point. They're powerful and they pass good. Their line, their running backs, their quarterbacks . . . they've just got strength at every position."

### Rozier good back

"And he (Rozier) is the back everybody

says he is. He played with a hurt ankle today but he still performed. He is great," he said.

Switzer said the Husker defense is not as strong as it has been in past years, however.

"They know that themselves. You can ask their coaches. They'll tell you that," he said.

The turning point of Friday's shootout may have come midway through the third quarter when Oklahoma was penalized 15 yards for a personal foul, Switzer said. Gill had scrambled for 11 yards on a third-and-14 situation, but the late hit gave the Huskers a first down and continued the drive that eventually led to NU's final touchdown.

"I'd say that third-and-14 Gill scramble and the personal foul is the only play that stands out in my mind," Switzer said.

Other than that play, Switzer said he was pleased with the Sooners' second-half performance. After falling behind 21-10, OU allowed Nebraska only seven more points in the final 30 minutes. What was Switzer's halftime message?

"I told them that if we didn't play better defense, we were going to get the

hell beat out of us," he said.

OU linebacker Jackie Shipp said the Sooner defenders heeded Switzer's halftime warning.

"We went out and played good football," he said. "We had a lot more people around the ball the second half. We held them to only seven more points and they're a team that's been averaging over 40 points a game."

"I felt we had a chance to win in the second half but things just kept going their way," Blake said.

Despite the disappointing loss, several Sooner players made it clear they don't intend to have a letdown when they meet Arizona State in the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 1.

"It's still a good bowl game. It's on New Year's Day and we'll be playing an exceptionally good team," Shipp said. "I would have liked going to the Orange Bowl and therefore be the Big Eight champion, but I'm not going to the Fiesta Bowl with my head down," Shipp said.

"We're going to go win the Fiesta Bowl and finish a good season," Blake said.

## Orange Bowl tickets available Wednesday

The Nebraska Athletic Ticket Office will have a special student sale of Orange Bowl tickets Wednesday through Friday at South Stadium 117. The office is open 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

There will be no lottery. The student allotment of tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis to students presenting their student ID card and showing full-time status. Payment should be made in cash or personal check, and all checks should show the student's Lincoln address.

Tickets are \$18 each and are limited to one per student. Married students can purchase a ticket for their spouse if they provide proof of marriage.

Students can purchase tickets together in groups of six or less. One student may buy tickets for the group if he brings in a student ID and individual payment for each ticket.

Tickets are not returnable.



## Standings

	Conf.	All Games
Nebraska	.7-0-0	10-1-0
Oklahoma	.6-1-0	8-3-0
Oklahoma State	.3-2-2	4-5-2
Kansas State	.3-3-1	6-4-1
Missouri	.2-3-2	5-4-2
Iowa State	.1-5-1	4-6-1
Kansas	.1-5-1	2-7-2
Colorado	.1-5-1	2-8-1

### Friday's Result

Nebraska 28, Oklahoma 24

### Saturday's Result

San Diego State, 35, Oklahoma State 6

### Next Saturday's Game

Nebraska . . . . . at Hawaii

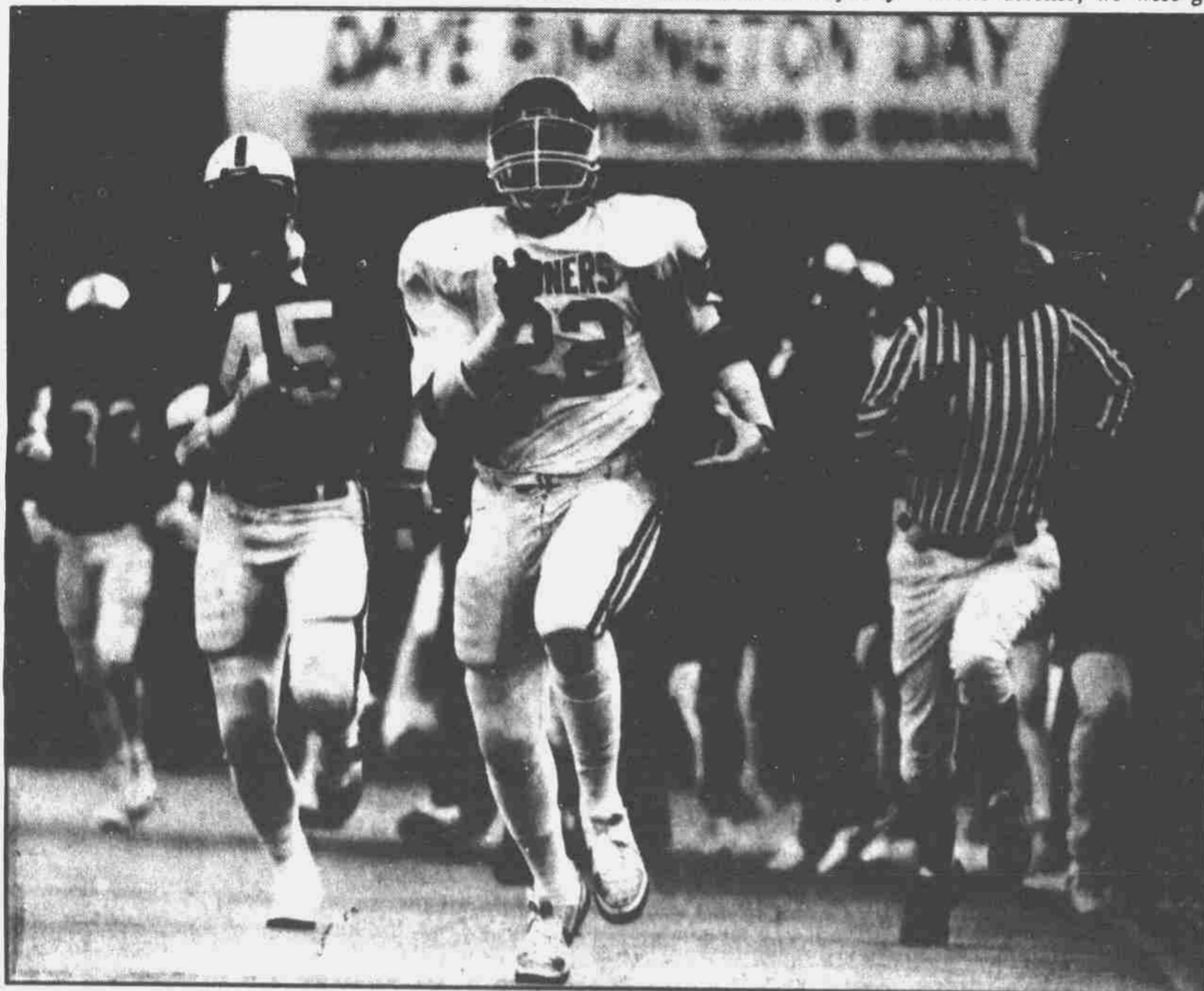
## Husker-Sooner Statistics

Oklahoma	7	3	14	0-24
Nebraska	7	14	7	0-28
NU — Gill 14 run (Seibel kick) OU — Dupree 2 run (Keeling kick) OU — FG Keeling 24 NU — Wilkening 2 run (Seibel kick) NU — Wilkening 14 run (Seibel kick) OU — Dupree 86 run (Keeling kick) NU — Craig 3 run (Seibel kick) OU — Wilson 1 run (Keeling kick) Attendance — 76,398				

	OU	NU
First downs	21	24
Rushes-yards	57-270	61-298
Passing yards	115	111
Return yards	18	53
Passes	6-19-2	8-18-0
Punts	2-45	5-30
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-2
Penalties-yards	6-50	5-59
Time of Possession	29:42	30:8

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING** — Oklahoma, Dupree 25-149, Wilson 14-61, Sims 9-40. Nebraska, Rozier 15-96, Gill 15-65, Wilkening 10-58.  
**PASSING** — Oklahoma, Phelps 6-19-2-115. Nebraska, Gill 7-17-0-74, Fryar 1-1-0-37.  
**RECEIVING** — Oklahoma, Sewell 2-47, Wilson 1-26, Carter 1-20. Nebraska, Fryar 4-45, Krenk 2-44, Brown 2-22.



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Sooner running back Marcus Dupree breaks loose for an 86-yard touchdown run in the third quarter while Husker linebacker Steve McWhirter tries to catch up to make the tackle. Dupree's touchdown brought the Sooners back to within four points, 21-17.

## Iba pleased by balanced scoring

By Cindy Gardner and Bob Asmussen

Even without the services of one of its most potent point producers, the Nebraska basketball team had little trouble downing the University of Denver 94-58 Friday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska Coach Moe Iba held junior guard Handy Johnson out of the season opener after Johnson missed the pre-game meal. Even with Johnson on the bench, the Huskers proved to be too much for the Pioneers.

The Huskers led from the outset and opened up a 10-point margin when Greg Downing hit from 18 feet with 12:04 left in the first period. Nebraska lead by double digits the rest of the evenings.

"I thought we had better continuity tonight than we did in the first ball game (an exhibition against Windsor)," Iba said. "It was a good game for us to open with."

Junior guard David Ponce helped the Huskers open up a 24-point halftime lead when he hit three in a row from the top of the key in the final minutes of the first half. Nebraska went to the locker room with a 45-21 edge.

Denver shot 50 percent from the field and was perfect from the free-throw line in the first half. The Pioneer performance was hampered, however, by 21 turnovers.

The second half, too, belonged to Nebraska. The Hus-

kers continued to pour in the points and run the more up-tempo style of play Iba has initiated this season.

"Our biggest problem was that we let them (the Huskers) control the tempo," Denver Coach Floyd Theard said. "We were very tentative and non-aggressive. It was like we played the whole game in awe of them."

The crowd of 8,173 applauded the Huskers' second-half shooting exhibition, which included alley-oop combinations of Stan Cloudy to Greg Downing and Eric Williams to Kenny Walton.

One thing that particularly pleased Iba was the Huskers' balanced scoring attack. Five Huskers reached double figures, and every Husker that entered the game scored.

"I wish we could get that type of balance every game," Iba said.

Denver's Mike Wilson lead all scorers with 19, but Theard said Wilson's scoring performance was overshadowed by nine turnovers.

Ponce lead Nebraska scoring charts with 15. Claude Renfro and Dave Hoppen added 12 each, and Williams scored 11. Downing was the other Husker to reach the double digits with 10.

The Huskers play at Montana tonight. Iba said he is expecting a tough game.

"Montana has got a great basketball team," Iba said. "Defensively, we're going to have to be much better."