

Sports



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan



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LOOKING FOR DAYLIGHT . . . Husker fullback Tom Rathman, who rushed for 106 yards, rumbles through the Wyoming line at left. At right, it takes three Cowboys, led by Rock Mirich, to bring him down.

Staunch goal inspires Blackshirts in stampede

By Mike Reilley
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The lump in Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride's throat disappeared Saturday as the Husker Blackshirts shut out

Wyoming in the second half en route to a 42-7 victory. Husker coach Tom Osborne set a goal for the defense: allow the Cowboys only 100 yards passing and 100 yards rushing. "When coach set that goal, I

had a little lump in my throat," McBride said. The Blackshirts came within a hair of achieving their goal by holding the Wyoming offense to only 98 yards rushing and 104 yards through the air.

The key to the defense's success was their ability to read the Cowboy's offense, McBride said. At times, it seemed Husker safety Bret Clark read Wyoming's defense like a book. Clark led the Huskers with five unassisted tack-

les and eight total tackles and got in some particularly hard hits on Wyoming quarterback Dave Gosnell, twice behind the line of scrimmage. "We have been punishing some people," Clark said. "We showed that today."

McBride had nothing but praise for the senior tri-captain.

"I think Brett is one of the best defensive backs we've ever had around here," McBride said. "He is not only a good hitter, but a sure tackler."

"They're real strong, real tough and real fast," Gosnell said of the defense. "I have all the respect in the world for No. 10 (Clark), the strong safety. Whenever I tried to do anything outside, it seemed he was there."

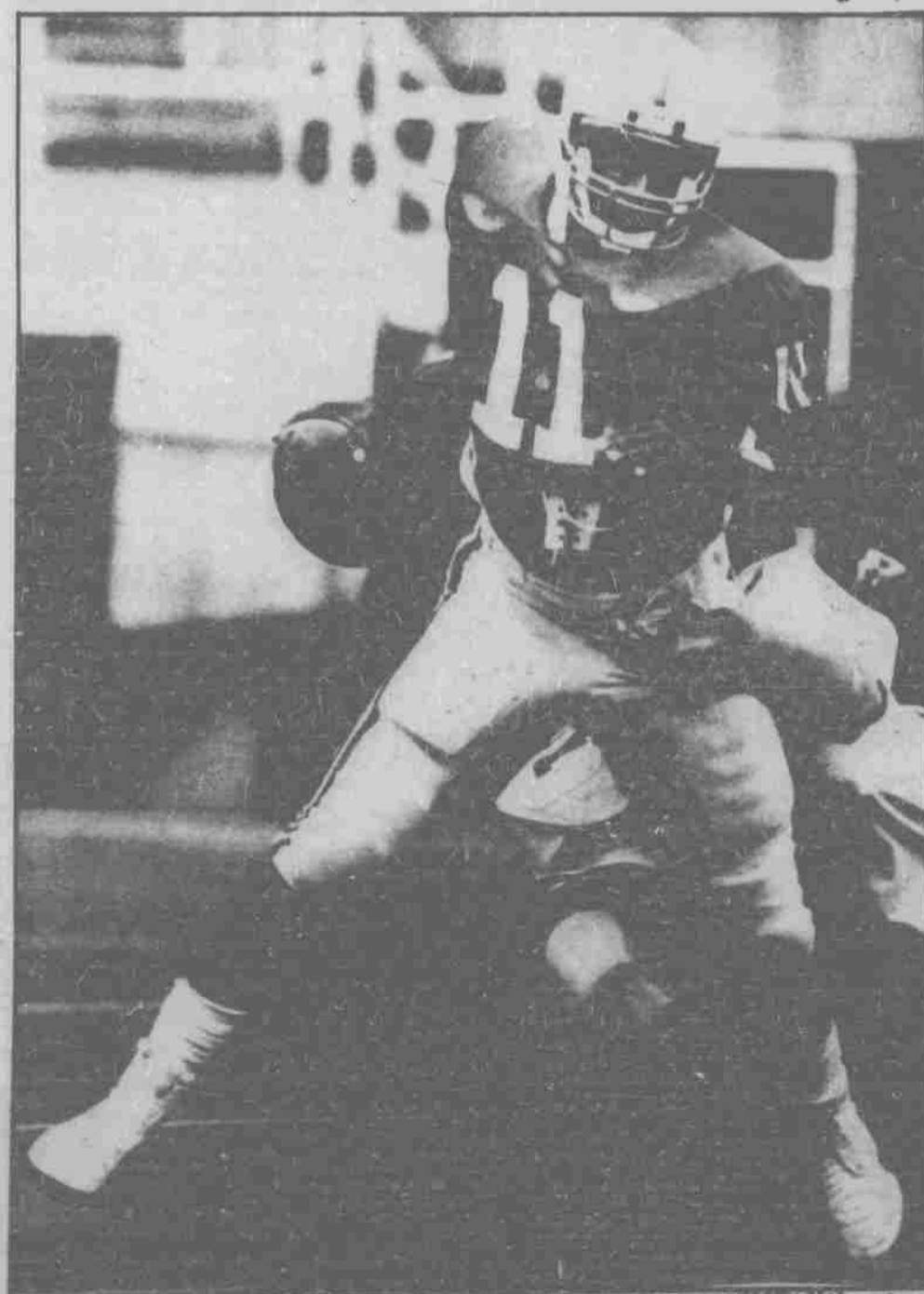
Despite a few mistakes and mental errors, McBride said his defense played well. "Our philosophy is when someone makes a mistake, good pursuit will cover it up," McBride said.

The Blackshirts strong showing was a bright spot in Osborne's eyes. "I can't say Wyoming is a great offensive team, but the defense did play well," he said.

Defensive end Scott Strasburger said the success of defense in the opener can be attributed to their closeness.

Wyoming's only score came in the second quarter when the Cowboys mounted a six-play drive from the Nebraska 38-yard line, after strong safety Dane Ingram intercepted a Craig Sundberg pass and returned it 44 yards. Gosnell hit running back Kevin Lowe for a 9-yard scoring strike to pull Wyoming to within a touchdown, 14-7.

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Dave Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Quarterback Wendell Wooten eludes a tackler.

Freshman Huskers defeat Ellsworth's passing game

By Jeff Korbelik
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Nebraska's freshman football team constantly saw footballs in the air in its 38-9 victory over Ellsworth Junior College of Iowa Falls, Iowa, last Friday.

Ellsworth's quarterbacks threw 43 passes, completing 18 for 251 yards. They had to pass in order to compensate for a running game the Nebraska freshman defense shut down. Ellsworth rushed for a negative 14 yards, and their leading rusher of the day, Morris Hill, gained 9 yards on six attempts.

"They went completely away from their running game," Young said. "We try and stop the run first, and we showed that we could do that pretty well."

Nebraska's secondary earned some of their coach's respect after intercepting six passes, two each by cornerback John Custard and safety Franklin Barber, and one each by monsters Jon Marco and Brad Buller. Buller returned his 41 yards for Nebraska's final touchdown.

Young said Iowa State's junior varsity, Nebraska's second game,

his defense a lot of the same stuff of putting the ball in the air. He said the Ellsworth game was a good one before entering the Iowa State contest because his players really took charge in the secondary.

Nebraska scored early on a Jon Kelly 2-yard run after Keith Jones returned the opening kickoff 92 yards. Jones, an I-back from Omaha Central, scored twice and led the Huskers with 136 yards rushing. He scored on a 1-yard plunge late in the first quarter and broke a 90-yard touchdown run with 10:38 left in the fourth quarter.

The Huskers' other points came on wingbacks Dana Brinson's 26-yard run and Jim Gruenwald's 46-yard field goal. Young said his offense lacks consistency right now, but should gain it as the season progresses. As for the defense, Young said they made one mistake on Ellsworth's only touchdown. Ellsworth lined up three receivers on one slide and the Huskers left Kevin Ringer open for a 65-yard scoring pass up the middle in the second quarter. Ellsworth's only other points came on a third-quarter safety after a punt was blocked through the end zone.