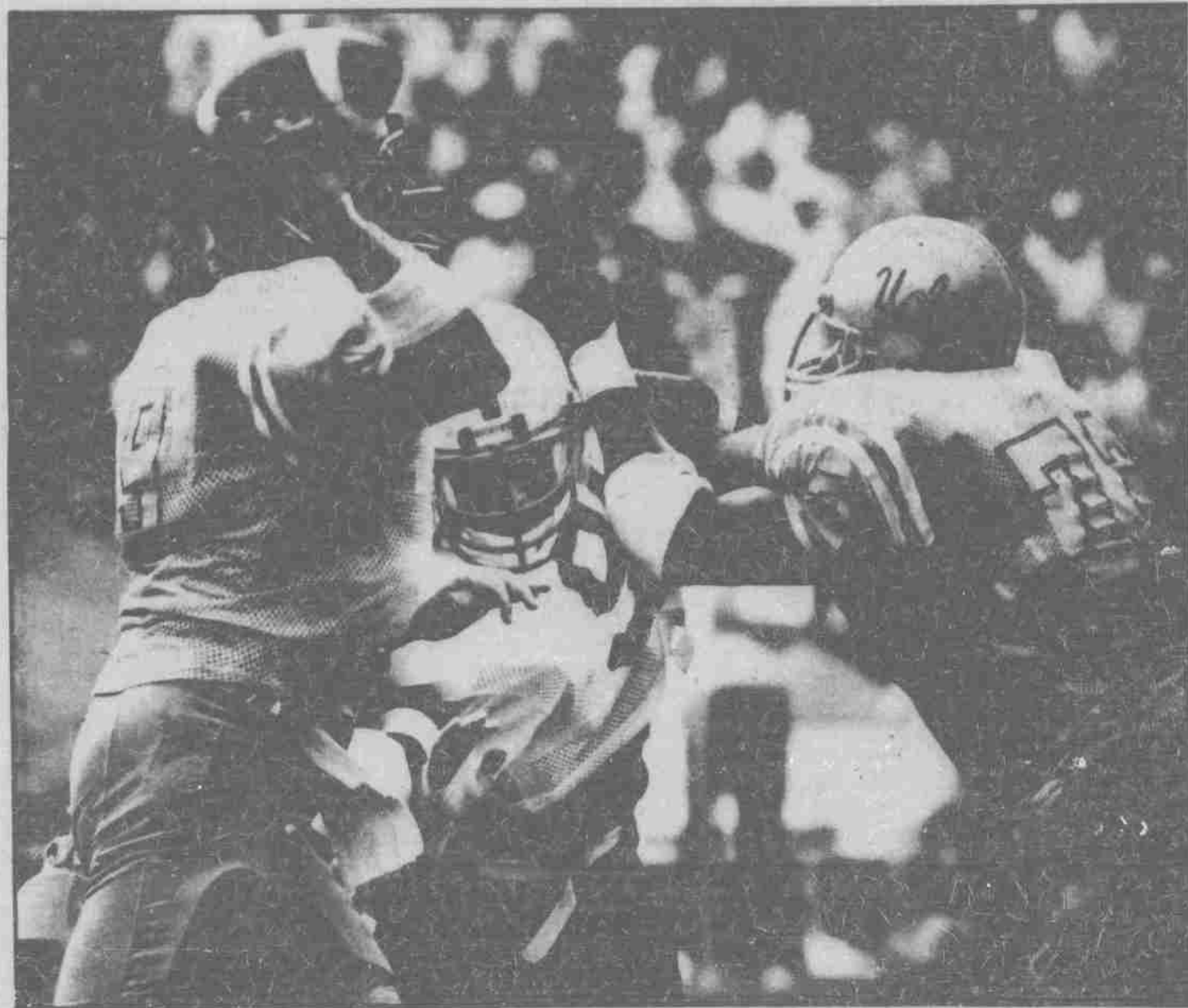


Sports



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

The Husker romp over UCLA brought anguish to the Bruins, typified above by sophomore Derek Tennell after missing an easy catch, and brought added glory to the Nebraska defense. Below, Scott Strasburger was one of the ends who kept UCLA quarterback David Norrie busy.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Huskiers rout Bruins by 'surprising' margin

By Kevin Dayley
Special to the Daily Nebraskan

The Big Red Machine rolled right into the Rose Bowl and right over UCLA as Nebraska thoroughly roughed up the Bruins in a 42-3 victory before 71,355, including 14,000 Nebraska fans.

Whether it was tailback Jeff Smith in the first half or Doug DuBose in the second half, UCLA had a tough time answering the husker offensive attack, which just seems to wear down the opponent.

"I was a little surprised by the outcome today," said Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, whose team romped for 468 total yards while holding UCLA to 206. "I thought it would be a close game. I thought we would win by about seven points."

Smith led the Huskers to a 21-0 lead at the half, rushing for 123 yards on 20 carries. Smith left the game in the second quarter with a slightly sprained ankle after he returned a punt 46 yards. However, the injury is not expected to keep Smith, who has gained 476 yards in three games, out of next week's game at Syracuse.

Without their ace back in the second half, the Huskers kept rolling. DuBose did his Smith impersonation with a 64-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter to increase the lead to 35-3. DuBose finished the afternoon with 104 yards on just eight carries, while the No. 3 running back, Paul Miles, added 43 yards on eight attempts and one touchdown.

"There's no slack off when they bring in guys from the bench," said UCLA linebacker Neal Dellonco. "When you see guys going down, that's their type of game. They hit you hard, and they're clean shots."

All told, UCLA had nine players leave the game with an assorted number of wounds. But excuses aside, it would have been extremely tough to top the experienced Husker squad that has a starting lineup averaging 22 years of age.

Without the services of quarterback Steve Bono, who sprained

an ankle the week before, UCLA went with Matt Stevens (13 of 28, 119 yards and one interception), a sophomore who had taken only a few snaps in his career. The Nebraska defense did little to accommodate Stevens, throwing him to the turf with seven sacks in his three-quarter stint. Leading the way was defensive end Scott Strasburger, who had two sacks, made seven tackles, forced a fumble and recovered another.

Nebraska quarterback Craig Sundberg had an easy time picking apart the UCLA defense with an assortment of rollout passes, connecting on 10 of 17 for 104 yards. Sundberg also had a four-yard TD run and a two-point conversion throw. Wingback Shane Swanson played a fine game catching three passes for 33 yards and scoring one 19-yard touchdown run in the third quarter to give the Huskers a 29-3 lead.

UCLA's only score came on the first possession of the second half, as John Lee booted a 34-yard field goal. It was Lee's 10th straight this year.

Nebraska's defense finished with eight sacks, the most since the 1980 total against Penn State. One of those sacks may have been the game's biggest play.

With Nebraska leading 6-0 in the first quarter, UCLA's Kevin Alexander crashed through the line and blocked a Scott Livingston punt. The Bruins were in business at the Nebraska six-yard line. But second-team defensive tackle Jim Skow hit Stevens behind the line on the next play, forcing a fumble that Strasburger recovered at the eight. From then on, it was all Nebraska.

"We were beaten quite badly by a superior football team," UCLA coach Terry Donahue said. "We had a couple of opportunities early to make it interesting, but we couldn't capitalize."

The defeat was UCLA's worst since Washington drubbed the Bruins 61-20 in 1970. The game was Nebraska's first in Pasadena since the 1941 Rose Bowl, when Stanford took a 21-13 victory. The Huskers had never before won a game in California.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

No. 2 singles player Jill Pisarcik lines up a shot against a Kansas State opponent during Nebraska's dual Friday. The Huskers won both of their season-opening matches this weekend and will be the host of Drake Friday at the East Campus courts.