

Sports

Prairie fire scorches Lions

After all the talk and fanfare, the game itself wasn't even close.

Nebraska, behind Turner Gill's two touchdown passes and 53 yards rushing, embarrassed Joe Paterno's Penn State Nittany Lions 44-6 Monday night in front of 71,123 fans at Giant's Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Nebraska's domination of the game couldn't have been predicted after the first series. Gill and Mike Rozier bumped on the first play from scrimmage, and before Gill could begin to look for an alternative play, he was sacked by Mike Zordich for an eight-yard loss. But that drive stalled after three, and Penn State was unable to move after an 11-yard pass from Doug Stange to Kenny Jackson, Nebraska's "Scoring Explosion" went to work.

Gill hit Fryar with a 26-yard pass on the fourth play of the drive, and after a 15-yard penalty, hit Scott Kimball for 10 more. His next target, Shane Swanson, went 31 yards down to the Penn State one yard line. Two plays later, Gill went over left guard Harry Griminger to record the game's first touchdown.

Strang started the next Penn State drive by rifling a pass through the hands of Kirk Bowman, and after a one-yard run by Tony Mumford, overthrew Baugh. The Lion drive stayed alive on a 15-yard personal foul penalty, but Strang, setting a precedent for the game, again overthrew two pass attempts.

Nebraska got the ball back on its own 14, and drove 86 yards on seven plays in 2:20 for the next score, a 20 yard pass to tight-end Monte Engbritson, on the last play of the first quarter.

Nebraska scored once more in the first half on Todd Frain's 20-yard touchdown catch from reserve quarterback Nate Mason, with just over five minutes to play.

By halftime, Nebraska has already

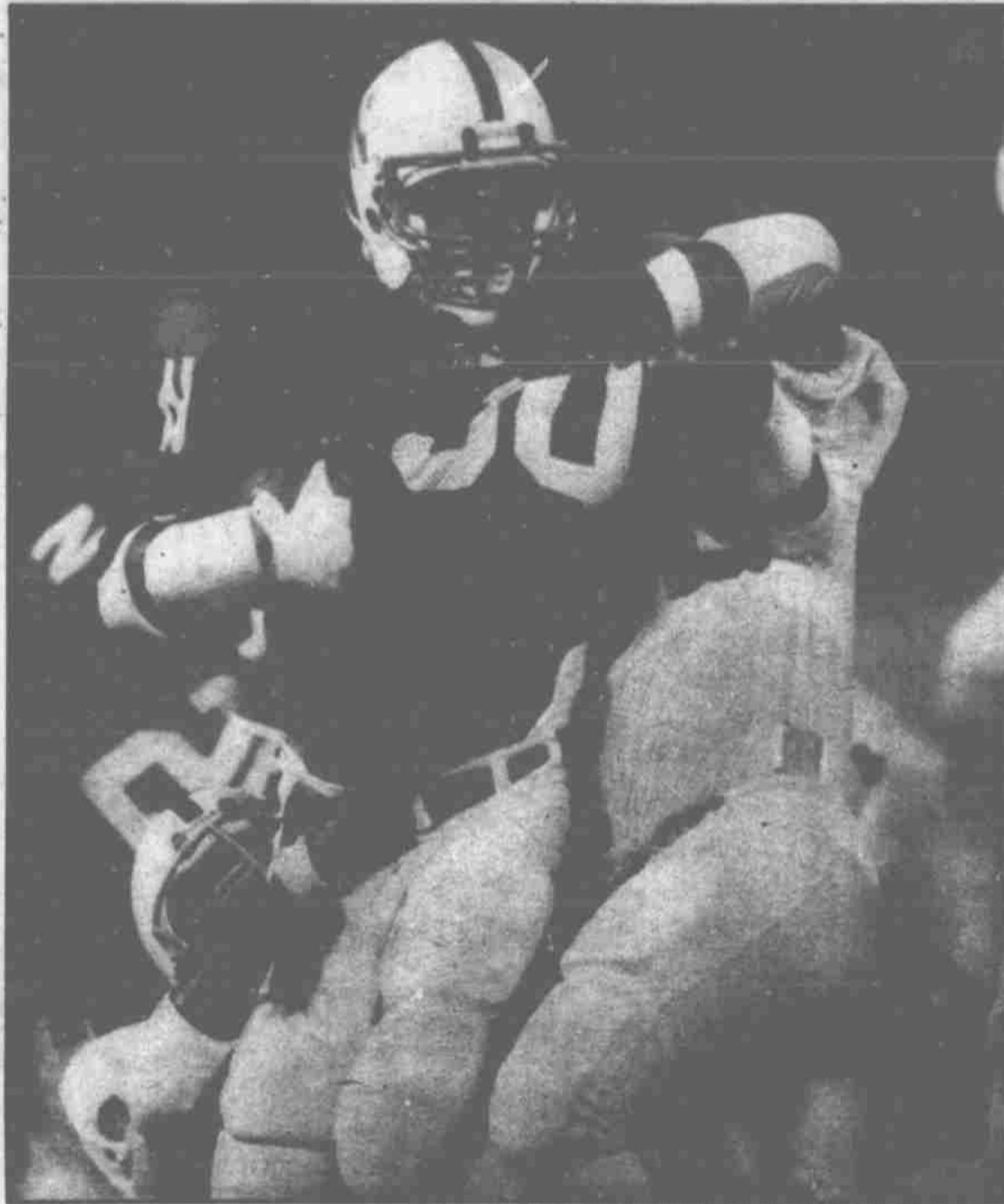


Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star Printing Company

Mike Rozier carries two Penn State defenders with him for a short first half gain in Nebraska's 44-6 victory Monday night.

outpassed the Lions 131 to 57, outrushed them 167 to 52, and had a seven-minute edge on time of possession. Despite the fact, that Nebraska had five fumbles, all of which they managed to recover, and Mike Rozier, perhaps the Huskers' best hope for the

Heisman Trophy going into the game, managing only 49 yards on 10 carries.

In the second half, Nebraska continued to flash the offensive depth and skill that earned them the nation's No. 1 ranking.

The defense got it started, as Mike Knox, arriving for a Strang pass at approximately the same time as Mumford, picked up the ball in midair and ran 2 yards for the fourth touchdown.

After Dan Lonergan replaced Strang, and promptly threw two incompletions, Nebraska was stopped on its next possession for one of the few times in the game. But not before a reverse-field run by Irving Fryar, which netted 33 yards. Dave Schneider salvaged the drive with a 34 yard field goal, making the score 30-0.

When the Huskers got the ball back after a fumbled Scott Livingston punt, Mason engineered a four-play, 40-yard drive capped by a 14-yard run by Jeff Smith and Mason's 20-yard touchdown run. Schneider, who had missed after Knox's touchdown, booted the extra-point through for a 37-0 Husker lead.

Penn State's offense finally came alive in the fourth quarter, driving 63 yards against the Huskers' second and third team defense. But Lonergan overthrew Jackson on fourth and two to end that drive.

Craig Sundberg took over at quarterback for Nebraska, and moved Nebraska to its sixth and final touchdown. Paul Miles, like Fryar and Rozier a New Jersey native, handled five carries during the drive, and dove over from the one to cap the Husker scoring at 2:24.

Lonergan, with the help of a 26-yard completion to freshman Steve Alford, then drove Penn State to its only score. However, Nebraska's Todd Fisher blocked the extra point attempt to add frustration to the only Lion joy of the night.

Gill finished the night with 13 carries for 53 yards, and 11 of 14 passing for 158 yards.

Nebraska finished the game with 500 yards total offense and 23 first downs. Penn State, ranked fourth in the pre-season poll, collected 309 yards, most of those in the last quarter, and 17 first downs.

Husker special airs

"Cornhusker Football," which will be telecast every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. on NETV, will feature a special call-in segment as well as highlights from the Kickoff Classic in its first segment tonight.

Lincoln broadcaster Don Gill and Nebraska linebacker coach John Melton will be hosts of the highlight program.

Crowd cheers, jeers defeated Lions

By Scott Ahlstrand and Pat Clark

You could tell right away the crowd at Chesterfield's last night wasn't thinking about the first day of classes. At 5 p.m., the books got shut and the beer got opened. By 8 p.m., the Lincoln crowd was more than ready for the first Kickoff Classic. By 11 p.m., the Lincoln crowd was wondering if there would be a second Kickoff Classic.

We, the sportswriters, are trained to be professional, and impartial. But the crowd at Chesterfield's wasn't. Penn State didn't even win the coin toss, and it was all downhill from there.

The crowd was less than kind. "I think Penn State deserved what they got tonight," said Michelle Greenquist, one of a table of Scarlet Fever victims who arrived at Chesterfield's before dusk to get a good

spot in front of the big screen television.

Even though it wasn't a home game, the red-clad herd at Chesterfield's kept their cheer consumption, and their beer consumption, at high levels. They saved their loudest cheers for Heisman Trophy candidates Mike Rozier, Turner Gill and Irving Fryar, while at least part of the crowd reserved special reverie for Lincoln hometowneer Craig Sundberg's appearance in the fourth quarter.

There's no reason to believe that many of the people at Chesterfield's knew each other when they came to watch the game, but that didn't matter much during the collective high fives after touchdowns. Husker football has long been at least as much a social event as a sporting event, and the fact that the game was a couple of thousand miles

away did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd. It would have been easy to think that you had attended a party, when suddenly a football game broke out.

Collectively, the crowd could express some of the baser instincts that individually they may have felt too shy or too polite to make public. Bloodthirstiness was the order of the day, as the crowd insulted everything from Dan Strang's passing arm, to Joe Paterno's shaving technique, to the "We Are Penn State" public service advertisement.

All in all, Nebraska's 44-6 romp over Penn State in the first Kickoff Classic was exactly what Husker football has had to be in recent years — a temporary escape from the rest of the university. Today, of course, the university is just a university again. So put down that newspaper, kid, you've got some studying to do.

Coach predicts high finish for team

By Jeff Korbellek

Two years ago, the Nebraska women's tennis team finished fourth in the Big Eight Championships. Last year, the Huskers improved their finish to third, behind nationally ranked Oklahoma State and Oklahoma.

"Our goal was the top three, and that is where we felt we belonged," Coach Kathy Hawkins said. "It's hard to predict for next year because we are pretty much a different team. I would say the top three again, preferably higher."

Nebraska has three of their top six

players returning, and three incoming freshmen: Cari Groce of Stillwater, Okla., (daughter of Oklahoma State's women's tennis coach); Jill Pisarcik of Pittsburgh, Pa., (sister of Nebraska's No. 2 singles player junior Jamie Pisarcik); and Jean Halahan of Middletown, N.Y. Senior Mimi Magiera and sophomores Lisa Brooks, Liz Mooney and Jerry Mortell round out the roster.

"Talent-wise we are one of the potentially stronger teams, but our younger players are undeveloped at this time," Hawkins said.

Magiera, a senior from Omaha, will be playing No. 1 singles and is the only

Nebraskan on the roster. Hawkins said they tried to recruit former Omahan Kirstin Laux, but Nebraska's program was not strong enough to draw her.

"Our program is getting stronger and is attracting players, but we are limited by weather, facilities and national competition," Hawkins explained.

Although a major portion of their season is played during the spring, the fall schedule begins with a dual meet against Drake University Sept. 30. A week later, the Huskers will host Oklahoma State, Colorado, BYU, Wichita State, Kansas and Iowa in the inaugural Husker Invitational.



Staff photo by Dave Bentz
12 SALLYE RAMSEY
Sr., Omaha

Sallye Ramsey will be one of three seniors on the Husker volleyball squad this season. A valuable front line reserve, Ramsey won All State honors at Omaha Northwest in her senior season.